

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Jan. 30, 2007

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

Council Members:

***Non-voting Members**

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

Highlights:

Karen opened the meeting with two topics for later discussion. The first was a suggestion that we consider electronic distribution of Parish Council meeting materials to those members who use email. All members present with email services at home later agreed. Members not present will be contacted regarding this as well.

The second topic was the meeting absentee records of members during 2006. It is difficult to depend on members who miss many of our meetings. No conclusions were reached on this yet, but the ability to participate consistently needs to be considered when selecting new members.

Monsignor announced that on Ash Wednesday our Parish youth will be having a reenactment of the "Stations of the Cross" at 5 PM. There will also be a 7:30 PM Mass that evening where ashes will also be distributed in addition to the morning Masses that day. St. Mark's CYO members will be participating in developing a new art replication of "Christ Coming Forth from the Tomb" that will be displayed in Church during and after Easter. The Easter vigil Mass this year will be bilingual.

Monsignor also announced that our Parish goal for the Bishop's Relief Fund this year is \$65,000. If we meet this goal, 15% will be returned to our Parish. And for any money collected that exceeds \$65,000, 50% of that will be returned to St. Mark's.

Peter then presented an End of the Year report summarizing the recommendations and accomplishments of our Parish Council for 2006. A copy is attached.

Nelda provided a number of relevant articles she had selected from recent Diocesan publications for Members to review, including reviews of various new religious books we may want to consider for our library.

We then discussed the work needed to better document what is necessary for Parishioners to know, when planning for weddings and in making arrangements for funerals at St. Mark's. As requested by the Parish Council members at the November Parish Council meeting, Karen completed researching Canon Law relative to the Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony and also for funeral services in the Catholic Church. All canon laws on these topics were downloaded and forwarded on to Deacon Dennis and to JoAnne Gibson for future inclusion on our web site. Some members (and we assume some of our Parishioners) were not aware that an engaged couple in our Parish today, before receiving the sacrament of Matrimony, needs about 12 months notice to prepare for and fulfill the various requirements. This should be better communicated, especially to the younger members of our Parish to make them aware.

We had a preliminary discussion of the format for our planned open Parish Council Meeting on April 24, and this will tentatively include the following activities:

- Prepare announcements for our Bulletin, to be made at Sunday Masses, and to possibly be sent in letters to our Parishioners about this meeting. Parishioners will be invited to discuss any questions or issues they have by sending us their questions in advance so we can schedule discussions of these during this meeting with the appropriate Council Members.
- The theme for this meeting will be "A Time of Prayer and Reflection for Our Parish". It will start in Church with a special Parish Prayer and a Benediction service for the continued growth and success of our Parish and for the special intentions of our Parishioners.
- Following this service the meeting will continue in Fr. Child's Hall with an introduction of all Council Members to our Parishioners and breakout sessions for discussing any specific questions or issues submitted in advance by our Parishioners for those interested.
- Following this, refreshments will be served.

Action Items from November 28, 2006 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 support our special open Parish Council meeting on April 24, 2007. 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. Ask Joanne Gibson to please invite a member of the Parish Ministry to speak at the Masses on weekends when articles on that Ministry are being published in the Bulletin. Responsibility: Karen

- 6. 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**
- 7. Ask Mary Reilly, our Youth Director, to advise CYO members that there is now about 12 months needed in preparing for Matrimony at St. Mark’s. Responsibility: Monsignor Carton**
- 8. Read the “Together for Life” book and extract key points that should be included in our planned booklet for helping engaged couples prepare for marriage. Action: Karen**
- 9. Send an Email to Council Members not present at this meeting to advise them we are planning to use electronic distribution of our meeting materials in the near future for greater efficiency. Action: Peter**
- 10. Review the tentative format and list of activities suggested for our April 24th meeting and come prepared to our Feb. meeting with any additional suggestions you have, so we can discuss and finalize our plans for this meeting. Responsibility: All Council Members**