

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes November 27, 2007
(Our next meetings will be on January 29, 2008 at 7 PM.)

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

Msgr. William Carton***	Present	Mary Ellen Ballou	Absent
Rev. George Medina***	Part-time	Gary Cademartori**	Present
Deacon Dennis Saake***	Present	Tom Hayes	Present
Frank Prettyman*	Present	Karen Pappas**	Present
Nelda Ragan*	Present	Frank Sharp	Present
Peter Abitanto**	Present		

Highlights:

Monsignor Carton opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:00 PM, and Karen thanked everyone for coming and highlighted our meeting agenda.

Monsignor reported that St. Mark's is seeing a gradual increase in attendance at the new Youth Masses at 6:30 PM on Sundays. This past Sunday there were about 160 people present of which about 100 were parents. Our teenagers are doing a great job in supporting these Masses as Cantors, Readers, Ushers, etc. This is going well. Monsignor also reported that on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 2 PM there will be a celebration in Fr. Child's Hall for Parishioners to welcome Fr. George Medina to St. Mark's.

Peter reviewed the highlights of our Oct. 23 Planning Meeting from our meeting minutes. Tom Hayes pointed out an error in the minutes in which the date for our Parish Picnic next year was shown as 2007 instead of 2008. During discussions of the Appreciation event planned for April 13, 2008, Monsignor suggested that we offer the 12 Noon Mass that day for our volunteers and staff to attend, after which the Appreciation Event will commence in Fr. Child's Hall. Since Parish Council members will be attending this event and the Prayer Service and Diocesan Workshop on May 6, our April 29, 2008 Parish Council Meeting will be canceled.

In support of Monsignor's emphasis in 2008 on improving and growing St. Mark's Youth Program, it was agreed that we will invite the Youth Group leaders to our next meeting on January 29. Karen will send them invitation letters.

During a discussion of our Website Posting Protocol, it was agreed that additional Parish Council information needs to be added. Karen has that information and will forward it to Joanne Gibson to have incorporated on our Council's portion of St. Mark's website.

In planning our 2008 Parish Council Meetings, it was agreed that we will invite the heads of certain Ministries to join us through Sept. 2008 to discuss topics including the desired website information for their ministry with the following initial tentative schedule:

- Holy Name Society, Feb. 26
- Social Concerns, March 25
- Readers, May 27

It was also agreed that schedules for each ministry's activities should also be posted in their respective sections on the website.

It was decided that a listing of the contents of St. Mark's Diocesan Library should be added to the website. Deacon Dennis said that this listing already exists and he will speak with Joanne Gibson to have it included.

Fr. George Medina joined us during the latter part of this meeting and was introduced. He hopes to attend future Council meetings as a regular member, but at this time he is not certain of his availability until he better understands the scope and impact of his duties at St. Mark's. His initial objective is to step into Fr. Caesar's role with the Hispanic Ministry. We are all pleased to have Father George with us.

After some discussion of transition planning in preparation for Monsignor's possible retirement late next year, it was suggested that the Parish Council meet with the Diocesan Personnel Director to gain a better understanding of the process for selecting a new Pastor. Monsignor will try to arrange for this special meeting within the next 8 weeks, prior to our next Parish Council Meeting on January 29, 2008.

Action Items from Nov. 27, 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. 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 our January 29, 2008 meeting. Responsibility: Karen
5. Send Joanne Gibson the additional information on our Parish Council to incorporate on St. Mark's website. Responsibility: Karen
6. Finalize the planned schedule for inviting the heads of certain Ministries to our 2008 Council meetings through Sept. Responsibility: All Members
7. Confirm a date before January 22 with the Diocesan Personnel Director to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the process in our Diocese for selecting a new Pastor. Responsibility: Monsignor Carton
8. Update the List of Accomplishments of our Parish Council through 2007 for discussion at our January 29, 2008 meeting. Responsibility: Peter and Karen