

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Sept. 26, 2006

Council Members:

*Non-voting Members

Msgr. William Carton*	Present	Gary Cademartori	Absent
Deacon Dennis Saake*	Present	Tom Hayes	Present
Frank Prettyman*	Present	Karen Pappas	Present
Nelda Ragan*	Present	Frank Sharp	Present
Peter Abitanto	Absent	Carlos Zuna	Absent
Mary Ellen Ballou	Present	Diana Zuna	Absent

Highlights:

Following introductory prayers by Msgr. Carton, Council Chairperson Karen Pappas opened the meeting at 7:35 PM. Karen requested that all members encourage parishioner attendance at the special Oct. 24 meeting in Father Child Hall. This meeting will be from 7-9 PM followed by a wine & cheese social.

A draft agenda was distributed for this meeting which included the music of our new musical director Dawne Mechlinski. Karen indicated that the proposed agenda was forwarded to John Boucher, our guest speaker at this meeting, and that there may be breakout sessions followed by a question and answer period. After an opening Music prayer and opening remarks, Peter Abitanto will summarize the results of last year's meeting. The message will emphasize that we appreciate the input from all parish ministries and the action taken or planned as a result.

Another handout from Karen listed ongoing activities and suggested actions from last year's special meeting and this will be available in an attractive handout for participants to take with them at the Oct. 24 meeting. An invitation was included in the parish bulletin and additional letters have been sent to the heads of all parish ministries.

Karen is attending a meeting in Trenton on the following night, October 25 with members of the NJ Legislature, entitled a "Legislative Dialog Evening". The meeting to be held at St. Gregory the Great parish center will discuss various topics, such as stem cell research, as the legislature is interested in learning what the parishes are interested in as well. The Diocese would like as many people as possible to attend. A registration form is being developed.

Monsignor remarked that the overall reaction to the new parish music program is very positive. Despite a few negative comments, the program seems to be revitalizing the parish. About 50 children are participating in the children's choir, 35 - 40 in the youth choir and about 20 in the folk group. Monsignor reiterated that parishioners

now have a choice of music which didn't exist before. He also reported that a new youth group coordinator has been hired and will start in about two weeks.

Dennis reported that a new sidewalk has been completed on the Crescent Pkwy side of the church which should preclude the hazardous water pooling that existed before. The rectory basement has been refurbished for meeting rooms and other activities. The church ceiling is being painted and some changes to the lighting will be made. This should be done in about two more weeks.

Nelda raised a question about a new program, "Just Faith". Dennis said that this is an evangelization product.

The meeting was closed at 8:45 with a prayer followed by a tour of the refurbished basement.

Action Items from August 29th 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 meetings, seminars, workshops, etc. that our Diocese sponsors and report on those of potential interest. Responsibility: Nelda**
- 3. Identify what help is needed from Council Members to arrange and support our special Parish Council meeting on Oct. 24 and the open meeting with all Parishioners on April 24, 2007. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis**
- 4. Place announcements in our Bulletin on training classes available for members of certain Ministries. Responsibility: Nelda and Deacon Dennis**