

On The
Mountain
Top With God



2006 Special Meeting of
St. Mark's Parish Council





AGENDA

7:00 PM St. Mark's Parish Council Welcomes You!

- † Opening Music Prayer —
Dawne B. Mechlinski
- † Introductions and Welcome to All —
Deacon Dennis J Saake
- † Opening Address — Monsignor Carton
- † Presentation and Parish Council
Comments — Karen Pappas
- † Summary of Results from Oct. 25, 2005
Meeting — Pete Abitanto

7:30 PM Ordinary People Doing
Extraordinary Things— John Boucher

8:45 PM Open for Questions — John Boucher

8:55 PM Closing Remarks —
Deacon Dennis J. Saake and
Monsignor Carton

9:00 PM Closing Music by Dawne B. Mechlinski

9:00 PM Wine and Cheese Social



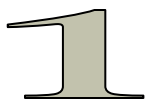
2006 REPORT OF THE ST. MARK'S PARISH COUNCIL

On October 25, 2005, the Parish Council held a special planning meeting with the heads of each of the Parish ministries.

At the meeting, four questions were posed by Monsignor Carton to the Parish Council and to the Heads of the Ministries.

Workgroups were formed at that meeting and parish ministry leader participants were asked to give their recommendations. From January through June 2006, the Parish Council considered the feedback that was received at the 2005 fall meeting.

The following pages list the questions which were posed by Monsignor Carton and the actions taken as a result.

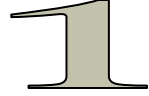


How Can St. Mark's Foster Adult Catechesis?

- ✓ St. Mark's held a Parish Mission in March.
- ✓ We have encouraged our Parishioners to review the selected Readings in advance to prepare for Mass. To assist with this, a link was added on our web site to access an external web site that provides Bible study specific to the Sunday Readings that parishioners can access at their convenience.
- ✓ "*Faith Enrichment for Adult Catholics*" sessions are being held on Wednesday nights starting in October 2006, as part of our Parish's Diocesan Faith Enrichment Center's activities.
- ✓ St. Mark's has an active Bible Study Group for young mothers and children that is very well attended. Another Bible Study group has been ongoing for adults.
- ✓ More Adult Catechesis information is now being provided in our Bulletin and plans are still under development for the Intergenerational Catechesis Program.



How Can St. Mark's Foster Adult Catechesis?



-
- ✓ We will try to focus our attention first on educating our Parishioners on the most important elements of the Mass/Liturgy and the Sacraments, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist. The Celebrant will occasionally add explanations during Mass and briefly discuss the significance of certain parts of the Mass. This can also be reinforced with relevant information in our Bulletin, web site, and CCD instruction.
 - ✓ Homilies will be simple with one specific take-away message, related to the Readings. This is also being reinforced with relevant information in our Bulletin, web site and CCD instruction.
 - ✓ We will announce in our Bulletin an accommodation for Parishioners to ask questions on any topics of interest through our web site, as well as through the mail or by dropping a note in the collection basket.



2 How Can St. Mark's Foster Better Attendance at Mass?

- ✓ Occasional social events are being scheduled after Mass. For example, some wine and cheese socials have been held after the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday.
- ✓ St. Mark's purchased portable signs that can be used to advertise special events. These signs were recently used to remind people about the Parish Picnic.
- ✓ We have developed and implemented a youth musical group and will invite the music group of the Hispanic Ministry to occasionally perform at other Sunday Masses. This will be scheduled and announced in advance in our Bulletin.
- ✓ We will have more special Masses for CCD parents and their children. The children will actively participate by reading and singing with our choir.



How Can St. Mark's Parish Foster Increased Participation in Various Ministries?



- ✓ Leaders of parish ministries have been asked to reach out directly and extend a personal invitation to new members.
- ✓ A listing of the various ministries and their activities has been run in the Bulletin and representatives from Parish Ministries have been asked to speak after Mass to help our Parishioners become more aware of their activities.
- ✓ Representatives of different Ministries have been invited to speak at the Parish Council meetings. Information obtained from those meetings is then incorporated into future Parish Bulletin articles.



4 How Can St. Mark's Parish Foster More Youth Involvement?

- ✓ Update Web site and keep it current.
- ✓ Recruiting staff to run our Youth Program and encourage parents to work with new staff.
- ✓ Work with new Music Director to develop a youth musical group.



St. Mark's Parish Council Officers

Reverend Monsignor William Carton, Pastor

Deacon Dennis Saake

Karen Walsh Pappas, Esq., Chairperson

Peter Abitanto, Assistant Chairperson, Secretary

Gary Cademartori, Vice Chairperson