

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Feb. 27, 2007

(Our next meeting will be on March 27, 2007.)

Council Members:

***Non-voting Members**

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

Highlights:

Karen opened the meeting confirming that we have now transitioned to email distribution of Parish Council materials, minutes and meeting topics to members, replacing hard copy mailings wherever possible. She also reported that she had forwarded a draft summary of our plans for the April 24th open meeting to Joanne Gibson and she will continue to work with her to include announcements on this in upcoming bulletins. Any significant questions, suggestions and comments from this meeting will be taken under advisement for further discussion and consideration at our May meeting.

Monsignor reported that our Ash Wednesday Liturgies, the Way of the Cross presented by our Parish youth and the activities that followed were well attended and appreciated. He also announced that a 40 hours devotion is being planned starting with a procession on Divine Mercy Sunday, scheduled as follows:

Sunday	April 15	Noon – 4 PM
Monday	April 16	Noon – 8 PM
Tuesday	April 17	Noon – 8 PM
Wednesday	April 18	Noon – 8 PM

Father Caesar was introduced to the Council Members and spoke briefly about his background and experience. Following an initial assignment in San Diego, he had worked most recently in New York City prior to, during and after 9/11 specializing in a number of significant roles including domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse counseling among others. His immediate plans are to observe our Parish activities his first few weeks and visit and to introduce himself to nearby Parishes, before immersing himself in ongoing community activities. We are all very fortunate to have Father Caesar with us at St. Mark's.

Nelda provided two articles for members to review from recent Diocesan publications titled: “Be careful not to confuse earthly and spiritual realities” and “Education in basics needed for unity”.

Sacramental preparation for marriage was discussed and Karen reported on the publications she had reviewed this past month. It was also reported that Dawne Mechlinski, our Music Director, had recently held an evening event for couples planning for marriage presenting music and cantor options and other topics which went very well. Father Caesar added some comments from his experience as well which were very helpful. Nelda agreed to take back all the notes on this topic and prepare a final draft of the suggested marriage preparation document for our March meeting. She will also try to email this the week before to our Council Members to review in advance of that meeting. This will then be distributed to Monsignor Carton, Fr. Caesar, Deacons Dennis and Mike, and Dawne for any remaining comments and suggestions prior to finalization.

Our discussion of St. Mark’s planned Stewardship Program was deferred to our next meeting. This will be announced after the Bishop’s Appeal is completed around mid-year.

Our May meeting will be held 2 weeks early on May 15.

Action Items from February 27, 2007 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 Diocesan sponsored publications, meetings, workshops, etc. and report on those of potential interest. Responsibility: Nelda**
- 3. Identify what help is needed from Council Members to support our special open Parish Council meeting on April 24. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis**
- 4. Document the essentials of what our Parishioners need to know when planning for Matrimony, and when there is a need to arrange for a funeral. Responsibility: Nelda, Karen and Deacon Dennis.**
- 5. Deacon Dennis recommended that we discuss “Stewardship” at one of our next meetings, since this will be introduced to our congregation in 2007. Responsibility: Karen**
- 6. Work with Joanne Gibson to get announcements in our Parish Bulletins on our April 24th open Parish Council meeting. Responsibility: Karen**