

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting
January 9, 2007

The **meeting opened** at 7:02 pm by Dan Paruzynski, Chairperson.

Gathering hymn: *Go Tell It On the Mountain*. **Scripture passage:** *John 2:1-11*, read by Dan Paruzynski, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement.

Share/reflect: Councilors shared their reflections on the scripture passage.

December **meeting minutes accepted** as written.

Youth ministry report - Justin Panhans

- Confirmation – At present we have 80 candidates for confirmation. Candidates are in the process of selecting sponsors, service projects and sessions. Confirmation will take place October 21 with Bishop Skilba.
On January 28, 2007 St. Mary's will host a candidate/sponsor session "Confirmation is not Graduation" by national speaker, Lee Nagel. Fourteen parishes will participate in the session with over 1000 people attending.
- High School Christian Formation – Classes will resume January 21, 2007 and will include a mini-retreat by the National Evangelization Team on February 4. First semester, in addition to classes, we offered a parent/teen communication night with Bill Johnson.
- CYM Basketball Teams – We have four teams (2 boy, 2 girl) participating in the CYM basketball league. St. Mary will host games 1/20, 2/3 and 2/10.
- Mission Trip 2007 – Continuing to assemble team and invite participants for the June 23-29 trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.
- Middle School Youth Group & Christian Formation – Christmas Caroling at area nursing homes took place on Friday, December 15, 2006. The next dance is January 19, 2007. Classes resume January 22, 2007. Stations of the Cross will be prayed on February 23, 2007.
- Young Adult News – Our volleyball league continues on Saturday nights. We hope to be the host site for Theology on Tap series which takes place during the summer.

Pastor's report - Fr. Todd Budde

- Experience Vertical weekly mission or Horizontal specialized days/nights mission up coming; in 2009 the presentations will be more national family oriented speaker. Need to incorporate speaker expense into SMHC budget.
- St. Mary's is looking into incorporating columbarium vaults into the adjacent cemetery.
- With the sale of the Cousins Center, the offices of the Archdiocese will be decentralized for the time being, moving into different locations throughout the Archdiocese.
- The number of Priests within the Archdiocese to remain at current level for another year due to the priests extending their retirements for another year.

Finance & administrative services – Ron Gilles, Director of Administrative Services

Finance:

- Envelopes/offertory collections are down \$22,000 year to date and \$65,000 from the budget.
- School revenue is up due to increased enrollment. School expenses are down due to unbudgeted retirements and the death of a teacher. Replacement teachers came in at lower pay levels.
- 22% of our parishioners have responded to the pledge drive committing to 47% of the operating goal and 61% of the mortgage repayment goal. In previous years, pledge response has been 24% in 2005, 27% in 2004, and 29% in 2003. Those pledging have generally committed to approximately half of the goal.
- Historically 2/3 of parishioners do not fill out pledge cards. That 2/3 does contribute an amount equal to or more than those that do pledge.
- Phase II of the Marketing Committee will begin to address, as necessary, any short fall of pledges.
- Additional mortgage principal payments were received with the pledges totaling \$19,590. The Altar Society contributed \$10,000 towards mortgage principal payments.
- Bulletin notices will update the parishioners regarding the pledge results.

Budget:

- Parish Council will have separate Budget review meeting on March, 6, 2007. Budget will be up for approval at the March 13, 2007 Parish Council meeting.

Fund Raising:

- Ron is continuing to contact ministries, committee and organization leaders and organizers to ask them to notify him about their fund raising plans. The goal is to maintain a schedule for Fr. Chuck and the parish to provide an overview of yearly activities.

Dreams and Visions for our Future – Dan Paryzynski

The document *Dreams and Visions for our Future 2003* was read and evaluated by Councilors for which aspects of the document were met/not met. Small groups were formed to review one section each in a break-out session at the December meeting. Councilors were asked to come to a consensus as to whether the parish: 1) has completed the task and/or 2) has a process/system in place to keep the task moving forward, 3) has uncompleted tasks still worth pursuing, and 4) should look at additional action steps that were not on the original vision list. The recorder in each group gave a brief summary of the status of the six major areas of the vision document: Experience of Church, Stewardship, Communication, Education, Physical Environment, and Effective Management. Dan asked for a written summary from each reporter so he could develop a full report to be distributed at the January meeting. The task at this meeting was to review the renewed list of goals and actions, further examine and prioritize the goals, and assign actions. The councilors discussed two areas: Effective Management and Stewardship.

Effective Management – The council decided to hold a meeting later in 2007 and invite the leaders and organizers for each ministry, committee and organization. These groups would be asked to present the top few goals/initiatives on which they are currently working. This would allow the council and others to see the diversity of our parish involvement, assess the direction of member ministry, committee and organization and determine if additional resources could be found for groups in need.

Stewardship – A revised list of goals and action steps was presented and discussed. The council agreed that drawing forth the time and talent from a wider cross section of our community was important. To that end, it was recommended that a standing Stewardship Committee be formed and put in charge of coordinating the parish volunteer network, utilizing a database of some kind. We especially wanted to see proper follow up when volunteer candidates express an interest in helping.

Closing prayer: *The Our Father* was prayed, followed by the *Sign of Peace*.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secretary and
Gregg Saksefski, Secretary

Next meeting: February 13, 2007

Present

Fr. Todd Budde	Gregg Saksefski
Pam Lownik	Paul Stewart
Clem Budny	Mary Campbell
Ron Gilles	Mary Matestic
Joyce Roesler	Bob Stollenwerk
Chris Charapata	Dan Paruzynski
Julie Schultz	Justin Panhans

Excused

Jonathan Kozak	Tony Haning
Lori Schoenkoenig	Fr. Chuck Schramm
Tom Kronschnabl	Patty Ceille
Dawn Olander	