

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes June 24, 2008
(Our next meeting will be on August 26, 2008 at 7 PM.)

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

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

Highlights:

Msgr. Carton opened the meeting with a prayer. Karen thanked everyone for coming, called the meeting to order. She thanked Monsignor for his leadership, openness and Pastoral guidance over the years and acknowledged this as our last Parish Council meeting with Monsignor prior to his retirement. Next month in place of a meeting, Parish Council members have invited Monsignor out to dinner.

Monsignor reported that he has met individually with the leaders of our Youth Groups and will delegate any decisions regarding their future guidelines to our new Pastor.

We also had a brief discussion of the current weekend Mass schedule and the possibility of eliminating the 6:30 PM Sunday evening Youth Mass and possibly one of the morning Masses. It was suggested that we should consider reducing the number of weekend Masses only during the non-summer months when fewer families are in town and attendance is generally less. However, with St. Dennis now undergoing major renovations, many of their Parishioners are attending Mass at St. Mark's. Monsignor prefers to give our new Pastor the opportunity to evaluate this and determine the best course of action going forward.

At our May Council meeting it was suggested that we consider having our annual Parish picnic in July to give Monsignor the opportunity to see more Parishioners before leaving, since many were unable to obtain tickets to Monsignor's retirement luncheon. However, there were many reasons for not moving our Parish picnic date, and instead Monsignor decided to have an informal reception with Parishioners after the noon Mass on Sunday, July 27, in Father Child's Hall.

We reviewed our progress in expanding the Parish website and establishing some Parish transition documentation. Deacon Dennis provided a revised brochure on the Hispanic Ministry that will be forwarded to Joanne Gibson to be added to St. Mark's website. It was decided to defer adding additional Youth Group information to our Parish website

until later this year when their future direction is clarified. Overall this past year there were many improvements and additions to St. Mark's website and Monsignor is pleased with its current status.

As a final topic we reviewed the recommendations and accomplishments of our Parish Council over the past 3 years, a summary of which are provided with these minutes.

Among the more significant items were:

- Proceeding with the Parish Directory project
- Having more Parish socials to help bring Parishioners together
- Offering Communion in both species one weekend a month
- Having an open Parish Council meeting with all Parish Ministries and evaluating and incorporating many of their suggestions
- Posting Parish Council meeting agenda and minutes on the website
- Having Council members gather input and report on Parishioner feedback
- Updating and expanding St. Mark's Parish website
- Meeting with the Diocesan Personnel Director to discuss the process for selecting a new Pastor

Monsignor closed our final Parish Council meeting with a special prayer.

Action Items from the June 24, 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. 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 and consider highlighting certain library items periodically in the Bulletin. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis.
4. Think about ways to better operate and utilize our Parish Library. Responsibility: All Members.
5. Work with the leaders of the Youth Ministry regarding website information updates. Responsibility: Frank Sharp