

**St. Mary Parish Council Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**May 13, 2008**  
**7:00 pm**

**Presided by:** Fr. Raymond Goodwin

**Present:** John Gill, Mary Belmore, Janice Mead, Keith Coveney, and Tom Tellier, Deacon Nick CaraDonna, Sister Yvonne Millman

**Ministries:** Sue Robertson (Stewardship), Lori Dewar(Religious Education)

**April minutes:** Approved with one correction

**Correspondence**

- John shared an unsigned comment that was written on a Parish Council nomination form, commenting that this is “the invisible ministry.” The group discussed the comment and ideas to make the council more visible.
  - All minutes are being posted in PDF format on the parish web site. They are given to Karen Champagne for posting.
  - At one time there was a binder in the gathering space with minutes – John will see if it can be located.
  - Father will recognize the Parish Council at the installation of new members at Mass on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Members will make themselves available after Mass to greet parishioners
  - A display board to post council information could be put in the gathering space
- Security at Saint Mary's
  - John received a follow-up e-mail from Deacon Nick after last month’s meeting with Chief Crepeau. Deacon recommends that we do not to over-react by locking the church. Parishioners should be vigilant and continue to assure that children are not left alone. Members of the Council agreed and no action will be taken at this time.

**Chairperson comments:** John Gill

- Parish Council nominations underway; status, schedule
  - 15 names were received so far with one weekend remaining then he will contact those nominated
  - John will document the nomination process and time line for future reference
  - Discernment will be June 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 with Installation on June 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Council Members were asked to attend these events
- "Safe Environment" – status of letter to ministry chairpersons
  - Letters are ready, waiting for the lists of names and numbers

**New Action Items:**

- Music – Some Members of the Council have heard parishioner complaints, particularly that the music is very loud and distracting before Mass and during Communion when they are looking for quiet time to pray.
  - Recommendations - Starting a Music/Liturgical Advisory Council; Surveying parishioners. Father Ray stated that it has been a year since Mr. Laliberte was hired as Music Director and this may be a good time to solicit feedback. Deacon Nick and Fr. Ray will follow-up on this item.
- Fr. Ray stated that the 5:00 Sunday Mass will not be held any longer

### **Ministry Updates:**

- Religious Education
  - Handbook finalized
  - It has been recognized that many parents choose between either Religious Education or Mass and that children are not attending both
  - Registration – most have registered, only 36 have not been heard from. There is a \$25 late fee.
  - Volunteers for First Communion practice worked well
  - Nominations sheets for Religious Education board positions will be placed in the pews. There is no set number of members for this board, but two members are completing 3 year terms. Nominees decide on their own if they want to accept.
  - May 20<sup>th</sup> is the Catechist appreciation dinner
- Stewardship – St. James, St. Phillips and St. Mary are at different stages of stewardship
- Finance
  - Overall budget doing OK
  - Concern about cost of fuel – needed to dip into the operating budget; will continue with the oil barrel visual
  - Pension is no longer under-funded, it is now over-funded by \$6800
  - Parishioner donated energy saving lights
  - Catholic Free Press – deficit with Diocese
  - Health care increases on June 1
- Cluster Meeting 5/12
  - There was a presentation of the financial analysis of the three parishes for various operational models. Planning presentations to each Parish's Finance Committee and Parish Councils and then to the parishioners in November.
  - Recommendation – Business Manager to oversee the three parishes – helps relieve the pastor and provides more buying power with three parishes

### **Council discussion:**

- Final By-law revisions were approved. Mary and Robin were thanked for their hard work on these.
- Recognition Award update

- Applications were sent out and are due on 5/23. The applicants will be interviewed. The presentation will be made on June 15<sup>th</sup> when Bishop Reilly presents the Awards to Seniors in Ministry.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 10