

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday,
October 12, 2004

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm by Ray Moon, Chairperson. **Opening song:** *Sing to the Mountains*, followed by recitation of St. Mary's Mission Statement. **Scripture passage:** *Luke 18: 1-8*, read by Theresa Illingworth. The questions, *Is what we pray for, just in God's eyes? And Do we have faith that God will answer our prayers?*, led to reflection by Council.

Welcome guests: Frank Janiszewski, Rudy Zvers, Kathy O'Brien, Chris Warner, Donna Moon

Document handout – Ray Moon

Documents and committee reports were distributed. Documents are to be placed in the red folders. Theresa Illingworth explained the District Directives and worksheets sent from the Archdiocese.

Approval of minutes: September meeting minutes approved as amended.

Youth report – Brian Lownik

St. Vincent DePaul youth ministry: Have had two meetings thus far. Joyce Roessler talked to the students about the mission and goals of SVDP. 17 youth came to Brian Lownik's house for the 2nd meeting. Our youth committed to sodding the courtyard of the Mother Theresa Center connected to the Cathedral. They have also been asked to help find children for the *Circle of Love* project for the homeless children at the Mother Theresa Center. They will also help wrap the gifts.

November 16 is the day on which St. Mary's youth will serve at the meal program at SVDP.

St. Mary's youth plan to trick or treat in costume on October 31st. Instead of candy, the students will collect canned food for St. Mary's SVDP food pantry.

Alyssa Mueller suggested that small groups of 8 – 10 students meet for Confirmation formation, rather than the large groups that currently meet. Parents are willing to facilitate the small groups in their homes. Approx. 12 parents would need to be trained. Fr. Art and Fr. Todd offered to do the training. The next step is to discuss this new concept with Tim Winters.

Pastor's report – Fr. Art Heinze

Archbishop Dolan was here Thursday for Rosary and Eucharist. Approx. 350 people attended. It was a prayerful evening.

Confirmation this weekend was touching. The Archbishop did some wonderful things. He thanked everyone – students... parents ... instructors. His style of confirming was different, interesting, and "excellent for the kids". He talked to the kids and had a real good report with them. The five letters he picked, from all the letters submitted by the kids, and read to the congregation were great.

Last Wednesday was the first of the Vatican II sessions. "It is catching the spirit of the Council as a church." Fr. Mel gave some interesting and touching insights. Fr. Art invited *all* Councilors to attend the Wednesday evening sessions at 7:00 pm.

Attendance at our Masses has increased now that summer is over. We need to invite others to attend Eucharist with us. Only 33-40% of St. Mary's members attend, depending on the season of the year. Financially we are "alright". September was low and could have been a lot better.

October 23-24 is Mission Sunday. Beth Lownik will report on Haiti.

October 30-31 is Stewardship Sunday/weekend. Outreach committee representatives will speak at all liturgies. Response to donations *has to increase*. “Just a few people carry the load. We need people to respond or we won’t survive.”

Fr. Art pointed out a few key items on the District Directives (handed out at the beginning of this meeting). Fr. Art added, “We have to be more creative”, and offered a few ideas.

Build a parish garage – Frank Janiszewski/Rudy Zvers

Moving from one campus to the other cost us some storage space. Items are scattered all over the place now. The concept of a three-car garage (1100 sq. ft.) is being proposed. The goal is for 100% donated time, talent, and materials. Building the storage facility on the ‘old’ creative playground is being suggested. Festival supplies would all be stored in one area. In turn, space would be freed up in other areas for additional storage. All of the labor and supplies would be donated.

Fr. Art moved that Frank and Rudy further research and develop a plan for a storage facility and to explore other alternatives. The motion passed unanimously.

New Beginnings – Chris Warner

A flyer was distributed and explained by Chris. November 13 will be a full day to “look at what it means to be a modern Catholic in a modern church, and be given an opportunity to assess the talents that God has given you ...” The new thought process is to “respect people as ministers and not as volunteers. The goal is to see that when people feel a call, they will be received by the leadership. The program is a personal reflection, and will be offered twice in the next year. There will be a self-evaluation of each individual’s gifts. Please sign up by Nov. 1st.

Human Concerns update – Kathy O’Brien

Human Concerns has a small group of dedicated members, but the number is small. Recruitment has been a real problem. The Human Concerns/Social justice committee will be moving into the ‘old’ computer room in the lower level of the middle school. The room is now being renovated for storage, meeting space, the Haiti project, etc.

Communication needs to be enhanced. These social justice groups need to see themselves as sub-committees of the Human Concerns/Social Justice *Commission*. There is no *structure* at this time, making facilitation of, and planning of, projects very difficult.

Fr. Art and Council agreed that there is a problem and that the formation of Commissions should help identify roles of the committees and enhance communication. This will take time.

Parish organization– Dan Paruzynski

The main idea is to enhance communication between committees and organizations. Dan thanked Council for their suggestions and comments on materials sent out. Councilors are asked to again review the new materials and get feedback to Dan, so a consensus can be reached.

Haiti update – Ray & Donna Moon

A team of ten people went on a medical mission to Haiti from Oct. 2 – 10. A dentist on the team attended to approx. 500 people. The teamwork was remarkable. Mass was attended daily. The conditions are “unbelievably poor”. A Physician’s Assistant (PA) and three nurses attended to approx. 125 – 150 people daily. The people are *so* grateful for the care. “It was a truly rewarding experience”, Ray added.

Closing prayer: *The Lord's Prayer*

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secy.

100% attendance!

Present:

Theresa Illingworth	Ray Backe
Mary Matestic	DawnOlander
Tom Grinker	Ray Moon
Fr. Todd Budde	Brian Lownik
Tom Kronschnabl	Paul Cesarz
Tim Welch	Tom Kessenich
Alyssa Mueller	Matt Panhans
Dan Paruzynski	Clem Budny
Patty Ceille	Mary Campbell
Fr. Art Heinze	John Roubik