

ST MARY'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

July 27, 2011

Members Present: Father Gene, Brian Niermann, Marsha Link, Lloyd Stern, Ron Korando, Cheryl Gross DRE, Linda Smith, Rose Dethrow, Matt Colvis, Martha McDonald, Bev O'Toole, Mike Vasquez

Member Absent: Sheila Surman

Meeting called to order by Brian Niermann. Opening Prayer was to Mary Help of Christians. Brian welcomed those parishioners – Norman Grau, Jeannie Grau, Richard Allison – invited through the nomination process. He then reviewed handouts regarding the functions of the Council and the various committees. A brief question and answer period followed.

Positions open on the Council: 2 three year terms and 2 one year terms. As Lloyd and Rose have served a three year term, they must move off the Council for at least one year. Those who have served a one year term (Bev and Sheila) are eligible to serve again. Norm and Richard agreed to serve three years and Sheila and Jeannie will serve the one year terms. Brian thanked Lloyd, Rose and Bev for their service on the Council.

Officers were elected for the coming year: President, Brian Niermann; Vice President: Matt Colvis; Secretary: Marsha Link. Parish Council installation will be held at the 5:00pm mass on August. 13.

COMMITTEE & ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Liturgy: During the summer months the morning weekday liturgies will be held in the Parish House beginning June 1. Confirmation will be held at the Cathedral in Belleville with our cluster (Sparta, Walsh, Evansville, Ellis Grove) celebrating together. The dates of April 11, 12 or 13 have been requested, which is after Easter. We will be responsible for the liturgy. First Communion will possibly be the second Sunday of Easter. The “cue cards”, which will aid parishioners in learning the new responses during the mass, have been received. There is still the musical components of the mass to address.

Education: PSR will begin Sunday, September 18. We are going to be losing three students but they will be attending other Catholic schools. There are no registrations for PSR Kindergarten; but they tend to come in at the last minute. A mailing, with registration forms, will go out in August to the current PSR families. All teachers will be returning except for Jennifer Warhausen, who has been replaced by Mary Hurst. Teacher commissioning will also be held on Sept. 18. There is one candidate for RCIA, which begins Oct. 4.

In order to further educate parishioners regarding the liturgical changes, the following will be provided: 1) an in-service (one per month) for our teachers, August-November. This will be based on A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, which highlights the changes, why they were made. The main focus is a DVD with discussion. 2) Adult Sunday Schools to be held Oct. 23 & 30, Nov. 6, 13 & 20. These will be held during PSR time, after mass, with refreshments. 3) Adult evening sessions, dates to be determined, 4-5 sessions. Students will be receiving their instructions through their religion classes. There is also consideration of a workshop being held for Parish Council members. This would be scheduled a half hour prior to their regular meeting.

As Cheryl and Mrs. Robinson share the coordination of the Child Protection Class, they must make sure the teachers, catechists, workers, etc. are updated and qualified in Child Protection. A required child protection class for students in school and PSR has been scheduled for Nov. 16.

As a reminder, Cheryl will be going part time as of September 1. Her work days will be Mon.-Wed. and Sunday morning. She will continue teaching grades 3-4, teaching a longer period on the days she will be at the school.

Maintenance: The painting has been accomplished at the school by volunteers. Forty gallons of paint was received through a grant. Tuck pointing and sealing has been completed on the church at a cost of \$24,730. Donations totaling \$15,000 helped lower the cost. Serious consideration must now be given to the steeple – brick portion and painting of the wooden areas. Preliminary estimates are over \$50,000. Work needs to be done on the roof as well as replacing windows. Interior painting and carpeting will not be done until the exterior work is completed.

Finance: No report.

Cemetery: Mowing is ongoing.

Poverty Services/Food Pantry: Information available through the Food Pantry website. There is some concern regarding the increase of families served and donations to keep the pantry stocked. They have had to use about ½ of their reserved funds to meet the demand.

School Board: Eighty-four children are registered for K-8. Preschool estimates are approximately 35. School begins Aug. 17, faculty will begin meeting Aug. 12. A final determination, by Illinois law, has not been made as to the number of hours students need to be in class for a “school day”. At the present time, five hours is needed for a half day. An Ice Cream Social will be held the first day of school for the students. Tuition is currently \$2000 for the first child.

CCW, KC, Youth Ministry: No report.

Brian handed out a Parish Planning Checklist which he had received in regard to the Diocesan 125th Anniversary celebration, Fanning the Flame. For the benefit of new Council members, he briefly discussed what is being planned for next year.

Father Gene thanked Bev, Rose and Lloyd for their service on the Council.

Agenda items should be given to Brian 10 days prior to our next meeting, which will be August 24 in the Parish House. Brian will give the Closing Prayer; refreshments will be provided by Matt and Martha.

After Linda read This is What We Are About, by Bishop Ken Untener, the group joined in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marsha Link, Secretary