

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes August 26, 2008
(Our next meeting will be on Sept. 30, 2008 at 7 PM.)

Attendees

Msgr. Sean Flynn*	Present
Deacon Dennis Saake*	Present
Frank Prettyman**	Present
Nelda Ragan**	Absent

Members

Peter Abitanto***	Present	Karen Pappas***	Present
Gary Cademartori***	Present	Melissa Rafter	Present
Tom Hayes	Present	Frank Sharp	Present

- * **Denotes Clergy/Staff**
- ** **Denotes Trustees**
- *** **Denotes Officers**

Highlights:

Monsignor Flynn opened the meeting with a special scripture reading and prayer and welcomed everyone to his first Parish Council meeting at St. Mark's. Karen then thanked everyone for coming, highlighted the August 12 introductory meeting with Monsignor Flynn that she attended with Peter, and asked the members to introduce themselves to Monsignor and provide some background information.

Monsignor then spoke about his views on the Parish Council and explained that Cannon Law dissolves the existing Parish Council when a Pastor resigns. However, the new Pastor can reconstitute the previous council if he wishes, and that is what he has done to keep things going. He said he was very impressed with the prior Parish Council activities and accomplishments. As he begins his work at St. Mark's he would like for the Parish Council to continue and encourages the council members to be visionary in their planning efforts with Monsignor.

Prior to this meeting Nelda Ragan had spoken with Monsignor to advise him that she would no longer be able to participate on the Council. During this meeting Frank Prettyman told Monsignor that this would be his final Council meeting since it has become increasingly more difficult for him to maintain evening activities. St. Mark's Parish Council is very grateful for all the help and guidance provided by both Nelda and Frank over the years. Monsignor stated that it is not necessary for trustees to attend Parish Council meetings, but he still welcomes their input and comments even though they are unable to attend the Council meetings.

Monsignor wants all members of our Parish to be represented on the Council and he therefore wants to add a member from the Hispanic Ministry and a young adult. He would like the Council to include up to nine active members, not counting himself or Deacon Dennis who are not direct members, since the Council acts as advisors to the Pastor and staff. The Council could possibly include a few people who represent our largest Ministries among others, with some appointed directly by Monsignor and others chosen by nomination from among parishioners. Monsignor suggested a 3 year term for Council Members and a possible reappointment for another 3 years. After a maximum of 6 consecutive years each member should be replaced, but would be eligible for a future reappointment. Monsignor wants to establish a Nominating Committee for new council members and has asked Karen and Peter to join him on this. Karen volunteered to write a notice for our Bulletin asking for nominations to the Parish Council, with the goal of filling the vacancies before year-end. New Council members will be expected to actively participate in the various projects as needed and to attend most meetings.

Monsignor reported he recently met with the leaders of our youth groups and that progress was being made in helping to maximize coordination of all staff and parish activities involved with youth.

At this time, Monsignor does not want to change any Mass schedules. He will be further discussing the 6:30 PM Youth Mass on Sunday evenings with the youth group members and the associated music group, since the goals for this Mass are not being achieved. Very few young people are attending, and arranging for younger Priests for this Mass has become increasingly more difficult. In addition a suggestion is being considered to move the Saturday evening Mass from 5 PM to 4 PM. These will be discussed further at our October Planning meeting.

It was reported that some of the photos on St. Mark's web site were obsolete. The Holy Communion picture from 2007 was given as an example. Karen will check and follow-up on this.

Some Hispanic Ministry issues were discussed including their request for a full-time priest and some integration issues. With the current shortage of Priests, getting a full-time priest for this is unlikely. CCD for the Hispanic children appears to be a logical activity to combine with St. Mark's current CCD program, since most already speak English well. However, there is a serious transportation problem that needs to be overcome for this to happen. And it is worth noting that a large number of adult Hispanic Ministry members are already participating in the English classes being offered at St. Mark's. Having the Hispanic Ministry represented on the Council again should help us to better address these and other related issues at St. Mark's. Previous Council members from the Hispanic Ministry had to resign due to work conflicts.

The Parish picnic planned for Sept. 28 was discussed and the requirements for this event appear to be coming together well. No issues were reported.

Topics for our Council's October planning meeting were discussed and a suggestion was made that this be a working Council meeting to help Monsignor prioritize issues needing attention and to develop our plans for 2009. A suggestion was made to consider a broader meeting after that with the Heads of our Ministries. This will be discussed further and finalized at our September 30 meeting.

Monsignor reported that he recently met with the head of our Nursing Ministry and they are interested in providing house calls to shut-ins needing help. This will be publicized to make Parishioners aware.

A number of comments from Parishioners were reported on the music at the 10 AM Sunday Masses: too much music, too many verses / too long, too loud and distracting after communion, becoming more of a show than a Mass accompaniment. Monsignor will discuss these with our Music Director for future consideration.

A suggestion was made that we develop a memorial at St. Mark's as a tribute to Msgr. Carton. Some alternatives were discussed and one being considered is naming our Diocesan library after him with appropriate signage and a picture. This will be discussed further at our next meeting.

Our library contents are now listed on St. Mark's website and the possibility of hiring Youth Groups members to staff the library on Sunday mornings is being considered. This and other ideas for improving library utilization will continue to be discussed.

Monsignor Flynn closed the meeting with a prayer at about 9 PM.

Action Items from the August 26, 2008 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 about ways to better operate and utilize our Parish Library. Responsibility: All Members.
3. Work with the leaders of the Youth Ministry regarding website information updates. Responsibility: Frank Sharp
4. Write a notice for our Bulletin asking for nominations to the Parish Council. Responsibility: Karen Pappas