

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting
May 10, 2007

The **meeting opened** at 7:00 pm by Dan Paruzynski, Chairperson.

Gathering hymn: *City of God*. **Scripture passage:** *John 14:23-29*, read by Mary Campbell, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement.

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

Welcome guest: Chris Warner, Time & Talent Coordinator
Tim Welch & Bob Landowski – new Parish Councilors

April **meeting minutes approved** as amended.

S.W. Interfaith report - Linda Jaeschke, Board member

S.W. Interfaith is one of 15 Interfaith neighborhoods which links adults, age 60 and older, with a caring community and community services. Volunteer services are tailored to fit the needs of the client. Friendly visits, shopping, transportation, tax form assistance, advocacy for our elderly, escorts to appointments, running errands, minor household repairs and seasonal clean-up are some of the services provided. There are now 21 multi-denominational congregations in the S.W. neighborhood, of which St. Mary Parish was a charter member 19 years ago. The organization is run on funding from the congregations and donations, along with fundraising efforts. The Grandparents Day plant sale in September is the biggest fundraiser, as well as Boston Store Community Day, and upcoming Outback lunch on June 24th. A Volunteer Luncheon and Client Social are the two social events each year. Spring and Fall Clergy Luncheons are held to provide a link for Pastors to meet each other, learn about programs and services, and share ideas.

Linda Jaeschke Chaired the S.W. Board of Directors for 7 years. Pastor Keith Johnson from H.C. Lutheran is current Chairperson. Linda, Kathy O'Brien and Bob Hollman are the representatives from St. Mary on the S.W. Neighborhood Board. Linda distributed a brochure and noted that anyone can call the S.W. office at 421-3678 for information.

S.W. is always looking for new volunteers. There is a short orientation/training session. A minimum commitment, of only *two hours per month*, provides clients with peace of mind and volunteers with *years* of heartwarming satisfaction from the smiles and sincere gratitude.

Pastor's report - Fr. Chuck Schramm

Events of the 2 ½ day *Spring Assembly of Priests* were summarized by Fr. Chuck. The highlight for him was the homily given by former Milwaukee Archdiocesan Archbishop Weakland on *dying and rising*. "It was Weakland at his best and had a powerful impact". Fr. Chuck also enjoyed meeting and talking with the young priests and different groups of priests gathered at the assembly.

Update on prospective associates: Two young priests that Fr. Chuck interviewed are both assigned to parishes outside of Milwaukee. At this time a second priest has not been assigned to St. Mary. Plan B would be to rely more on Fr. Dominic and other priest 'helpers'.

Fr. Todd announced: He is moving to St. Boniface in Germantown. St. Boniface is a youthful, vibrant parish of 1,250 families/3,600 people. The school enrollment of 325 students is growing yearly. Best wishes were extended to Fr. Todd by Councilors.

Time and Talent stewardship – Chris Warner, Coordinator

A pamphlet was distributed to Councilors that was also sent to 700 parish *families*. That represents at least 1000 *people* involved in one or multiple ministries at St. Mary. There is a Ministry Celebration on May 21st with evening prayer and blessing of parishioners, followed by a reception.

As leaders, if you hear someone comment that they want to volunteer but weren't called, pass the info on to the appropriate person or organization. Councilors commented that people do respond when personally called and invited. Reading names of volunteers in the church bulletin also offers encouragement to others who aren't sure of their calling in the parish. A central database of talents, skills, expertise, and interests is needed.

Learning of people's talents upon parish registration or on welcoming Sunday would help identify potential volunteers.

Home & School report – Dawn Olander

The *Open House/Back to School Sock Hop*, *New Family Orientation*, and *4K-5K Picnic* were all successful events which prepared students and parents for the start of the 2006-07 school year.

Home & School meetings had informative speakers on subjects such as presenting the home environment as an extension of church/ religious education. Presentations on educational toys, drugs in school, Catholic secondary school education, and a summer reading & learning program rounded out the year.

Catholic high school representatives were available to answer questions regarding their learning institutions, and several awards were presented during Catholic Schools Week. Financially, the H&S organization's fundraising opportunities helped to keep costs under budget. Excess funds were given to Mrs. Jeanne Siegenthaler, School Principal, to use at her discretion, with approval by the association. There is a staff 'wish list' also.

Festival report – Julie Schultz

A new chairperson is taking over the Mexican Food booth and the sale of Sangria in the booth was approved.

The storage garage proposal was tabled by the Village of Hales Corners due to St. Mary neighbor's concerns and the issue of overhead/underground cables.

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) ,critical planning – Gregg Saksefski

Gregg attended 2 APC meetings and noted that St. Mary is one of the 'healthier' parishes which does not have the problems and concerns shared by many of the other parishes.

Dan Paruzynski distributed a draft that he composed. Dan's summary, along with the APC's list of 10 critical planning issues, was the catalyst for discussion. 1) Support for/equitable distribution of parish priests, 2) More equitable sharing of all human and temporal resources, 3) Supporting families in faith education; partnership of parish and family/family and parish – were the three issues under discussion.

Gregg and Dan will compile our three main issues to be presented to the APC. Gregg will attend the APC Spring District Assembly on June 11th at St. Gregory the Great Parish. He will report on our Parish Council's discussion of the 'ten critical planning issues' as outlined by the APC in March, 2007.

Dreams and Visions for our Future-

Abbreviated discussion of our 'top 5' list – Dan Paryzynski

Dan asked each Councilor to submit by e-mail a list of five goals/issues of importance from the *2003 Dreams and Visions* parish document. Dan compiled a list of the goals/issues submitted, and distributed a two-page summary of the top five most important issues as determined by the Parish Council responses.

Fr. Chuck was asked to explain the *Strategic Planning* process: Identify where things are now; vision with various staff and parishioners; set goals & objectives; start moving with the first phase of implementation; set a time table; and then assess & evaluate.

The last time strategic planning was done at St. Mary was 1997. Mary Matestic also commented that the demographics of the parish are changing as well as the 'climate of the church' at this time. "Where is the Spirit of God leading us? What is the charism of this parish?" Councilors replied: Welcoming, care & compassion, strong education component for both children & adults, strong social justice charism, & strong preaching of the gospel charism. We are a highly *educated* parish that is highly *responsive* to the 'call for action'. We have a *vibrant* parish. Now how do we proceed?

Councilors shared their opinions and it was determined that it may be time to proceed with a strategic plan by the 2007-08 Parish Council. As well, move ahead with some of the identified goals and critical issues. Such as, develop a *working* Stewardship Comm. and Human Concerns Committee. Work on our 'welcoming' procedures and high school youth programs. Dan summarized that Councilors are ready to move ahead with a strategic planning process in the next fiscal year, once a budget is determined.

Fr. Chuck would like to meet with a few Councilors to determine the direction of the youth program, identify youth issues, and meet with Tim Winters.

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

Finance: Donations did pick up in April, and "things are turning around". A *special appeal* red envelope has been sent to all families, asking for a special contribution to be made before the end of the fiscal year. Steve Borkenhagen and Ron Gilles will also speak briefly at all Masses this weekend.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm

Minutes submitted by Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: June 12, 2007

Present

Fr. Todd Budde	Gregg Saksefski	Pam Lownik	Patty Ceille
Dan Paruzynski	Fr. Chuck Schramm	Clem Budny	Ron Gilles
Bob Stollenwerk	Julie Schultz	Joyce Roesler	Mary Matestic
Mary Campbell	Chris Charapata	Tom Kronschnabl	Dawn Olander
Paul Stewart	Lorie Scheinkoenig		

Excused

Clem Budny	Tony Haning
Jonathan Kozak	Justin Panhans