

**St. Mary's Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes: September 1, 2011
7:00 pm, Parish Library**

Present:

Anne Bleistine
Marilyn D'Andrea-Spica
Fr. Leo Goodman
Heather O'Brien
Don Peris
Rick Poillon
Steve Sacco

Sharon Walker
Terry Warco
Mathew Weitzel
Tina Skubon
Fran Sescilla

Excused:

John Blowers
Brian Eltz
Joe Clupp
Chris Masterson
John O'Brien

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order by Terry Warco at 7:05. There was a scriptural reading of Matthew 22:1-20, followed by open discussion of the Question of the Week: "How will I convince busy family and friends to come to the wedding feast this week?"

Terry Warco introduced guests Rick Carter and Kathy Setlock and reviewed those members who were excused from the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

At this time minutes from the September 1st meeting were reviewed. Rick Poillon inquired about the acknowledgements being a part of the agenda. Terry Warco apologized for not including them in the meeting's agenda and stated they will be included for the next meeting. After this clarification, a motion was made by Don Peris, seconded by Mathew Weitzel, to approve the meeting minutes. This motion was unanimously passed by the council.

Chair Remarks:

At this time Terry Warco introduced new member Steve Sacco to the Parish Council, since he was not able to present for the September council meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Leo stated that there will be a workshop focusing on the liturgical changes to be held on Sunday, especially highlighting the changes in the Eucharistic Prayer. He stated there will be no noon mass this coming week. Father Leo briefly reviewed the parking situation at St. Mary's stating that the church has been communicating with the Lancaster Newspaper in regards to the

use of their parking garage and stated they have been responsive to our requests. They agreed to lift the Vine Street exit gate on Sunday mornings from 8:30-12:30. Parishioners will only need tickets for Saturday night Mass and Weekday events. This will go into affect October 16th. Father Leo then stated that the Parish Mission went very well and there was a great turnout. He commended Don Peris for the great job he did with social media / multi-media communication and with the music as well.

Mission Reports:

Pastoral – report submitted.

No concerns were addressed.

Education – report submitted.

Rick Poillon asked Anne Barnes about the percentage of children who belong to St. Mary's that do not attend religious education programs (which is about 30%) and how it compares to a national average. Anne stated that our percentage is actually lower than the national average of 40%. She stated that the church is trying to increase participation, although they face many challenges with family issues, divorce, single parenting, and families not attending Mass.

Evangelization – no report submitted.

No concerns were addressed.

Ecumenism –no report submitted.

No concerns were addressed.

Social Justice and Welfare – report submitted.

No concerns were addressed.

Liturgy – report submitted

No concerns were addressed.

Family Life - report submitted

No concerns were addressed.

Old Business:

Kathy Setlock volunteered to help organize small social group events and has been continuing to work on this project. She reviewed her progress with the council and the development of the website twoormoregather.com where these events will be coordinated. She showed council members the layout of the website and gave various examples of gatherings that could be listed on the website for people to sign up for as well as how to post an event if a parishioner would like to host/organize one. Father Leo stated that there will be a walk-through presentation on a Sunday utilizing the “big screen” to explain the website and how it works.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Hospitality – Rick Poillon stated that his group got together and brainstormed, putting a PowerPoint presentation together which they are still working on. They are also trying to come up with more impactful ideas in addition to the PowerPoint presentation. He discussed extending the time for before Mass greetings and coming up with ideas on how people can find out more about their neighbors during this time. Hospitality after Mass should be continued and he would like to encourage volunteers to wear name tags. He also suggested incorporating a hospitality “pearl” in the weekly bulletin.

Family Life – Anne Bleistine stated that her sub-committee is still brainstorming. In regards to the children’s worksheet at Mass, she stated that they can be purchased as quarterly lessons which follow the Masses reading according to the dates. These worksheets are Catholic and are available for two different age groups. She stated they can be purchased and then separated for the ushers to hand out at Mass.

Adult Education – Father Leo stated that his group did not meet, and they are looking into setting up an online account for brainstorming. He will continue to contact his sub-committee via email.

New Business:

Don Peris circulated a handout on the New Roman Missal on what the lectors will be reading before the call to worship at each Mass. He encouraged council members to read over the handout beforehand in case parishioners have questions in regards to the changes. Father Leo stated he will be changing the Question of the Week to the Liturgical Question of the Week from the diocese.

Steve Sacco suggested that it would be a good idea to have a brief paragraph in the weekly bulletin about upcoming feast days, their importance, what they mean, etc. Father Leo stated this might be a good idea for the newsletter and may be something Steve could pursue, though it may be challenging to get parishioners to read it.

Campus Plan:

At this time Rick Carter reviewed the beginnings of the accessibility plans for St. Mary’s, the start of the Ad Hoc Committee, and the origins of the “Legacy Project”. He went over how the Preservation and Development Committee is relooking at the project and what the real needs of the Parish are, such as hospitality, functionality, accessibility, etc. Cornerstone Architects have come up with two main plans to meet the needs of the parish, now making use of the convent and school buildings. He reviewed these two plans with the council using a big screen to project generalized blue prints of each layout. In summary:

Project A – connects the convent to the church, provides access to the courtyard from Beaver Street from a driveway running underneath the building, streamlines the look of convent, new connecting building, and church

Project B – connects convent to the church, provides access to the courtyard from driveway off of Beaver Street and coming in from behind the courtyard, connecting building is more modern looking with larger windows and more transparency.

Both projects - provide elevator access to all levels of school building, church, and convent; create level floors across new and old portions of the school building; provide restrooms on every floor, and handicap accessible restrooms; include a large gathering space in the atrium of the connecting building between the church and convent

After his presentation there was open discussion by the council for members to express their comments, questions, and concerns. After a chance for all to be heard, Terry Warco stated that the next step was to bring these plans to the parish for their comments and suggestions.

At 9:40pm a motion was made by Steve Sacco, seconded by Anne Bleistine, to adjourn the meeting. This motion was unanimously passed by the council. Father Leo closed the meeting with a prayer.