

**St. Mary Parish Council Meeting
March 14, 2006**

The **meeting opened** at 7 pm by Ray Moon, Chairperson. **Gathering hymn:** *Hosea*. **Scripture passage:** *John 2:13-25*, read by Dawn Olander, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement. **Share/reflect:** Councilors shared their reflections.

February **meeting minutes accepted** as written.

Pastor's report – Fr. Chuck Schramm

Lent has gotten off to a good start, focusing on the spiritual journey.

There are many requests for weddings this year, including many from out-of-state. This gives us an opportunity to evangelize to our young couples. Couples now 'shop around' for a parish.

Dr. Paul Priester will speak at the Priest Alliance meeting this month. Dr. Priester, a psychologist, critiqued the Roman document in light of current research in the area of human sexuality – an area in which he has expertise.

There was a mandate from the Archdiocese to move First Reconciliation back to the second grade, before First Eucharist. Pastors, religious formation staff, and parents question the wisdom of this decision. Many pastors believe, through their experience, that second graders are not ready. "You can't ignore the human growth and development aspect of readiness at that age." Development of *conscience* needs to be nurtured.

Weekly information on the latest developments on the Pope can be found 'on line' @ *the word from Rome*.

Youth ministry report - no report

Call for approval of the budget - Ray Moon

The parish budget review meeting was held on Monday, March 6, 2006 at 7:00 pm. It was very valuable in that, having a separate meeting in which the 2006-07 parish budget could be presented and discussed, it took pressure off of the Parish Council of having to understand and approve the budget all at one meeting. A motion was made to accept the 2006-07 budget as presented on March 6th. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Call for ratification of the Parish Council Constitution & Bylaws - Gregg Saksefski

As required, drafts of the revised Parish Council constitution and bylaws were available to all interested parishioners in the parish office for two consecutive months – the weeks of January 13 and February 5. Moved and seconded, the vote to accept the draft of the constitution and bylaws revisions was unanimous.

Festival update – Julie Schultz

A new chairperson has come forward for 2007. Bob Coleman has agreed to take the position as chairperson and he has a co-chair and others to assist him.

There still is no architect to draw up plans for the proposed festival garage. Nobody came forward after the request for an architect appeared in the church bulletin.

Prayer and worship update – Paul Stewart

The group met in January and February and was renamed the *Spiritual Life and Worship Commission*. The focus was changed from getting committee reports to enriching prayer and worship. Getting the 20 and 30 year old age group involved is of concern.

We also seem to have a ‘disconnect’ in communication between the parish school and the parish. A theme that would get everyone ‘on the same page’ was discerned by the group. The idea of a joint retreat was discussed. There have been a lot of changes in the parish staff recently. A retreat could get everyone to know each other better and see where our parish is taking us. Listening and talking are important issues – not being afraid to challenge and raise questions.

The commission will have another meeting on May 3rd. The commission is looking for a vision and input from other parish groups. Bob Stollenwerk suggested *Transforming the Church* as a “wonderful book to read”.

Good liturgy should ‘speak’ to all age groups. How school liturgies are planned and executed is being looked into. Changes are coming and may have an impact on the quality of our liturgies.

We may need to look at our Mission Statement again. Is the statement still *US*? Pray for the Spirit of God to show us ‘where to go’ and guide us during this Lenten season.

APC cluster meeting update – Patty Ceille

Patty attended the district APC (Archdiocesan Planning Commission) meeting held at St. Gregory the Great on February 27th. Our cluster is well on it’s way to being prepared for the Archdiocesan meeting on April 1st at the Cousins Center. We are collaborating with St. Alphonsus and St. Martin of Tours in marriage preparation, Confirmation formation for adults, as well as sharing resources in other areas. Our Parish Council has completed the inventory of directives. We will continue to strengthen and improve in areas in which we are currently deficient between the four parishes in our cluster: St. Mary, St. Alphonsus, St. Martin of Tours, and St. John the Evangelist.

Royal Affair update – Patty Ceille

Planning of the 11th annual Royal Affair, major fundraiser for the endowment fund, is underway. A team of parents, parishioners, and friends of St. Mary have assembled to plan the event, solicit auction items & underwriting, and market the fundraiser to *all* in the St. Mary Faith Community. The event is scheduled for November 11th at Boerner Botanical Gardens. The committee has published bulletin announcements and sent information home with school children via the red folders asking for people to join the committee *and to attend* the event. The next team planning meeting is in May.

New member discernment – Theresa Illingworth

Mary Campbell, Theresa Illingworth and Julie Schultz agreed to work together for the discernment of new Council members. They are looking for suggestions on personality traits or qualities that would make the Parish Council more successful. They asked for prayerful thoughts and ideas on what qualities we believe would strengthen the Council and make it more effective.

Recommendations for nominees, youth and adult, can be given to the committee in writing between now and the Parish Council meeting in April, or brought to the meeting on April 11th.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9: 15 pm

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

Present

Fr. Todd Budde	Fr. Chuck Schramm
Patty Ceille	Tom Grinker
Clem Budny	Mary Campbell
Theresa Illingworth	Ray Moon
Mary Matestic	Dawn Olander
Dan Paruzynski	Gregg Saksefski
Julie Schultz	Paul Stewart
Bob Stollenwerk	Tim Welch
Ron Gilles	

Excused

Tom Kronschnabl
Liz LeGant
Brendt Zydowicz