

**St. Mary Parish Council Meeting
June 13, 2006**

The **meeting opened** at 7:05 pm by Ray Moon, Chairperson.

Gathering hymn: *Table of Plenty*. **Scripture passage:** *Mark 14:12-16, 22-26*, read by Tim Welch, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement.

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

May **meeting minutes accepted** with revisions noted.

New Parish Councilors introduced – Mary Campbell

Welcomed as new Parish Council members are: Chris Charapata, Joyce Roesler, Lori Schoenkoenig, and Youth Rep: Tony Haning. Our new Councilors were invited to give introductory information on themselves and share their visions as they begin their three-year commitment on the Council. (Youth Reps have a one-year commitment.)

New Councilor: Pam Lownik, and Youth Reps: Jonathan Kozak & Justin Panhans were excused.

Outgoing Councilors: Tom Grinker, Theresa Illingworth, Ray Moon, & Tim Welch, were thanked for their three years of dedication and service on the Council.

Outgoing Youth Reps: Liz LeGant and Brendt Zydowicz were excused from this meeting.

Discernment of new Parish council officers – Patty Ceille

Job descriptions of the offices of chairperson, co-chairperson & secretary were reviewed. The discernment process began with prayer, then eligible members were introduced and discerned. Congratulations to Council officers for 2006-2007 :

Chairperson: Dan Paruzynski

Co-chairperson: Patty Ceille

Secretary: Gregg Saksefski

The discernment process concluded with prayer.

At this point in the meeting, Patty Ceille took over the leadership role by conducting the meeting in the absence of the new chairperson, Dan Paruzynski.

Ray Moon was thanked for his leadership as chairperson over the past two years.

Pastor's report – Fr. Chuck Schramm

The Parish Staff continues to discuss *whole parish catechesis*, using the book, Whole Community Catechesis, by Bill Huebsch, to guide their discussions.

The desire of the Staff is to bring Parish Council members 'on board', including them in the dialogue before any final decisions are made. There is a CD and DVD available.

The possibility of watching the DVD in segments at Parish Council meetings is an option being brainstormed.

Eucharist is the *core* of liturgical celebrations. Scripture and a question of the week is one way of engaging the entire parish more fully. The basis for this concept is explored in depth by Bill Huebsch in his book.

Youth ministry report - Tony Haning

Formation of a Youth Council has been proposed. Youth would take responsibility for the organization, development and planning of meetings and youth activities. Tony will be discussing the idea with the other two Youth Reps: Jonathan Kozak and Justin Panhans.

Expanding the youth group to include youth from outside of the St. Mary community is also an option to be considered.

Overnight & half-day retreats – Julie Schultz

Retreat dates of November 17-18 have been confirmed with the Siena Center and a down payment will be submitted.

Mary Matestic asked for ideas for a theme so an appropriate speaker can be invited. The theme: the priesthood of the faithful... how we all share in the priesthood of Christ... the theology of the call to ministry extended to all of the baptized..., was offered as a central theme by Mary. Mary has heard Fr. Mel Michalski speak on this topic and will ask if he is available.

The cost of \$53.25 per person, payable to St. Mary Parish, will be due by the August 8th Parish Council meeting.

Plans for the half-day Parish Staff/Parish Council retreat have yet to be determined.

Finance & administrative services report – Ron Gilles, Director

Finance: Monthly envelopes are running close to \$50,000 behind what was budgeted.

There was a significant drop-off in May. It is projected that we “should *just about* break even”. We are also down about \$11,000 for June thus far.

Current sound system: The current sound system in the new church was installed based on the opinion of an acoustical expert. It has now been determined that one modular unit needs to be replaced. This central processing unit would allow for portions of the system to be replaced as necessary, without replacement of the entire system.

An estimate of \$12,400 was received by *Metro Sound*, a local company.

This expenditure would go into next year’s budget. An expenditure in excess of \$5,000 needs Parish Council approval. A motion was made and seconded to approve spending \$12,400 to replace the central modular unit of the church’s sound system. The vote was unanimous.

Replacement of classroom ceilings: Replacement of eight classroom ceilings has been found to be necessary. At a cost of \$5,400 each, \$10,800 will be spent to replace two ceilings in each of the next four years. A motion was made and seconded to approve the ceiling replacement expenditure. Motion carried unanimously.

End of the 2005-06 school year report – Jeanne Siegenthaler, Parish School Principal

Having met a goal to increase non-fiction writing across the curriculum, which has been shown to improve academic achievement, language arts scores on the ITBS standardized test were our highest on record at 98-99% across the grade levels.

A new Religion Series and 4K Reading Series were added to the curriculum.

The Art curriculum was aligned with the Archdiocesan ‘Exit Expectations’, based on the ‘WI Academic Standards’.

6th grade High Pep program was added.

New Staff members added: middle school Religion and Math teachers, and 4K teacher. Interviews are taking place to fill the four new openings occurring in Fall. 4K 'Extended Care' was added; an AM session will be added in Fall. There has been a positive response to the middle school 'Royal Rewards' system which recognizes positive behavior and homework completion. A new computerized wireless system was added. Six portable laptops were purchased by the Home & School Association for the Fall term. A computerized (paperless) Lunch Program was purchased for Fall. Families will put money into an account and will be notified of balances via e-mail. The 1st Trivia Night and Winter Carnival were successful events. Fall enrollment is up 13% from three years ago. The school year begins September 5th.

Playground Area – Jeanne Siegenthaler, Principal/ Bob Mutronowski

Jeanne reported that the grassy area beyond the playground by the lower parking lot needs some attention. Grass doesn't grow because of the children playing on it. Children track the dirt and mud on their shoes into the classrooms. A campaign to solicit donations from school families, conducted by concerned school parents, raised the funds needed to re-surface the grassy area. A rubberized surface has been contracted at a cost of \$21,000. There will be no cost to the parish.*** A motion made and seconded to replace the grassy area by the lower parking lot with a rubberized surface at a cost of \$21,000 was approved unanimously.

*** For future discussion: We need to form a core monitoring group to develop policy/protocols for the coordination of fund raising efforts; appropriate procedures to follow when raising funds; and for getting approval for projects within the parish. This is needed to maintain harmony and good communication within the parish community, as well as to avoid unnecessary competition.

Review financial plan to reduce the debt – Steve Borkehagen

Funding for the future was discussed by an ad hoc committee of the Finance Committee. A recommendation to use a model other than the strategy used in the previous campaigns was agreed on. We have had two campaigns where three-year pledges were made, and now and it's time for a new plan.

There is a need for a *consistent* monetary donation toward the mortgage reduction. Informational letters will be sent to parishioners, explaining where we started with our initial building campaign and where we are now with our debt reduction campaign. Everyone will get the same first letter.

The second letter will be group specific:

- One letter explaining the church building campaign and debt to new parishioners;
- Another to those parishioners who have given nominally or nothing at all;
- And a letter to parishioners who give generously.

Historically, 1500 families have provided the financial basis for the monthly parish income. \$30 per month given by these 1500 families, in addition to their monthly donation, would cover the \$45,000 monthly parish mortgage payment.

A commitment form will accompany the second letters. Good marketing is key.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 pm

Minutes submitted by Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: August 8th. (No meeting in July.)

Present

Fr. Todd Budde	Fr. Chuck Schramm
Patty Ceille	Tom Grinker
Clem Budny	Mary Campbell
Theresa Illingworth	Ron Gilles
Mary Matestic	Joyce Roesler
Gregg Saksefski	Lori Schoenkoenig
Julie Schultz	Chris Charapata
Bob Stollenwerk	Tony Haning
Ray Moon	Tim Welch

Excused

Tom Kronschnabl	Liz LeGant
Dawn Olander	Brendt Zydowicz
Dan Paruzynski	Paul Stewart
Pam Lownik	Jonathan Kozak
Justin Panhans	