

**St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting/Planning Session  
Minutes for Meeting on Thursday, October 4, 2007**

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

**Not Present:** Dan Schmidt, Tony Peter, Wilma McGlasson

**Opening Meditation**

**September Minutes:** Approved

**Fr. Gardner's Report:**

- There have been 5 funeral liturgies and one baptism since last Parish Council meeting.
- Father attended a presentation by the Archdiocesan Stewardship Office on changes made to the former Archbishop's Fund this past Tuesday. The concept and overall goals have been changed with funds now directed to ministries within Archdiocese. The appeal is now called Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA).

Key items of meeting: asked that a brief survey consisting of a response to one question be taken at masses on the weekend of October 13/14. This may lead to possible presentations in parish and regional areas on these ministries. CMA is now viewed as a second collection, taking place on the Second Sunday of Lent. Much of the previous appeal's paperwork and recording aspects will be eliminated. When a parish meets its designated goal, it will receive a 10% reduction toward their assessment on the amount that is over the goal. The individual parish goals for this appeal will not change from prior year's goal. StMM's was, and will be, \$15,000.00.

Second component of presentation was the topic of electronic transfer of payment. Presented in view of the forthcoming CMA collection, it provides the means for parishioners to contribute in this manner. Method will also extend to other parish contributions and other payments such as school tuition payments. There is a charge of 4% on money transferred in this way. The money is held for 30 days with no clarity on who receives the interest generated by this money, except to assume it goes to the Archdiocese. This concern was raised by pastors at today's deanery lunch and will be taken to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council meeting this coming week.

**Regional School Planning:**

The Steering Committee for Regional School Planning has met several times this month as we continue to work toward a regional school for next school year. Having already sent a summary letter of intention, the final product needs to be submitted by early to mid-November. We have three more meetings planned in the next four weeks for this purpose. As information is available it will be given through the C.A.R.E. newsletter and eventually at a gathering of parish and school families.

**Vocations Committee:**

Continuing with prayer cup and monthly day-day prayer.

**Deanery News:**

Pastor's Lunch Meeting was today (Oct. 4). See reference to electronic transfer of money and CMA presentation above.

**Faith Formation:** Report submitted by Wilma

- Eucharistic Ministers who can visit the home bound have met. There will be more information after this is presented to Worship Commission for discussion regarding visits after Mass on Sundays.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word ministers will meet on Oct. 17 to continue their discussions and plans for dismissal to be a reflection of the readings, Creed & intercessions of the Sunday Mass.
- We have 9 candidates for First Reconciliation and First Communion, 4 of whom are from the public school system.
- We have 12 candidates for Confirmation, 2 of whom are from the public school system.
- At this time, we have no candidates for RCIA. If this continues to be the case, the team will use this year to review our catechetical plan and materials and to work on catechist certification of some members of the team.
- Friday Scripture Alive attendance for grade school is rather poor but those who come do find it meaningful. It will be canceled Oct. 5 & 12 due to Wilma being out of town and at a two-day workshop. It will resume Oct. 19 as they continue to evaluate this program.
- The first meeting for the junior high and high school Scripture Alive was encouraging. Those who attended showed a genuine interest in reorganizing this program. Wilma asked for volunteers to help with this, so the group now has a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and a treasurer (in case they go somewhere that requires a fee or decide to include a lunch with a meeting). Next year, the group will vote for these positions. The next meeting will be after 10:30 Mass on Oct. 14 at which time they will vote on a possible name change for this group. The focus of the group is spiritual development.

**Faith Formation: continued**

- The DREs from St. MM Deanery will meet on Oct. 23 to discuss some collaboration in adolescent catechesis.
- Wilma will be attending a workshop on October 25 about whole community catechesis that focuses on parish programs that include all age groups.

**Worship Commission:** No report submitted

**Building and Grounds:** No report submitted

**Communications Commission:** Report submitted by Janice Stentz

The parish website is complete except for a couple of groups. Father Jerry is now reviewing content for accuracy, filling in a few blanks and will be giving his feedback. Maureen will be trained to edit the News page of the site and once all of this has been done, the site will be ready to go public. It was recommended by Council that once Father is able to provide his welcoming statement, the site go live and any groups not yet ready can be added later.

**Finance:** Carol Wright reported

Bell tower is finished. The parish was not charged for additional bricks needed.

**Youth Ministry:**

- PYO is inviting parishioners to join them at Parky's Farm Halloween Nights Saturday, October 20th. Admission is \$5.00 (2 & under free). They are meeting at 7:00 pm in front of the information booth. All parishioner's and families are welcome.
- 2nd Annual PYO Turkey Dinner will be on Saturday, November 10, 2007 at 5:45 pm in the cafeteria.
- The Service Club will be preparing care packages for Support Our Troops on Saturday, November 24, 2007 at 10:00 am - noon in the cafeteria. They are accepting donations of a variety of items to be included in the packages as well as snacks for the workers on that day. A list of desired items is available on the PYO website ([www.stmmpyo.com/serviceclub](http://www.stmmpyo.com/serviceclub)).
- A Youth Social is planned over Christmas break on Thursday, December 27, 2007 at 5:30-8 pm followed by a Teen Social at 8:30 -11pm in Madonna Hall.
- Father suggested that the PYO bulletin board in church vestibule be kept more up-to-date. Some old information needs to be discarded.

**Parish Future Planning:**

- Jim Brown talked about creating a bulletin insert announcing interview session sign-ups for next two weekends and possibly using a quote about experience on insert. He will go to Fr. Jerry for final approval. P.L.A.N. logo needs to head any information that is put out to parishioners to better attract attention. There was discussion about whether to temporarily replace some part of the information in the bulletin, i.e.: bingo workers names, deacons report etc. in order to have a place to put the graphic and information about the P.L.A.N. Committee. Fr. Jerry will call bulletin printer and discuss spacing with them.
- Jim stated that everyone who participated in the two orientation sessions for facilitators had many good comments about the face-to-face sessions. He pointed out that the process can be a community builder. Jim expressed concern that we can respond with enough facilitators given the ambitious schedule. He will work with Wilma on the list and follow-up with people who hadn't yet signed up. Jim said that even though it was first stated that Council members wouldn't be facilitators, he would not discourage anyone who truly wants to sign-up to do it.
- There will be sign-up sheets after each mass with a team member or two there to answer any questions on the weekends of Oct 13/14 and 20/21. Jim would like someone from the P.L.A.N. Steering Team to be available at each interview session to introduce him at the start.
- Ratings from the parish surveys were generally high with only 7% giving low ratings. When Susan is done compiling statistics everyone will receive copies. There is a possibility that in the future we may want to include additional data on the surveys i.e.: age, demographics, birth dates, baptisms, marriages etc. There was discussion about using the PDS (Parish Data System) for demographics info.
- Jim has been reviewing forms from the two orientation sessions, figuring out the abbreviations, handwriting, etc. Facilitators and scribes will need to be clear in their note taking when conducting interviews and group discussions.
- Facilitators will be invited along with Council members and staff to a November 17th meeting from 9:00 am -12:00 pm. A "coffee" will begin about 8:30 am.

**Closing Prayer:** Gail Florea

**Next PC meeting:** To be announced. Date will be set for a time after November 17.

Minutes compiled by Janice Stentz