

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Nov. 25, 2008

(Our next meeting will be on Jan. 27, 2009 at 7 PM.)

Attendees

Msgr. Sean Flynn*	Present
Deacon Dennis Saake*	Present

Members

Peter Abitanto**	Present	Melissa Rafter	Present
Craig Beattie	Present	Nestor Roman	Present
Gary Cademartori**	Present	Frank Sharp	Absent
James Farrell	Absent	Marjorie Zaccaro	Present
Karen Pappas**	Present		

* Denotes Clergy/Staff

** Denotes Officers

Highlights:

Monsignor opened the meeting with a scripture reading and Karen then called the meeting to order, welcoming the members and thanking them all for coming to the meeting.

Monsignor had a series of updates to provide. Monsignor was able to obtain more information on the Spirit of Retirement program, after checking with other Parishes and receiving enthusiastic references. The theme considered for St. Mark's is "The Twelve Keys to Ageless Living", which should be of value to all adult age groups. The charge for this program is \$750, which the Parish will pay, and a \$25 profile charge that each attendee will be required to pay. After some discussion it was agreed that this would be a very worthwhile program to offer our Parishioners starting the latter part of May, consisting of a summary announcement at all weekend Masses, followed by a two hour session each week for three weeks. These sessions will be offered twice weekly, during the day and in the evening as a convenience for Parishioners who are working.

Next, Monsignor reported on a recent meeting with the leadership of the Hispanic Ministry. They are considering help from the Renew Group to offer additional leadership training for their various activities. Also it has been agreed to combine the Hispanic Youth Group with St. Mark's existing CYO, which all the youth are in favor of.

Additionally Monsignor indicated that a meeting was recently held with the Eucharistic Ministers and our Parish Nurse to re-enforce the plan for our Eucharistic Ministers to provide referrals for the Nurses where help is needed. Monsignor will be providing written guidelines to establish consistency in how the Eucharistic Ministers obtain and distribute the Eucharist.

Dennis indicated that our Prayer Shawl Ministry within Social Concerns is receiving very positive reactions from the sick and homebound people receiving them. This Ministry is now also making a special small white shawl that will be given to all children Baptized at St. Mark's.

Some other Parish activities discussed included:

- The Parish Survey is expected to be a broad ranging questionnaire touching on all Parish activities. It is planned to be distributed in the late spring of 2009.
- The Christmas Eve Masses this year will be at 4 PM and 10 PM.
- Our Youth Groups are running smoothly and growing.
- Our Hispanic Ministry's Parish Council is a work in progress.
- The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated this year on Sunday, Dec. 14. Although this is a major event for our Hispanic Community, all Parishioners are welcome and are being encouraged to attend.
- Monsignor is considering providing more financial information to Parishioners including a cumulative report of our income and expenses so far this fiscal year to better highlight our current deficit. He will be discussing this further with the Finance Committee.
- Monsignor plans to eventually meet with all Parish Ministries and Parish Council member volunteers will act as a liaison in some cases for additional help and support. Parish Council volunteers so far include:
 - o Craig Beattie Altar Servers
 - o Gary Cademartori Eucharistic Ministers
 - o Nestor Roman and Melissa Rafter Hispanic Ministry
 - o Karen Pappas Readers

These Parish Council members will be reaching out to the leaders of these ministries to set up a meeting with Monsignor Flynn to see how the Parish can be of assistance.

Marjorie initiated a discussion of the scheduling of the music ensembles for weekend Masses. Since the 6:30 PM Sunday Youth Mass is only held monthly now, the Youth Music Group is being mixed into a few of the other weekend Masses causing some confusion among Parishioners who were more comfortable with the previous scheduling. But it is important to now include the Youth Music Group in a few of our other weekend Masses to help keep them engaged; they've all been working so hard on their music. Marjorie also provided the Council members with a previous article from the Monitor titled "Can Catholics sing?" that suggests choosing music "selections that are balanced between being good music and that they 'wear well' with the congregation". It is important for everyone to remember that our objective for the music is that it not be a performance, but an accompaniment for the Mass that tries to get Parishioners involved.

Melissa and Gary reported on their activities in preparation for the Dedication of our Parish Library to Msgr. Carton. The oil portrait was recently completed and is drying. A plaque will be procured for the painting and the actual dedication ceremony will be scheduled after the Holidays early next year.

Melissa has gathered more information on the Diocesan Parish Council and has volunteered to represent St. Mark's on this. A spring meeting is planned with the Bishop. Otherwise the local Deanery meets as necessary when work is needed. More discussion is planned for our next meeting in January on the proposed "Adopt a Family" program that Melissa introduced last month to help support members of our Hispanic Ministry.

Some Parishioners appear interested in an earlier Saturday evening Mass than 5 PM. Monsignor is willing to consider changing this to perhaps 4:30 PM, since this would still not interfere with the occasional Saturday wedding ceremonies. He plans to survey Parishioners at the 5 PM Mass in a few weeks and if the majority prefers the change, this could be implemented starting early next year.

Recent feedback from Parishioners at the 10 AM Mass was that some people are getting tired of the same music and clapping that has been in use for certain parts of the Mass, and a suggestion was made that other variations be considered. Craig reported that this has been discussed recently among members of the Music Ministry and volunteered to bring this to the attention of our Music Director.

This meeting ran considerably longer than planned, almost 2 hours.

Schedule of St. Mark's Parish Council Meetings in 2009

- January 27
- February 24
- March 31
- April 28
- May 26
- June 30
- July 28
- August 25
- September 29
- October 27
- November 24

Action Items from the November 25, 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. Think of ways to better operate and utilize our Parish Library. Responsibility: All
3. Complete plans to create a dedication in our Library in honor of Monsignor Carton. Responsibility: Melissa and Gary.

4. Identify a young adult who may be interested in working as a liaison with the Parish Council to represent the youth of our community. Responsibility: Dennis
5. Provide Parish Council liaison support to the following Ministries:
 - a. Altar Servers – Responsibility: Craig
 - b. Eucharistic Ministry – Responsibility: Gary
 - c. Hispanic Ministry – Responsibility: Nestor and Melissa
 - d. Readers – Responsibility: Karen