

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer and Reflection: Mary Szymczak

Presided by: Fr. Raymond Goodwin

Present: John Gill, Mary Belmore, Jo Dascanio, Rebecca Edwards, Sister Yvonne Millman, Rolande Parent, Mary Szymczak, Tom Tellier

Absent: Keith Coveney, Janice Mead

Ministries: Sister Yvonne Millman, Religious Education; Helen Rehberg, Stewardship

April Minutes: Approved with one correction: in “attendees” from Ministries, correct the name of Kathy Sugrue to Amy Sugrue.

Received Correspondence, etc: John Gill presented a question that was recently raised by a parishioner: *Are there any guidelines for posting notices on parish premises?* An open discussion revealed there is no formal procedure and there are no guidelines established, though it is believed and hoped that common sense and good taste would always prevail. Anyone noticing outdated items on the bulletin board outside the parish office is free to remove them. Additionally, a suggestion was received to have the lectors begin reading announcements prior to Mass. There were no strong feelings about this and it was agreed there is no need to change how announcements are currently being handled.

Chairperson Comments: John Gill reminded the group that discernment for new Parish Council members would occur on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Nominations totaled 30 and phone calls to the nominees are nearing completion. He also confirmed that a representative from the Veteran’s group will attend Council’s last meeting of the year on Tuesday, June 9th to present the group, its work and its mission, for consideration as a fully recognized and active parish ministry.

New Action Items: none

Ministry Updates:

Religious Education: Sister Yvonne Millman

Sister Yvonne provided copies of Religious Education Board’s Minutes from April 28, 2009. Some of the topics covered included Mother/Son Dance, Registration Updates, Father Ray’s 40th Anniversary and Catechist Appreciation Dinner. A copy of the Minutes will be provided to Council members.

Stewardship: Helen Rehberg (Cluster Parish rep from Stewardship) reported that at the most recent Cluster Parish meeting on May 4th she presented Stewardship’s recommendation to invite

parishioners from St. James and St. Philip parishes to join our Eucharistic Adoration and Prayer Chain ministries. Both are in need of new members and this would be a good way to draw parishioners together. The suggestion was well received and there will be more work done to accomplish this. Stewardship held an open house at the rectory on Sunday, April 26th and it was well attended. While it was hoped this would be a frequent event, it seems that it might prove difficult to do on a regular basis. Possibly another will be scheduled in September as a “welcome back” as everyone returns to their routines following summer. Stewardship unanimously agreed it is too late to pull a cluster-wide parish picnic together for this summer but has confirmed they will sponsor such an event in 2010 to mark and celebrate the first anniversary of the Cluster Parishes of Grafton. All three parishes will be invited to participate.

Cluster: Deacon Nick reported that work has begun for forming an interviewing group for the business manager position. Parish Council will identify one member to work with this group, in addition to a parishioner who will serve as “back up” to the Council member. This group will screen applicants and make a recommendation to Father Ray for continued interviewing.

Before leaving the meeting for an appointment at the rectory, Father Ray confirmed he has interviewed one possible successor for Deacon Nick. This person is currently assigned to another parish (Good Shepherd in Linwood) as he continues his diaconal training. He hopes to join us at St. Mary Parish. His ordination is expected to occur in June, 2010. He will be invited to attend the June Parish Council meeting.

Father Ray’s 40th Anniversary: Jo Dascanio confirmed that the menu for all of the visitors and house-guests was in place and people were working with her to get the food delivered to the rectory.

Finance: Deacon Nick stated that while the parish continues to run behind, compared to last year at this time, we remain in the black. Some pressures were eased this winter by locking in to oil when we did. While weekly collections remain down, so does the tax that we are required to pay on what we take in. Response remains positive to Parish Pay.

Parish Achievement Award: Mary Belmore reported that no applications have been received yet. The deadline for submitting is June 27th. That is also the date for the fundraising car wash at Saver’s Co-op from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be covered by students from grades 9 and 10. For 3 hours of work at the car wash, one learning/service unit will be awarded. Mary will run reminder bulletin announcements about the applications. Mary will also develop an interview schedule enabling applicants to select a time they can work with. Interviews will be held over two weeks in July. New Council members will be invited to help with the interviewing.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. **Opening Prayer:** Jo Dascanio

Closing Prayer and Blessing: Deacon Nick

Respectfully submitted by Helen Rehberg.