

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2007

(Our next meetings will be on August 28, 2007 at 7 PM.)

Council Members:

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

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

Highlights:

Monsignor Carton opened the meeting with a prayer. Then the meeting was called to order by Karen Pappas with some opening remarks. After thanking all attendees for their participation, Karen reported that she was asking Joanne Gibson to add more information on our Parish Council to St. Mark's web site. She also suggested that for the next 2 months our meetings be shortened to one hour starting at 7 PM, instead of 7:30 PM, which will make them a little easier for Monsignor during his radiation treatments. Members agreed, and the meetings for August and September will run from 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. Karen also read our Parish Council Mission Statement and asked members to remember to keep this in mind as we move forward in the months ahead:

ST. MARK'S PARISH COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT:

The Parish Council of St. Mark's Church is conceived as a community of believers in faith and service whose primary pastoral mission is to help the Pastor, to lead, to inspire and to guide our parish community in order to maximize our spiritual formation in the teachings of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Monsignor said that he thought the Parish Council was successful in meeting its Mission and was generally helpful. He also reported that the emphasis for St. Mark's in this coming year will be on the youth program. Melissa and Chip Dayton have joined the leadership team for this ministry along with Mary Reilly. The plans here are to have three separate groups that our younger parishioners can progress through as they get older:

- Junior High Group
- High School Group
- Young Adults Group

Monsignor also reported that he was visited recently by the Pastor of St. Dennis' Church in Manasquan, who is concerned about the falling enrollments in their school. Their average class size is down to 10 students. Monsignor agreed for him to send letters to our Parishioners with young children to make them aware of the schools' available space to accommodate more students.

Deacon Dennis reported that our Parish renovations are just about completed and all this work was done within budget. St. Mark's now also has the planned reserve to maintain our Parish facilities in the years ahead. In particular funds are available from this reserve for new roofs for both our church and rectory when needed.

Parish Council members concluded that the St. Mark's renovation projects have been very successfully completed and much of the credit for the day-to-day supervision of the renovations goes to Deacon Dennis Saake. Parish Council members are grateful to Deacon Dennis and to Monsignor Carton for their leadership and vision on this project -- as this was a very important, long term project that was very well done! Congratulations were extended!

Deacon Dennis also reported some progress on the Hospitality Committee. Dennis reported that a parishioner has offered to provide food preparation for future social events. There will be an update on this and the possible formation of a hospitality committee at next month's meeting. The Parish Council decided to hold the matter over for further discussion at the August meeting.

Deacon Dennis also reported that with St. Mark's fiscal year over June 30, our new and more detailed financial / spiritual statement is being prepared and will be distributed to parishioners by mid-October.

In our discussions of upcoming social events, it was agreed that our Parish picnic will be held this year on Sunday, Sept. 30. Also a special presentation by a Holocaust survivor is being planned for October, and is expected to be held with a breakfast social after one of our Sunday Masses.

We also had a brief discussion of our upcoming annual Parish Council Planning Meeting (for 2008) in October. Everyone was asked to think about ideas for this meeting and email them to Karen. This will be an agenda topic for our August meeting. Some of Karen's suggestions included: coordinating with / acknowledging / empowering other Parish organizations and showing appreciation.

Members discussed the wonderful article on our Hispanic Ministry that was published in the Asbury Park Press on July 12, 2007. It was unanimously agreed that this was very well done, informative and accurate.

Carlos Zuna reported that our Hispanic Ministry is growing rapidly and needs more volunteers for teaching English and music, reading at Masses, etc. It is hoped

that as Father Caesar progresses with Parish registration activities for Hispanic families, more volunteers will come forward. Sixty families are already registered.

The Funeral Protocol published in our July 15, 2007 bulletin was discussed and appears to be complete. After a final review by the Ministry of Hope and the Parish staff, this will be published on our Web site and distributed to the local funeral directors. Details on the Wedding notes is progressing and the final draft is expected to be completed in a few weeks.

Monsignor asked to add an agenda item to our next meeting to talk about our Catholic Library at St. Mark's, and how we might increase its use by Parishioners as well as other Parishes in southern Monmouth County.

Action Items from July 31, 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. Document the essentials of what our Parishioners need to know when planning for Matrimony. Responsibility: Nelda, Karen and Deacon Dennis.
4. Finalize the formation of our Hospitality Committee and define the leadership role. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis
5. Think about ideas for our annual Parish Council Planning Meeting in October and email them to Karen before our August meeting, where this will be on the agenda. Responsibility: All Members
6. Add an agenda item to our next meeting to talk about our Catholic Library at St. Mark's. and how we might increase its use. Responsibility: Karen