

**St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes      **January 29, 2008****  
**(Our next meetings will be on February 26, 2008 at 7 PM.)**

**Council Members:**                      \*      **Denotes Clergy/Staff**  
     \*\*     **Denotes Trustees**  
     \*\*\*    **Denotes Officers**

<b>Msgr. William Carton*</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Gary Cademartori***</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Deacon Dennis Saake*</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Tom Hayes</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Frank Prettyman**</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Karen Pappas***</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Nelda Ragan**</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Melissa Rafter</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Peter Abitanto***</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Frank Sharp</b>	<b>Present</b>

**Highlights:**

Msgr. Carton opened the meeting with a prayer. We were all delighted to see Monsignor and have him join us as he is recovering from his recent illness. Karen welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and then introduced Melissa Rafter, who has rejoined our Council after taking temporary leave last year. We then all participated in a Moment of Silence in memory of Mary Ellen Ballou, a former active member of our Council who died on December 4, 2007. She was a wonderful, energetic lady who will be missed by all whose lives she touched.

Deacon Dennis reported that new higher efficiency light bulbs have been added to our Church that will result in lower energy consumption with much brighter illumination.

Peter then provided a review of our Parish Council Accomplishments in 2007 and the events planned so far for 2008. A discussion of the Volunteer and Staff Appreciation event scheduled for April 13 highlighted the need for a committee to arrange for decorations and coordinate details. A caterer is already confirmed. Melissa Rafter agreed to prepare a draft letter to the heads of the various ministries asking them to identify all members who are “active” volunteers that have been donating their time and talents to St. Mark’s in some way. They will also be asked if any member deserves special individual recognition for working well above and beyond the norm. We would like to gather this information and send out individual invitations by early March. This will be a special event for our volunteers and staff, not including spouses and children.

Karen provided a copy of the new Parish Council information that was recently added to St. Mark’s website, for the members to see. It is hoped that this will be helpful to our other Parish ministries as an example, as they are asked to update their information on this website. A note regarding this will be added to the letter that Melissa is drafting on the Appreciation event, to alert the heads of our Ministries that we will be contacting them about this in the near future as part of our Parish transition planning.

The remainder of our time was focused on preparing for the meeting Jan. 30 with Fr. Bacovin, Priest Personnel Director, to discuss the current Diocesan process for selecting a new Pastor, as Mgr. Carton's retirement is approaching.

Action Items from Jan. 29, 2008 Meeting:

1. Get suggestions for agenda items for our meetings to Karen by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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. Work with Joanne Gibson to have the contents of St. Mark's Diocesan Library listed on the website. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis
4. Invite the leaders of St. Mark's Youth Groups to a future Council meeting. Responsibility: Karen
5. Finalize the planned schedule for inviting the heads of certain Ministries to our 2008 Council meetings through Sept. Responsibility: All Members
6. Think about ways to better operate and utilize our Parish Library. Responsibility: All Members
7. A committee is needed to help organize our Volunteer and Staff Appreciation event on April 13. Responsibility: All Members
8. Prepare a draft letter to the heads of our various Ministries to provide the names of their active volunteers and identify any that deserve special recognition. A note will be included in this letter to also alert the Ministries of the need to update their website information. Responsibility: Melissa Rafter