

**St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting/Planning Session
Minutes for AUGUST Meeting on Thursday, July 31, 2008**

In Attendance: Fr. Gardner, Jenni Petrey, Margie King, Gail Florea, George Hilleary, Tony Peter, Susan Zapf, Carol Wright, Wilma McGlasson

Opening Meditation

Not Present: Mike Gehring, Pat Hendricks

June Minutes: Approved

Fr. Gardner's Report:

- There were four funeral liturgies and two baptism since the last meeting.
- The parish celebration of 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries took place on June 29 at the 10:30 Mass. Our thanks to those who helped in this event's coordination and the reception that followed: Jim and Mary Grace Coddington, Barb Hollmann and Evelyn Bardua.
- Parish picnic was held at Stricker's Grove on July 6; while attendance seemed to be down, sufficient funds were generated at the gate to offset the cost of grounds rental for the event. Council members discussed whether the picnic continues to be an effective community builder or if some consideration should be given to making a change of some kind, such as venue or date. It was agreed by all that it was important to continue to offer the picnic as an opportunity for parishioners and their families to gather each year.
- St. MM's Vacation Bible School took place in the evenings on June 22-26. The parish Summer CCD program took place over the two weeks of July 7-18. Both programs were under the direction of Wilma McGlasson, Faith Formation Director.
- The Child Protection Policy for the Archdiocese is required to be reviewed every 5 years. It has been revised and published and is being presented to pastors at various meeting sites in the Archdiocese. Father attended with Wilma at St. Ignatius on July 11. There have been some key additions to the policy. There is no change in the video presentation. A policy brochure will be available.

Faith Formation: Report submitted by Wilma

- Preparations for First Reconciliation and Confirmation will begin in September.
- St. MM's Vacation Bible School program "God's Big Backyard" took place in June as was well attended and well received by the participants.
- Sunday pre-school program will resume in the Fall. Nancy Garcia will be the coordinator. One or two additional adults are needed to help run the program.
- There were 12 students who attended the St. MM Summer CCD program in July. Gail Florea and former St. MM school principal, Pat Kennedy, taught primary grades and Wilma taught the intermediate grades. There were no registrations for Jr. high students this year. Dale Foley was a great asset, providing music that coordinated with the theme for each day.
- iDive and iPlunge are two programs developed by the Jesuit Spiritual Center for teens in grades 8 through high school. Six young parishioners participated recently. During the days they visited various charity centers, mostly located in Over the Rhine area, where they helped with projects, and they spent the nights at the Milford Retreat House. They earned part of the funding needed for them to attend by having a car wash and bake sale, with the balance of funds coming from PYO. Their reflections on this experience continue to be featured in the weekend bulletin.
- Child Protection Program: next video viewing session will take place at St. MM on Monday, August 18 at 7:00 pm in the Faith Formation Office. Other sessions are being scheduled with dates to be announced.
- There were five adults and one youth from St. MM who participated in helping serve meals on July 29 at the St. Paul Church Community Dinner, however several more volunteers would be greatly welcomed. St. MM has agreed to participate in this event on 5th Tuesdays. The next date for this is Tuesday, September 30. Serving begins at 4 pm and cleanup is usually completed by 7pm. Dessert donations for the event are also needed and appreciated. Wilma should be contacted for more information.
- Training for altar servers will take place on Monday, August 4 and Wednesday, August 6 at 10:00 am in the church for students in the 5th grade and up. Attendance is required on both days.
- Sunday, September 21 is Catechetical Sunday. Those involved in the ministry of the catechist will be recognized and blessed. Invitations and notices have been sent to the various parish group involved.

Worship Commission: Father Jerry reported

- They will resume meeting this month.
- No status on the progress of the search for a new organ.

Building and Grounds:

- Obtaining bids to remove the streamstone from various walkways around the building as well as to make masonry repairs to the back porch of the rectory.
- Obtaining bids to fix drainage problems that have been accumulating over the past few years, causing leaking and flooding in the church basement. There will need to be new drain pipes, downspouts and window wells along with extensive underground repair and replacement of pipes. The cost to do this necessary work is going to be significant.
- The lease for the large parish copier is about to expire and a decision is being made about purchasing or replacing it; in the process of considering options and costs.

Finance: Carol Wright reported

The 2008-09 Parish Finance Report was presented to Council for their review and questions. The report will go into the bulletins the weekend of September 13/14. A copy signed by two members of Council will be sent to the Archdiocese.

Youth Ministry: Gail reported

- The next PYO meeting will be on Monday, August 11 at 7 pm in room 21.
- In recognition of the start of a new school year, there will be a blessing of students at the Masses the weekend of August 23/24. An ice cream social will follow the 4:30 pm Mass on the 23rd.
- PYO recently mailed its newsletter and schedule of upcoming events to parish households.

Our Lady of Grace Regional School Update: Father Jerry reported

- The OLG Education Commission continues to work on policies and the handbook.
- Administration is working on a multitude of details, including reorganizing materials and classrooms as well as creating new entry points and bridgeways for the school building.
- OLG's PTO is providing one last get acquainted social for students, parents, faculty and the principal before school starts. A skating party will be held on August 20 and 21st.
- The four parish pastors and DREs are meeting along with Mr. Johnson to finalize plans for liturgy and other faith formation components for parish students attending the school.
- The CARE NEWS web site is going to be phased into the new OLG web site over the next few weeks. OLG's web site address is www.olgcs.org

St. MM Education Commission: Wilma reported

Next meeting will be on Thursday, September 18.

Festival Update: Jenni reported

- Final planning meeting was held on Monday, July 28. Very well attended.
- All booths now have chairpersons. All ducks are gone. Looking for adult volunteers interested in a sit-down job to attach wrist bands as people have their IDs checked.
- Grand Raffle sales are doing very well. Joe Windt was awarded the prize for being the top seller in the parish. Many thanks to Joe for selling \$400 in tickets. He will receive his \$250 cash prize during the festival.

P.L.A.N. - Parish Future Planning Update:

Details for presenting the final draft of the parish PLAN to parishioners were discussed and set. A presentation for all facilitators who participated in the process will take place on Thursday, August 7 so that they can be brought up-to-date and be the first to see the result of their efforts. The PLAN will be mailed to all parish households during the week of August 11 and the information presented at all Masses the weekend of August 16/17. Members of the planing committee will be available after each Mass in the Holy Family Room where people will be encouraged to view the informational flow charts and ask questions. Refreshments will also be served.

Closing Prayer: Jenni Petrey

Next PC meeting: September 4 at 6:30 pm in Rm 21.

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz