

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Jan. 27, 2009

(Our next meeting will be on Feb. 24, 2009 at 7 PM.)

Attendees

Msgr. Sean Flynn*	Present
Deacon Dennis Saake*	Absent

Members

Peter Abitanto**	Present	Melissa Rafter	Present
Craig Beattie	Present	Nestor Roman	Present
Gary Cademartori**	Absent	Frank Sharp	Present
James Farrell	Present	Marjorie Zaccaro	Present
Karen Pappas**	Present		

* Denotes Clergy/Staff

** Denotes Officers

Highlights:

Monsignor opened the meeting with a special prayer and scripture reading. Karen then called the meeting to order, welcoming members and thanking them for coming.

Monsignor had a series of updates to provide:

- Our recent Holiday Season activities went well. The time changes for the Christmas Eve Masses seemed acceptable and the children all did a great job at the 4 PM Mass that day.
- The Spirituality of Retirement Program has been scheduled and will be introduced with announcements at weekend Masses on June 6 and 7 and registration on June 8, with three sessions given twice each day on June 15, 22 and 29. Additional information will be provided in our Bulletin.
- Our Youth Group activities are going well, however, the integration with our Hispanic youth hasn't yet begun. One issue affecting this may be that with meetings on Sunday nights at 7:30 PM, it makes for a very long night for the Hispanic Youth who generally attend the 5 PM Sunday Mass and after Mass activities with their families. This will be discussed further in the weeks ahead.
- Renew International will be meeting with certain members of our Hispanic Ministry this week to provide the needed leadership development and training.
- St. Mark's December collections were very generous and for the first time in quite a while we have positive cash flow for the month. And we appear to be off to a good start financially for 2009. Jim Farrell, who is also on St. Mark's Finance Committee, confirmed this and added that many of our snowbird Parishioners have been sending in lump-sum checks this year to cover their weekly donations while they are away.

Craig Beattie reported he met with Deacon Mike to discuss some ideas on how to improve retention of the Altar Servers including rewards and outings among other things. Their parents need to become more supportive of their activities in this Ministry. A suggestion was also made to reach out to our Religious Education leadership to stress the importance and the privilege of serving in this Ministry to our CCD classes

Although Gary was unable to attend this meeting, he had sent an email to summarize his discussion with Peter Warshaw on training for Eucharist Ministers. A letter was sent out to those members who had missed the first training session. A second training session on January 20, which Monsignor had also participated in, was well received. Monsignor advised that we are supposed to offer the Chalice during Communion at every Mass, but we don't have enough Eucharistic Ministers to implement this yet.

Things seem to be going pretty well with our Readers Ministry and Monsignor would like a meeting scheduled with them to discuss procedures, training, etc. that Karen will arrange.

Marjorie Zaccaro volunteered to become the Parish Council liaison for our Music Ministry. She also reported that plans are underway for another Irish Night this year in mid-March, since last year's event was so successful.

Melissa Rafter reported that a pilot activity has been scheduled to initiate integration with the Hispanic members of our Parish. It will be a dinner party on February 7 with about 30 couples in attendance.

Discussions continued on plans for our 2009 Parish Survey, targeted for mid-year. Monsignor is reviewing the format of our previous 2005 survey and wants to make sure this new survey objectively covers all Parish activities. He is particularly interested in gathering inputs from our Parishioners on the strengths and weaknesses of our Parish as well as on what are the likes and dislikes of their St. Mark's experiences. Monsignor asked everyone to think about the best ways to objectively prepare and present this to our Parishioners and help finalize plans for this at our February meeting. A committee for this will need to be established.

After discussing recent Parishioner feedback on our Music Ministry, it was agreed that we need to minimize the rotation of our various music groups, since this is causing considerable confusion among Parishioners. We plan to get back to maintaining a fixed schedule of certain types of music for each of our weekend Masses with both our 5 PM Saturday Mass and our 8 AM Sunday Mass having traditional music, and the 10 AM and Noon Masses having more contemporary music. This will give Parishioners multiple choices of Masses to attend with their preferred style of music. Also we will attempt to minimize music rehearsals before weekend Masses.

Melissa reported that the oil painting of Monsignor Carton was completed and brought it to show the Members. Everyone was very pleased with the quality of this depiction of our former Monsignor. It was agreed that we will schedule the Library Dedication /

Memorial Tribute for Monsignor Carton for Sunday, April 19th with a light lunch in Fr. Child's Hall after the Noon Mass. We also agreed on a small plaque to identify this painting, which will be stored in the rectory for now and eventually hung in our Parish Library after the Dedication. Monsignor agreed that the Parish would now pay the cost of the painting and the check would be cut.

Melissa also reported that she has been confirmed as St. Mark's representative on the Diocesan Parish Council which meets twice a year and also requires attendance at local Deanery meetings twice a year. She will keep us informed on those activities.

As a result of recent Parishioner feedback a suggestion was made to include Parish Council information in our Bulletins to identify points of contact. However, Monsignor reported that due to recent reductions in Advertising revenues, the number of pages in our Bulletin may need to be reduced. Karen will work with Joanne Gibson to handle this appropriately.

Acton Items from the Jan 27, 2009 Meeting:

1. Get suggestions for agenda items for our meetings to Karen by the 10th of each month to allow sufficient time for review, approval and distribution of the package one week prior to each meeting. Responsibility: All Members.
2. Think of ways to better operate and utilize our Parish Library. Responsibility: All
3. Finalize plans for the dedication of our Library in honor of Monsignor Carton. Responsibility: Melissa and Gary.
4. Identify a young adult who may be interested in working as a liaison with the Parish Council to represent the youth of our community. Responsibility: Dennis
5. Provide Parish Council liaison support to the following Ministries:
 - a. Altar Servers – Responsibility: Craig
 - b. Eucharistic Ministry – Responsibility: Gary
 - c. Hispanic Ministry – Responsibility: Nestor and Melissa
 - d. Music – Responsibility: Marjorie
 - e. Readers – Responsibility: Karen
6. Arrange for a meeting with members of our Readers Ministry for Monsignor to attend. Responsibility: Karen
7. Think about the best ways to objectively prepare and present our next Parish Survey to our Parishioners and help finalize plans for this at our February meeting. Responsibility: All Members
8. Work with Joanne Gibson to identify the Parish Council contact information in our Bulletins. Responsibility: Karen