

**St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes for September Meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2008**

In Attendance: Fr. Gardner, Gail Florea, Margie King, Jenni Petrey, Mike Gehring, Pat Hendricks, George Hilleary, Tony Peter, Susan Zapf, Carol Wright, Wilma McGlasson, Dale Foley

Opening Prayer

Not Present: All Present

August Minutes: Approved

Fr. Gardner's Report:

- There were three funeral liturgies and one baptism since the last meeting.
- The Parish PLAN was introduced to the parish in August; a letter from Father was mailed to all parish households and council members presented the information about futures planning at the weekend Masses.
- Our Lady of Grace School opened for its first day of classes on August 26; at last count, there were 44 St. MM parishioner students attending OLG, one attending John Paul II and five students attending St. Vivian; this Friday (Sept 5) OLG will have its opening Mass with signing of the covenant relationship among the four parishes and the blessing of the Our Lady of Grace statue which is located in the school courtyard. Archbishop Pilarczyk will be presider.
- Many thanks to all who gave their time to make the Labor Day Festival a success, especially chairpersons Donald and Jenni Petrey and their children for their time and dedication to this fundraiser over the past year. Preliminary report of gross receipts is \$62,002.00. While this total is down a few hundred dollars from last year's festival, and aware of our economic challenges these past months and the recent report in the Enquirer on revenue decline at other church festivals, staying even is a positive for us.

Faith Formation: Report submitted by Wilma

- First Reconciliation: a parent meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 7:30 pm in Rm 21. Celebration of the Sacrament will be on December 11 at the Parish Advent Penance Service. Letters were sent to parents of nine students.
- Confirmation: a parent meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 29, 7:30 pm in Rm 21. Celebration of the Sacrament will be the evening of March 18 at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. Letters were sent to parents of 11 students.
- The Sunday Pre-School Program will resume on Sunday, October 5 during the 10:30 am Mass. Nancy Garcia will be a teacher. One or two additional adults are needed to help run the program. Letters of invitation were sent to 23 registered parishioner parents who have children between 3 and 5 years of age.
- Wilma has a small group of public school students that will meet for CCD instruction on Sundays at 9:30 am for an hour between the 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses. A notice has been in the bulletin.
- Y.E.S. and Service Club members will be baking cookies for Kairos in the cafeteria this Sunday, September 7 after the 10:30 am Mass. The next meeting for Y.E.S. is Monday, September 15, 7:00 pm in Rm 21.
- Child Protection Program: An updated brochure will be mailed in the near future to all parishioners listed in the child protection program.
- St. MM is scheduled to work at the St. Paul Church Community Dinner on the fifth Tuesday, September 29. A combination of about ten teens and adults are needed to volunteer for this activity. Serving begins at 4 pm and cleanup is usually completed by 7pm. Dessert donations for the event are also needed and can be dropped off at the Parish Office before 3:00 pm on Monday, September 28. Wilma should be contacted for more information.
- There are five new altar servers and three lectors as a result of recent training sessions. There are no new Eucharistic Ministers volunteers. Volunteers are needed for all liturgical ministries and anyone interested should contact Wilma in the Faith Formation Office. Servers must be 5th grade or older.
- Sunday, September 21 is Catechetical Sunday when we recognize and bless the ministry of the catechist. Invitations have been sent to the various parish groups involved.
- RCIA: letters of invitation were sent to non-Catholic family members of registered parishioners inviting them to a "Come and See" meeting/discussion of the Catholic faith and practices on September 16, 7:30 pm in Rm 21. The RCIA team plans to make a brief pulpit announcement at Masses this weekend (Sept 6/7).

Worship Commission: Father Jerry reported

- Meeting took place on August 28.
- Reviewed upcoming schedules for Sundays, obligatory themes and collections and other planning for the parish.
- Feast of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque is Thursday, October 16. Considering a festive celebration of some kind at weekend Masses.
- Solemnities that will take precedence over normal ordinary time Sundays - Sept 14, Feast of the Holy Cross; November 2, All Souls; November 9, Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome.
- Although All Saints Day (November 1) falls on Saturday this year and is not a day of obligation, a 9:00 am Mass is scheduled at St. MM.
- There has been a directive that the word "Yahweh" no longer be used in songs.
- The Archbishop has commented on the practice of having a speaker other than the homilist at the time of the homily. More specific information will be forthcoming, but will probably require that these efforts be moved to post Communion prayer.

- The Parish PLAN agenda and goals have been placed on the agenda for September's Worship meeting.
- A morning of reflection has been scheduled for our liturgical ministries on the morning of November 1, starting with Mass and then a meeting following until noon.
- Considering a change of time for the Christmas Mass schedule, possibly changing Midnight Mass to an earlier time. A survey of parishioners will be conducted.

Building and Grounds:

- A bid has been accepted to do the concrete work needed around the grounds. Work will begin soon to remove the streamstone and repair/replace walkways leading into church as well and repairs to the rectory's back porch. Cost will be \$14,210.00. Work will be staggered so that all entrances are not blocked at the same time.
- Still accepting bids to complete the needed work on the drainage system. This is going to be a significant cost.

Finance: Carol Wright reported

The 2008/2009 parish financial statement will be inserted into the bulletin this weekend (Sept 6/7). Next weekend (Sept 13/14) someone from the Finance Commission will speak at all Masses about the budget and upcoming expenses.

Youth Ministry: Gail reported

- A Back to School blessing took place at the Masses August 23/24. An ice cream social held after the 4:30 pm Mass was not well attended. Will be giving some thought to better timing and advertising of this event in the future.
- There is a cookie bake in the cafeteria at 11:30 am, Sunday, September 7.
- Board meeting is Monday, September 8, 7:00 pm in Rm 21.

Our Lady of Grace Regional School Update: Father Jerry reported

Father has been asked and is considering allowing temporary use of one of our classrooms for use as an OLG Spirit Wear shop with designated days/times for sales.

St. MM Education Commission: Wilma reported

Next meeting will be on Thursday, September 18, 7:00 pm.

Festival Update: Jenni reported

- Grand raffle ticket sales went very well.
- Many compliments were received on the new layout for the festival grounds.

New Business - Renaming of School Building

Jenni and Mike will meet with Father to discuss a process to rename the school building.

New Business - OLG Education Commission

Bill Johansing is no longer able to act as St. MM representative on the OLG Ed Comm, so Father is looking for suggestions for someone to replace him. Term is for 2 school years and they usually meet on the 1st Monday of the month.

New Business - NCH School Supplies

George asked if the parish would be interested in joining with NCH area churches to provide meals and school supplies at an event planned for next year. Information came too late to participate this year. George agreed to attend the next planning meeting and report back to Council so an informed decision can be made.

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

General review of the presentation of the PLAN to the parish and the fellowship that followed in the Holy Family Room. Next step is to put out an invitation for people who may be interested in being involved with the now forming Social Committee. A notice will go in the bulletin with an opportunity for people to join or ask questions at the weekend Masses September 20/21. Margie will be creating a bulletin insert for this.

Closing Prayer: Susan Zapf

Next PC meeting: October 2 at 6:30 pm in Rm 21.

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz