

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes May 27, 2008
(Our next meetings will be on June 24, 2008 at 7 PM.)

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

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

Highlights:

Msgr. Carton opened the meeting with a prayer. Karen thanked everyone for coming and called the meeting to order. Feedback on Monsignor's recent Appreciation Event was all very positive; everyone thought it was excellent.

Since Monsignor is now planning to retire on August 1, it was agreed that on July 29th in lieu of a meeting the Parish Council Members will host Monsignor to a dinner.

Monsignor reported that he is working on some coordination issues with our Youth Groups and reevaluating the effectiveness of the 6:30PM Sunday Youth Mass, since attendance has dropped and only about 2 dozen teens are attending along with some adults. Overall the five Sunday Masses provided currently are a considerable load on the Pastor, especially since visiting Priests are not always available. Karen provided an example of a nearby Parish that has only two Sunday Masses at 9 and 11 AM. Monsignor asked Council Members to think about how many Sunday Masses are necessary going forward.

Progress is being made in expanding our Parish website. Additional information on the Readers Ministry has been provided and incorporated. Additional information on the Eucharistic Ministers and an update on the Holy Name Society have been provided and are in the process of being incorporated. Updated information on Social Concerns is being developed for their annual fundraiser and this is expected to be added to the website next month when completed. We are still looking for additional website information on the Hispanic and Youth Ministries. The heads of these Ministries will be contacted again by Peter Abitanto and Frank Sharp respectively.

Karen suggested that we consider using a limited number of songs at our Sunday Masses so everyone can become more familiar with them and better participate. These could be published in a short handout and made available at Mass in place of the various books we currently use.

Gary reported that there have been many complaints from Parishioners who cannot get tickets to Monsignor's retirement dinner since it is limited to 240 attendees and was quickly sold out. After some discussion it was suggested that we consider moving the Parish Picnic to a Sunday in July this year instead of September, so Parishioners can have another opportunity to see Monsignor before August 1.

Action Items from the May 27, 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. Think about how many Sunday Masses are necessary since the current schedule of five is an excessive load for one Pastor to maintain. Responsibility: All Members
6. Work with the leaders of the Hispanic and Youth Ministries regarding website information updates. Responsibility: Peter Abitanto and Frank Sharp
7. Consider scheduling the Parish Picnic this year in July to give Parishioners another opportunity to say goodbye to Monsignor. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis and Karen