

**St. Mary Parish Council Meeting
September 8, 2009**

Meeting opened: 6:29 by Don Roback

Gathering hymn: Lead Me Guide Me

Pray: Challenged by Baptism, nourished in Eucharist, we commit to ongoing transformation in order to build the reign of God in Family, workplace and society.

Scripture passage: Mark 8 27-35

Share/reflect: Council members shared and reflected.

Haiti Prayer

August Parish Council minutes approved

Guest/Visitor– None

Pastor's report-Fr. Chuck

A lunch visit with Bishop Sklba is scheduled for Sunday September 27, at 1:00 in Room 312 for the leadership group and pastoral staff of our parish. September 22nd, Fr. Chuck will meet with other cluster staff and pastoral support, etc. to assist in continuing our collaborative efforts and awareness. They will be breaking down into groups by roles and discussing the strengths and weaknesses of each role within each parish. On October 1st, Priests in our district are being asked to review the current clustering and any desires to collaborate differently will be discussed.

Planning process: A Mission based process was proposed to assist with budgeting for the coming year. Within the next couple of weeks commissions and staff will clarify what happens in their particular area and what services are offered to our community, and quantify who they are affecting and how many parishioners are benefitting from their services. Once that information is gathered, a client satisfaction survey will be completed. The group will gather again to assist us in developing a mission driven budget rather than a staff driven one.

Youth report - Cara D'Amico, Megan Kuchenbecker

August's teen mass had a fair number of students attending, approximately 20-25. The participants were younger youth. The social outing to the mini golf course was fun. Next Teen Mass is September 13. On September 15th from 7-8pm there will be a talk presented by Vicky Thorn, "The Finest Gift; What They Didn't Teach You in Sex Ed". Saturday September 26 Bishop Sklba will be having pizza with our teens. Faith Formation classes are starting: High School September 27, Middle School-September 20. Coming up in October is the second Confirmation retreat. Confirmation is October 11.

Guest- Pam Lownick

Pam provided council with a draft of guidelines for the crisis fund which will help provide a paper trail of the fund's use. This proposal includes items including but not limited to: who can approve disbursements, who could use the funds, etc. This process will help with auditing the fund which currently contains a balance of \$25,000.00. The process was acknowledged and approved by council.

Financial report- Ron Gilles

July information was sent out; year end projections were included. This sheet will change every month based on current months standings compared to last years and our projected year end financial position. Ron went over a summary of the figures with Council. We have received a verbal and soon to be written approval for the Columbarium Study from the Archdiocese. This is not a final approval, but we can hire an architect and will start to collect bids. The Audit report will come out to council soon; we did pretty well. There are some areas that have deficiencies and possible internal controls are being reviewed. Overall our controls are very much above other parishes that Wagner LLC audits annually. Great Job!!!!

SVDP Walk- Bob Landowski

The Friend of the Poor walk is coming up on September 26th. Last year 423 individuals participated and they raised \$30,000.00. Registration forms will be in the bulletin and sign up will be held in the gathering space on Sept 12-13.

Parish School- Gina Brown

Current enrollment is at 473. We lost a couple of students in the 7th grade but enrollment is up from last years 467.

New things: We have a Student Management System software package in place now. They eliminated the many binders the stored student info and the old lunch software program. This new software contains: attendance, grades, and lunch all in one location and for the same cost as our precious lunch system. Thank you to Becky Kram who worked so diligently to get this rolled out before the start of the school year!! The teachers are doing a great job with the change!

Job Sharing of 2 teachers has been brought up. They are exploring this idea. The School is very prepared for H1N1. Clear expectations have been sent to parents on when to keep their child home from school. The schools cleaning processes were reviewed and cleaning is being done on a daily basis.

One of the school's aide positions has been cut due to a more manageable class size. This person has taken over the part time position of librarian that was open.

Staff has created an honor system for the middle school students. This system will start over every quarter. Students will be rewarded for their good behavior. Rewards will include but are not limited to jean day passes or an ice cream social.

Other: a tardiness guide has been created, a late work or absence policy has been created, and Discovery Project has moved along and 2 online courses have been developed for the gifted and talented youth of the Archdiocese. IOWA Test results show us increasing in status in our language arts scores. The staff goal is to do the same in math and reading this next test period.

Council Retreat- Joyce Roesler

The head count for the retreat is 15. Handouts were provided on the layout of the facilities, suggestions for safety and directions. This is for council and your participation is appreciated!!

Other- Don Roback

Pastoral care ministry notes were emailed to Council. Kelty is on bed rest. She and the baby are in our thoughts and prayers. Mary Lang will sub for Kelty on the Parish School Commission temporarily. Joyce Roesler will temporarily be the new representative of Young at Heart since Denise Konkol is now working and cannot fulfill that commitment immediately.

Calendar: A handout was provided on items to cover in the coming months at council meetings. Council will peruse and discuss at the retreat.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM

Minutes submitted by Jenni Jackson, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: October 13, 2009

Present

Fr. Chuck Schramm
Joyce Roesler

Tom Warner
Megan Kuchenbecker
Clem Budny
Bob Stollenwerk
Chris Charapata

Bob Landowski
Jenni Jackson
Ron Gilles
Denise Konkol

Dan Roskopf
Mary Lang

Debbie Karegeannes
Robb Lietinger

Don Roback
Cara D'Amico

Excused

Cathy Marbach

Kelty Chelius

Nicole Frittitta