

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2006

(Our next meeting will be on August 29, 2006 at 7:30 PM.)

Council Members:

***Non-voting Members**

Msgr. William Carton*	Present	Peter Abitanto	Present
Deacon Dennis Saake*	Present	Mary Ellen Ballou	Present
Frank Prettyman*	Present	Tom Hayes	Absent
Nelda Ragan*	Absent	Frank Sharp	Present
Karen Pappas	Present	Carlos Zuna	Absent
Gary Cademartori	Present	Diana Zuna	Absent

Highlights:

Karen opened the meeting by thanking the Parish Council members for their attendance and by recapping some of the action items that were taken during the June meeting, namely that two meetings are being scheduled: 1) with members of ministries on October 24, 2006 and 2) with all parishioners on April 24, 2007. She then reviewed the current Agenda and began discussion on "Comments and Feedback from Parishioners". She mentioned that a parishioner had approached her and criticized the Parish Council for certain things that recently had happened and for things that hadn't happened. Karen explained to that Parishioner that the Parish Council at St. Mark's serves only as an advisory body to our Monsignor by discussing issues of general concern, by providing parishioner feedback, by offering comments and suggestions, by helping to schedule social events at the parish, by coordinating with ministries in the church and by assisting the Pastor. The Parish Council does not get directly involved in personnel or financial matters in the day-to-day operations of the Parish. Parish Council members are not involved in the day-to-day running of the Church. Monsignor also confirmed again that the role of our Parish Council is indeed that of an advisory body only.

There were some very positive comments made about Monsignor's recent letter to Parishioners highlighting the many changes and improvements made in our Parish during the first half on this year. There was also quite a bit of feedback on our new Music Ministry that began on July 22 at the weekend Masses. There were many positive comments on the refreshing new songs and styles used, describing them as uplifting, solemn and sacred, as well as a few negative comments on how different the music was. Monsignor assured everyone that the new music will become familiar as we all hear it more. Much of this new music is already in use elsewhere in our Diocese. It is intended that contemporary styles will be used at our 5 PM Saturday and 10 AM Sunday Masses and a Youth Worship Band is being formed. The 8 AM and Noon Masses on Sunday will have more traditional organ music.

Joanne Gibson, St. Mark's Publications and Media Editor, was a guest speaker at this meeting. She has introduced and placed in service "state-of-the-art" computer technology at St. Mark's, which has significantly improved the process for

preparing our Bulletin. Our current Bulletin has been expanded to 12 pages with lots more information for our Parishioners including among other things Parish current events, Catechesis topics, community and Diocesan information and an "Ask the Editor" column for answering questions from Parishioners. Further improvements are planned that will provide much better print and picture quality and a separate Bulletin for our Hispanic Ministry. Joanne has also updated and modernized St. Mark's web site. A suggestion was made to add the names and contact information of the heads of each of our Parish Ministries to our web site so Parishioners will know who to contact regarding each Ministry.

A guest Speaker for our special Parish Council meeting on Oct. 24 has been identified. It will be John J. Boucher, Director, Office of Parish Life, Evangelization Ministry, Diocese of Trenton. Since his planned interactive program will take about 1 ¼ hours, the time for this meeting may be extended. The topic being considered is "Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things – to Connect Others to Jesus".

Deacon Dennis provided an update on our Parish renovation projects and in summary everything is still expected to be completed before Christmas. The ceiling of our Church is scheduled to be painted in late September and the carpeting in the Church will be replaced after that. Deacon Dennis also showed everyone the new Memorial Donor Tree for contributors to our Renovation Campaign that will be installed in the south side vestibule of our Church. The recent recruiting and interviewing activities to select someone for our new Intergenerational Faith Formation Director position has not yielded an acceptable candidate. However, possible candidates have been identified for the CYO Coordinator and for the Assistant to the Head of our CCD Program.

Action Items from June 27th 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. Check on the various meetings, seminars, workshops, etc. that our Diocese sponsors and report on those of potential interest. Responsibility: Nelda
3. Identify what help is needed from Council Members to arrange and support our special Parish Council meeting on Oct. 24 and the open meeting with all Parishioners on April 24, 2007. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis
4. Add the names and contact information of the Heads of our various Parish Ministries to our web site. Responsibility: Joanne Gibson with help as needed from our Council Members
5. Consider increasing the time planned for our special Parish Council meeting on Oct. 24 to allow enough time for our guest Speaker's program and the other topics (TBD) we hope to cover. Responsibility: Karen
6. Prepare a letter to be sent to the Heads of our Parish Ministries on the Oct. 24 meeting which will include the summary of the "Ongoing Activities, Plans and Suggested Actions Following Our October 25, 2005 Planning Meeting". Responsibility: Karen and Peter

