

# ST. MARY'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

## **October 26, 2011**

**Members Present:** Fr. Gene Wojcik, Cheryl Gross DRE, Brian Niermann, Ron Korando, Sheila Surman, Matt Colvis, Martha McDonald, Norman Grau, Jeannie Grau, Mike Vasquez

**Members Excused:** Richard Allison, Marsha Link, Linda Smith

Meeting was called to order by President Brian Niermann. Cheryl Gross presented the second part of her instruction on the new translation of the Roman Missal. Opening prayer to Mary Help of Christians was recited.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no corrections. Agenda for the meeting was approved with no corrections.

### COMMITTEE AND ORGANIZATION REPORTS

**Liturgy (Father):** The main focus right now is on preparation for the 3rd translation of the Roman Missal which we will begin using at the weekend Masses on November 26/27. Cheryl Gross has begun instruction sessions (4 sessions) following the 9:00AM Sunday Mass. Contrary to what was reported at the last meeting, the *Missa Simplex* will not be included with the new missalettes. We will then follow the music as it is presented in the missalettes themselves. Father has devoted two homilies thus far to focusing on the new translation. One of the three new Roman Missals has arrived, as have the new missalettes and hymnals.

We are still in need of people who can sing to join one of the two choirs we will need to lead the congregation in the new music as part of the new translation. Father reminded us that the purpose of having a choir is to lead and assist the people in the pews - it is not present as an "entertainment" aspect.

Spring bulbs will be blessed and distributed to those who have lost loved ones this past year on Sunday, November 6 at the 9:00AM Mass. Father encouraged us to make our invited guests feel welcome on this day. Extended Prayers of the Faithful will be used at both Masses on this weekend.

**Education (Cheryl):** Meeting for Confirmation students and their parents was held on October 17. All of the families were represented. 7 of the Confirmation students assisted with the soup/sandwich meal held for the Council of Catholic Women on October 25. The students participated as part of their service requirement. On October 30 at the 9:00AM Mass the Rite of Beginning Formal Preparation for Confirmation will be held for the candidates. A small token will be presented to the students.

The 7th/8th grade school children will participate in the All Saints' Day Mass on November 1. Each will play the role of a saint. After Mass they will go to the other classrooms in school and talk about their saints.

First Reconciliation meeting for students and parents will be held on Wednesday, November 3.

17 people participated in the first "Adult Sunday School" session on the new translation of the Roman Missal. It was decided that there will only be 4 sessions held instead of the 5 which were originally planned.

**Service:** No report.

**Maintenance (Father):** Thanks to Bill Gross and the Maintenance Committee for the work they have done around the parish on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Work is being done in the school to address plumbing issues as well as a cockroach problem. We are also addressing a list of needed corrections which were found on the last inspection by the health department.

Fencing has been installed where the church joins the rectory on the back side (by the rectory garage). This was done to eliminate the problem of kids using this area as a "hangout".

**Finance:** The next meeting is scheduled for December 12 at 7:00PM in the rectory.

**Cemetery (Father):** Damage was done to the corner of the crucifixion scene at the cemetery. The police were notified and all repairs have been made.

A sub-committee of the cemetery committee met on October 25 at the cemetery to inspect problems with the neighboring property. There is an open pool of stagnant water on this property which has created an offensive odor. Additionally, the undergrowth and weed problem on this property creates an eyesore and is a habitat for snakes, etc. The sub-committee recommended that 4 or 5 aldermen and the mayor be invited to inspect the problem.

An envelope will be included in the next packet to assist us in the upkeep of the cemetery. An unusually busy mowing season combined with the sale of fewer plots have cut into our savings. The increase in the number of cremations has also affected this.

The full cemetery committee will meet on Monday, November 21 at 6:30PM in the rectory.

**Poverty Services/Food Pantry (Brian):** Our parish along with other area churches will again be participating in the Community Thanksgiving Food Drive. A list of needed items will be in the bulletin. This list will also be available in church and online. Thank you to Kathy Albrecht for organizing this and for all the work she is doing on the pantry's Board of Directors.

**School Board (Father):** The Board has begun its work on the school evaluation portion of the Parish Renewal and Restructuring process. The school is meeting its financial obligations at this time. The PTO will hold Fun Night on Saturday, November 12.

**Council of Catholic Women (Sheila):** The CCW Christmas Party has been scheduled for Sunday, December 4 at the KC Hall. School children will perform. An optional gift exchange

will be held. A collection for the Chester Christian Food Pantry will also be held.

The Confirmation class did a great job helping with the soup/sandwich meal held on October 25. About 18 ladies attended. Joannie Heffernan reported to the CCW on the PTO fundraisers held for the school.

Ornaments have been prepared for the Advent Giving Tree. Ornaments will include the names of nursing home residents as well as needed items for the Chester Christian Food Pantry.

**Youth Ministry:** No report.

**K of C:** No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Parish Renewal and Restructuring Process (Brian):** Brian presented results from the evaluations filled out at the first two meetings. The third and final meeting was held on October 18. Brian will tabulate the remaining results along with a summary of comments from the meetings. These will be sent to the Office of the Vicar General as the first step in the process. The school portion of the evaluation is to be completed in January. A final report from the parish is to be completed in March. It will be some time after this before any decisions are made in regard to parish/school closures or mergers.

**Fanning the Flame Program (Brian):** Brian distributed copies of the most recent update from the diocese. Parishes are to begin to encourage people to purchase a copy of the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA) which will be used as the basis for this program. Through the diocese we will be able to purchase these at a discounted cost. It is suggested that parishes charge \$15.00 each for the books. This would cover any shipping and handling charges.

Cheryl will organize a group on Tuesday evenings beginning in January which will discuss the USCCA based on the Fanning the Flame program. All are invited to participate in this. Individuals can also form their own groups or participate in individual activities. Cheryl's group will include 2 individuals who have expressed interest in joining our RCIA program.

Father also mentioned that as part of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the diocese, an anniversary book which will include parish photos and histories will be available. Cost of the book will be \$25.00.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Brian collected updated phone numbers and e-mail addresses from members present in an effort to begin updating our roster. We also need to update the rosters of the other parish committees.

## **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Cheryl will present the next part of the instructional program on the revised Roman Missal. Present final tabulations from the parish renewal and restructuring evaluations. Update the progress of the "Fanning the Flame" program.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 30, 2011 (note change of date due to Thanksgiving holiday), 7:00PM in the Parish House.

**Volunteer for Closing Prayer:** Cheryl Gross

**Volunteers to provide refreshments for next meeting:** Brian Niermann & Sheila Surman

Meeting closed with a Prayer of Thanksgiving for Priests.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Brian Niermann, Acting Secretary for meeting