

**St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting/Planning Session  
Minutes for Meeting on Thursday, January 3, 2008**

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

**Opening Meditation**

**December Minutes:** Approved

**Fr. Gardner's Report:**

- There have been no weddings, funeral or baptisms since the last Parish Council meeting.
- Holy Days, Reconciliation Service and Christmas celebrations all went well; difficult to get student servers for holiday Masses; expanded music instrumentation and youth and adult choirs was well appreciated.
- Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated this weekend followed by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord next weekend.
- Lent begins early on February 6. Will be meeting soon to review schedule and plan for Mardi Gras event and devotional opportunities.

**Deanery News:**

- Father did not attend December monthly luncheon of deanery priests.
- St. Bart's School will become John Paul II Catholic School starting with next school year.

**Vocation Commission:**

Renewed efforts to encourage sign up for Vocation Cup and weekly commitment to prayer.

**Faith Formation:** Report submitted by Wilma

- First Communion plans are being made and schedules set for meetings with parents and then candidates within a couple of weeks. First Communion will be on May 4 at 10:30 am Mass.
- Twelve Confirmation candidates are working on preparations for reception of the Sacrament on April 6 at 10:30 am Mass. Kristen Schoener is collecting videos on January 26/27 for Children's Hospital as one of her service projects.
- Scripture Alive members are baking cookies for the Women's Society to deliver to the homebound of the parish. The next meeting is January 27 after 10:30 am Mass.
- Sunday Preschool will begin on January 13 and will be during 10:30 am Mass. Program is for children ages 3-5.
- Plans for Fat Tuesday and weekly Lenten Soup Suppers will be announced when complete.
- Sr. Louise Akers will offer a workshop on Justice and Peace, required for catechists, but open to everyone, on January 15, 17, 22, & 24 from 6:30 - 8:45 pm. Attendance at all sessions is recommended, but parishioners are invited to attend whatever evenings they can.
- "Souper Bowl" Sunday is February 3. Program was started by a youth organization years ago to coincide with Super Bowl Sunday. Parish youth will be at the church entrances after Masses Feb 2/3 to collect money in a soup pot for Tender Mercies. Last year they collected \$600 and this year their goal is \$800.

**Worship Commission:** Father Jerry reported

Next meeting will be on January 10.

**Building and Grounds:** Carol reported

Snow removal contract with DAG has been renewed.

**Finance:** Carol Wright reported

- Archdiocesan assessment bill has been received.
- High School equalization payment has been made. The equalization will be assessed for the 2008-09 school year at \$50/student (50% of current rate) and will stop completely with the 2009-10 school year.

**Youth Ministry:** Report submitted by Gail

- Christmas Caroling was canceled this year due to inclement weather.
- The Youth Socials were held on December 27. Approx. 20 4-7th grade and 50+ 8-12th grade youth attended. The kids had a great time!
- Next PYO meeting will be on January 14 at 7:00 pm in Rm. 21. All are welcome.
- Family Game Night will be on January 20, 6-10 pm. All parishioners are invited.

**Regional School Update:** Father Jerry reported

- Archdiocese approval of the plan submitted for new Regional School was announced at Masses on December 22/23.
- A new principal search committee has been formed. Paula Link and Bill Windisch are representing StMM on the Committee. Currently advertising the position and accepting applications.
- A naming committee has been formed. Diane Hammons and Janice Stentz will be representing StMM on the committee. Their first meeting will be on January 5. New name must be submitted to Archdiocese for approval by Feb 15.
- Father needs two parishioners to represent StMM on the new school's Education Commission for a term of 3 years. This Commission will consist of two representatives from each parish along with the pastors.
- Fr. Tom, pastor of St. Ann, will be organizing a meeting of booster/youth sports leadership to take place at St. Ann to discuss the sports programs and how they will be structured once the Regional School opens. Fr. Jerry asked if there were any names from the parish that could represent our parish's perspective/children's interests, recognizing we no longer have an organized booster program or sports teams with our children now participating on their school's teams. Father is looking to identify two parishioners to attend this meeting and represent StMM through this planning process.

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

P.L.A.N. Steering Committee reviewed results from the November 17 meeting which identified several areas for futures planning and development. Five main categories were created and sub committees will be formed to study and outline planning for each. Teams of 5-8 people will be created. A general meeting is scheduled for February 9 at 8:30 am to discuss the objectives and any criteria to be followed. Categories are: Parish Life & Ownership, Future Financial Planning, Public Relations, Social Opportunities, and Spiritual Growth and Outreach.

**Other Business:**

Concerns have been raised regarding security of the facilities and a request was made for additional lighting around the parking lot area. This will be studied further before anything different or new is done.

**Closing Prayer:** Tony Peter

**Next PC meeting:** February 7, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz