

ST. MARY'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

October 22 , 2008

Members Present: Fr. Gene Wojcik, Brian Niermann, Veneta Kerkhover, Rose Dethrow, Janet Vasquez, Cheryl Gross D.R.E., Linda Smith, Lloyd Stern, Marsha Link, and Tom Sauer. Neil Birchler

Members Absent: Bob Saak and Dr. John Beck, Jr.

Meeting was called to order by President Brian Niermann. Opening prayer to Mary Help of Christians was recited.

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as written. Agenda for the meeting was approved.

COMMITTEE AND ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Liturgy: The Liturgy committee is all set for the November 2 Feast of All Souls. The Mass will include our traditional Blessing of Bulbs, Book of Remembrance, Names of Deceased Displayed, Extended Prayer of the Faithful, Procession with Relics of Saints, and Blessing Ossuary. The new Ossuary the parish owns was handcrafted and donated by Don & Jerry Wingerter, An Ossuary is the container that receives the cremains of an individual at their Funeral Mass. Thanks are extended to Don & Jerry for the gift of the beautiful Ossuary.

Education: A Special 7th and 8th Grade Mass will be celebrated on October 26. We are blending several themes that are important to us during the month of October. October has traditionally been called the "Month of the Holy Rosary", and "Mission Month." Sunday is also our "parish Appreciation Day."

PSR will not take place on Sunday, October 26th. This will enable our PSR families and our PSR catechists to fully participate in the Mass and breakfast to follow.

First Reconciliation Meeting took place this past Monday evening, Oct. 20th. It was very well attended. Only one family was unable to participate. First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 7th at 1:00 p.m. in our parish church. Theme for this year is: "The Good Shepard."

RCIA is underway and it looks like it will be a very interesting year for everyone participation. We have 3 candidates interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church. They are Casey Bohnert, Bruce Brown, and Sara Harris. Jeff Bohnert, Mary Brown, and Nedra Jany are also participating. We had our Introductory Night on October 14th and this past Tuesday, Oct. 21st., Fr Gene conducted a tour of the church.

This coming Tuesday evening, Oct. 28th, and "Introduction to the Mass" will be presented by Cheryl Gross.

Children's Child Protection Component for our Parish School and PSR will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 12th. We are mandated by the Diocese to do this every year for our students. Our presentations are given by a representative of "Call For Help" out of Edgemont, Il.

The Shoebox Project is underway. However, it is not known how well it will be do to the economy at this time. Most PSR classes are preparing a shoebox as a group and the school is conduction their own way of responding to the campaign. Shoebox forms are still available at the main entrance to the church. Date for turning in all boxes is Nov. 13th. Besides packing shoeboxes, we are also taking donations of \$7 checks to include in each box for shipping.

Advent is coming sooner then we think. Plans and resources for our families are being prepared.

Service: No Report.

Maintenance: Brad Lankford has not been responsive on the Parish Roof. We will need to contact a new roofer. Maintenance Committee members are looking into what will be necessary to replace the Library roof of the school which continues to be a serious problem. Ed Kerkover is looking over the library roof to see what can be done.

Finance: The Finance Committee met on Monday, August 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory. The next meeting will be November 3rd @ 7p.m. in the Rectory. Funds have not yet been invested due to the Stock Market uncertainty.

Cemetery: The Cemetery Committee met on Tuesday, August 26 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Rectory Steps have been taken to place signs at the two side entrances to the Cemetery, which will display on the front side, the name of the cemetery and the reverse side the cemetery's rules and regulations.

Poverty Services/Food Pantry: Refer to the handout.

School Board: The School Board meets next week.

BCCW: A great tea party was held on Saturday, October 11 @ the K.C. Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. for the parish's 90+ members. Thanks are extended to all those who participated and worked so hard to make the event such a success. The Ladies will have the Installation of new Officers on Sunday, October 26, @ the 9 a.m. Mass.

Youth Ministry: No report.

K of C: The Parish Appreciation Breakfast will be held after the 9 a.m. Mass on October 26th. The Knights are going to extend the fish fries further into the year.

Food Pantry: Donations are needed with Thanksgiving thoughts in mind.

Calendar: See attachment.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1). Parish Appreciation Breakfast is Sunday, October 26, 2008 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.
- 2). Service Committee: A report was attached to the Sunday bulletin. Sheila Surman, Judy Shields, and Diane Miller will be on the committee.
- 3). Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting - see attachment.
- 4). Fr. Gene's 35th Anniversary is January 5, 2009. We will hold a Potluck at the K of C's on January 10th if the Hall is available.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1). Parish Auction's next meeting will be held Nov. 6. Many Raffle items are ready and already being collected. The Auction will be held on March 28th 2009.
- 2). Deanery Reflection Group Meeting will be held in Evansville on Nov. 8th.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Dec. 3, 2008

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Additional agenda items should be brought to Brian ten days prior to the next meeting.

Volunteer for Closing Prayer: Linda Smith

Volunteers for Refreshments: Marsha Link and Lloyd Stern.

Meeting closed with prayer by Brian Niermann.

**Diocesan Pastoral Council
Minutes - October 4, 2008**

On October 4, 2008, the Diocesan Pastoral Council met at the Chancery from 10:00am to 12:20pm. Bishop Edward K. Braxton opened the meeting with prayer. The following members were present:

Rev. Von Deeke
Dennis Laake
Sr. Diane Turner
Phyllis Mensing

Darren Eultgen
Francis Myer
Deacon Don Deitz
Kathy Mulvin

Brian Nierman
Jerry DeSoto
David Spotanski

Sexual Abuse Trial-A judgment was reached on August 27, 2008 against the Belleville Diocese. Bishop Braxton noted that he followed the trial closely. He sent out a pastoral letter dated September 5, 2008 to all parishes and directed that it be read at Masses that weekend. On September 27, 2008, after appropriate consultation, the Bishop sent a second letter to all parishes explaining the response of the Diocese to this judgment, namely a motion for a new trial. Discussion followed.

Dialogue of Renewal-The Convocation of Priests was held in St. Louis from September 15-18 and focused on the Dialogue of Renewal. The gathering, at which more than eighty priests participated, was facilitated by The Reid Group. The goal of the Dialogue of Renewal is to create an atmosphere of prayer and mutual respect in which priests who hold differing positions can communicate with each other better. An equal goal is to create an environment in which the priests of the Diocese and the bishop can converse with one another on topics about which they may disagree with courtesy and respect, and with an appreciation of the distinct but complementary roles of priests and bishop. The hope is to renew communication, collaboration and consultation. The desired outcome is to engage in direct, personal communication rather than through media statements. Bishop Braxton commented that it was his intention to always communicate with the priests directly, not indirectly through the secular media. The plan is for follow-up sessions, including a talk on the Priesthood by Fr. Ron Knott on October 13 and group meetings with the priests on October 16. Fr. Von Deeke observed that the discussions and exchanges during the Convocation were steps in the right direction to help address some of the tensions among some of the priests and between some of the priests and the Bishop. Fourteen international priests, who have been brought to the Diocese by the bishop, were present at this Convocation. The international priests are making a very positive contribution to our diocese by providing pastoral ministry to many parishes which would otherwise have no priests.

World Youth Day 2011 Madrid-The Bishop attended World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia in August where he served as an English language catechist. There were approximately 550,000 youth in attendance. A group of pilgrims from our diocese participated, most from St. Joseph Parish in Marion. It was a very positive experience for them. The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the next World Youth Day will be in Madrid, Spain in 2011. Bishop Braxton expressed the hope that the Diocesan Pastoral Council and other groups will work together with the Office of Youth Ministry to ensure that as many parishes as possible will begin to organize and raise funds so that their youth can participate in this potentially life-changing spiritual experience.

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship- This is the official document provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to assist voters in weighing the complex issues that must be considered in making a decision about the forthcoming presidential election. The bishops write and publish a similar document every four years. The bishop has urged every parish to make copies of this text available to the Christian faithful. It will provide them with substantive food for thought that goes far beyond the media sound bites. He pointed out the seven central areas of social concern examined by the document which must be weighed by Catholics in voting. He urged the members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council to help put Faithful Citizenship in the hands of every Catholic voter. The Bishop urged us all to vote.

Council Membership- David Spotanski pointed out most members have been on the Diocesan Pastoral Council for more than three years. He will contact everyone to ask about their willingness to continue and begin the process of replacing those who do not. The bishop explained that there is no required number of meetings for the Diocesan Pastoral Council. It was decided to schedule three meetings a year with the understanding than an 'emergency" meeting could be scheduled with a few weeks notice if needed. Council members and members of Deanery Reflection Groups were urged to send suggested agenda items to David at least two weeks prior to each meeting.

I Will Give You Shepherds- Bishop Braxton distributed an excerpt from Pope John Paul II's Post-Synodal Exhortation, "*Pastores Dabo Vobis.*" The Holy Father stresses in this letter that all of the Christian Faithful have a genuine responsibility to become actively involved in working for vocations to the priesthood. This is not the work of priests and bishops only. The bishop noted that there seem to be some individuals who, sadly, are indifferent to or even opposed to urging young men to consider the priesthood. It is a paradox that people ask the bishop why he is sending an international priest to their parish when no son from their parish has ever entered the seminary. "I send you the priests I have! For the size of our diocese we have the possibility of more young men considering the priesthood. When did you last encourage someone to think about the priesthood?" The Bishop reminded us that there is no Church without the Eucharist and that there is no Eucharist without priests! He stressed that he is not in any way discouraging working for vocations to the Permanent Diaconate or the Religious Life as Brothers and Sisters. He is stressing vocations to the priesthood because of the urgent need. He urged us to take the excerpt from ***I Will Give You Shepherds*** home, to read it carefully, to share it and discuss it with fellow parishioners.

Bishop Braxton expressed his gratitude to everyone for making the effort to come to the meetings and for contributing their thoughts to the discussion which he found very helpful. The Bishop then closed the meeting with a prayer.

Kathy Mulvin
Secretary

NOTICE - 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

February 7

May 23

August 1

(all at the Chancery from 10:00am-12:00noon)