

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes **October 23, 2007**

(Our next meetings will be on November 27, 2007 at 7 PM.)

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

Msgr. William Carton***	Present	Mary Ellen Ballou	Absent
Rev. Caesar Rubiano***	Absent	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		

Highlights:

Monsignor Carton opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:00 PM and then asked for any Parishioner feedback we had on the new youth Mass at 6:30 PM on Sundays and on St. Mark's recently published financial report. In summary, the youth Mass appears to be developing pretty well. There were about 60 attendees the first week, 120 the second week and about 100 the third week. Karen commented that this gives our youth the opportunity to become more involved at Mass as readers, servers, cantors, etc. And some families appear to be attending this Mass as well.

Regarding St. Mark's recent financial report, the general consensus was that this was good. There were a few parishioners who appeared confused or misunderstood certain points and council members did their best to clarify these with them. This was the most detailed financial and spiritual report prepared for St. Mark's in some time, and it included all the details on our Renovation Campaign as well.

The following events were identified for our monthly planning schedule into 2008:

- **Dec. 1, 2007**, Christmas Caroling, 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM, and then after the 5 PM Mass there will be a family gathering in Fr. Child's Hall to make Advent wreaths with refreshments
- **Dec. 4 – 6, 2007**, Annual Parish Retreat, at the 11 AM Mass and 7:30 PM services on those days
- **Dec. 9, 2007**, Our Lady of Guadalupe feast, 4 PM procession and 5 PM Mass followed by a social in Fr. Child's hall.
- **April 13, 2008**, St. Mark's Volunteers and Staff Appreciation Event that afternoon in Fr. Child's Hall. A separate appreciation event will be held for our youth volunteers at an earlier date TBD.
- **May 6, 2008**, an open prayer service preceding a Diocesan Workshop titled "Caring for the Caregiver, Who Cares for You" with refreshments afterwards
- **Sept. 28, 2007**, St. Mark's Annual Parish Picnic, 3 PM – 7 PM

It was agreed that all future St. Mark's Parish Council meetings will continue to be held on the last Tuesday of every month, except for December when there is no meeting. However, the meeting times will be permanently changed to start at 7 PM, with the goal of covering all topics in one hour, and when this is not possible, the meeting can be extended by mutual consent. The meeting dates for the year ahead are:

- Nov. 27, 2007
- Jan. 29, 2008
- Feb. 26, 2008
- Mar. 25, 2008
- Apr. 29, 2008
- May 27, 2008
- June 24, 2008
- July 29, 2008
- Aug. 26, 2008
- Sept. 30, 2008
- Oct. 28, 2008
- Nov. 25, 2008

St. Mark's Parish Picnic this past September was the best one yet with a nice turnout of Parishioners, plenty of food, great music, and a good time had by all.

Since Monsignor's emphasis this coming year is on improving and growing St. Mark's Youth Program, it was suggested that we invite our Youth Group Leaders to our January 29, 2008 Parish Council meeting to review their plans and see what else we can do to help them.

A recommendation was made earlier this year by a Parishioner that we have another Parish Survey which was taken under advisement at that time to be discussed again at our October planning meeting. This topic was further discussed and it was decided that a survey is not necessary at this time and to defer this for future consideration again next year.

Due to work conflicts both Carlos Zuna and his alternate, Diana Zuna, had to resign from the Parish Council, so we reach to Father Caesar to determine whether he will be representing our Hispanic Ministry on the Parish Council going forward.

We started to discuss implementation of our Parish Website Posting Protocol and the types of information that our various Ministries should have posted on the Website. It was agreed that our Parish Council information should be reviewed and completed first as a model for the other Ministries. All Council members were asked to review the current information already posted on the Website on our Parish Council and be prepared to discuss this topic further at our next meeting on Nov. 27.

Action Items from Oct. 23, 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. Finalize the formation of our Hospitality Committee and define the leadership role. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis
4. Place a notice in our Bulletin advertising for help with our Library and add information to our website on the Library and its contents. Also talk with our CCD leaders for their suggestions on how we might increase Library usage. Responsibility: Karen, Deacon Dennis, and other Parish Council members.
5. Review the information on our Parish Council that is currently posted on St. Mark's website, and be prepared to discuss any suggested changes, additions, etc. at our next meeting on Nov. 27. Responsibility: All Members