

ST. MARY'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

September 24, 2008

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

Members Absent: Linda Smith, Marsha Link, 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 approved. Agenda for the meeting was approved.

COMMITTEE AND ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Liturgy: The Liturgy has begun the Fall Decor change in the Church. The Annual Memorial Mass for parishioners who died in the last year has been set for Sunday, November 2 @ 9:00 A.M. Mass. The weekend of November 1 & 2 will be the Celebration of All Souls taking precedence over the Ordinary Sunday Celebration. All Saints Day will not be a day of obligatory Mass attendance.

Education: Catechist Commissioning and Blessing will take place this coming Sunday, Sept. 28th, at the 9:00 AM Mass. Teachers in our parish school, PSR, and RCIA will be called forth to express their dedication to this important ministry. Each will receive a token of their commissioning and special roles at Mass will be assumed by the teachers. This year we are adding another dimension to our service. Children in our school and PSR will have their religion books blessed and we will also have a special blessing for their parents.

PSR is settling in for the 2008-2009 term. We have 23 students registered in KG through Grade 8. This past Sunday, the Sunday Preschool had 7 children in attendance.

RCIA will begin on Tuesday evening, Oct. 14th, 7:00 PM, at the Parish House. Members of our team this year are: Anita and Mike Bievenue, Ida Gaertner, Martha McDonald, Don and Geri Wingerter, Fr. Gene, and Cheryl Gross. A team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, Sept. 30th, 7:00 PM, at the Parish House. It is not too late for interested persons to enroll.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated this year on Sunday, Dec. 7th, at 1:00 PM. We have 9 children to celebrate the sacrament. A Parent-Child evening is being planned for Monday, Oct. 20th.

St. Francis Pet Blessing will take place on Friday, Oct. 3rd, following the 8:15 AM "All School Mass." All parishioners are welcome to bring their pets. The blessing will take place on the parking lot between school and church. All pets must be secured.

Shoebox Project more formally known as "Operation Christmas Child" will once again be an outreach for children and families in our school, PSR, and parish. While our economic situation is in turmoil we cannot yet forget that there are those truly less fortunate than we are. Shoeboxes are due at the Parish House or Parish Office on or before Thursday, Nov. 13th. The boxes will then be taken to the major regional collection site in Marion. We have invited our sister pariah in Evansville to join us in this effort; however, we have not yet heard from them.

7th and 8th Grade Sunday Mass will take place on Oct. 26th. We will combine two traditional themes for the month of Oct....that of the Holy Rosary and the Missions. Focus at the beginning of Mass will be a large "Mission Rosary" constructed by the students. 7th and 8th graders will be doing the major roles at the Mass. This is also our parish's "Appreciation Sunday" and somehow, we will try to work that theme in as well. PSR has been cancelled for that Sunday so that PSR teachers and families can participate in the breakfast.

Service: No Report.

Maintenance: Plans are still underway to replace the roof on the Parish House before winter sets in. Brad Lankford has been contacted to do the job. Everything else is holding its own.

Finance: The Finance Committee met on Monday, August 18, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Rectory. The next meeting will be November 3 @ 7 PM 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. A meeting will take place with Fr. Gene, Brewer Sign and Rob Roy on Friday, Oct. 3rd. @ 11:00 AM at the Cemetery. See Attachment.

A meeting was held with our neighbor to do some additional work on hi property. He has brought in additional blocks and ground fill. We will spread out the dirt and seed the ground with grass seed. More work is required on his property. L

Poverty Services/Food Pantry: They held a Raffle at Popeye Picnic. They made around \$700 for the pantry. They have hit a plateau of 400 people to help.

School Board: The School Board went to Waterloo to a meeting on how to hold a meeting. The School Board had a Poker Stand at the Popeye Picnic.

Sodality: The ladies are sending a note to all the women of the parish inviting them to membership in the sodality. A Celebration for those parishioners who are 90+years young is planned for Saturday, Oct. 11th. At the K of C Hall from 2:00 PM -4:00 pm.

Youth Ministry: No report.

K of C: The K of C's will have Mass on Oct. 12th, at 9:00. Members of the K of C and or prospective members, along with the 4th Degree will sit together.

Popeye Picnic was profitable for the K of C's.

Calendar: See attachment.

OLD BUSINESS: The council discussed the parking situation at the Popeye Picnic, Saturday night Mass. The Church was blocked in. The Handicapped slots were not available and you could not get out of the Church's parking lot after Mass. This will have to be amended.

The Appreciation Sunday Brunch will be held on October 26, 2008 after the 9:00 AM Mass.

There will be a letter attached to the Bulletin reviewing the Council's Committee Members. If anyone is interested in resigning or joining, please contact the chariman.

NEW BUSINESS: See Attachment - Catholic Conference of Illinois. This will also be placed on our Website.

We received a thank you note from the ASC Ruma Convent for the vestment that was found upstairs in the Parish House.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council will met on Oct. 4th.

Fr. Gene will be celebrating his 35th Anniversary on Jan. 5, 2009. Do we want to do something to celebrate this event. Potluck lunch or something small. Father doesn't want anything big.

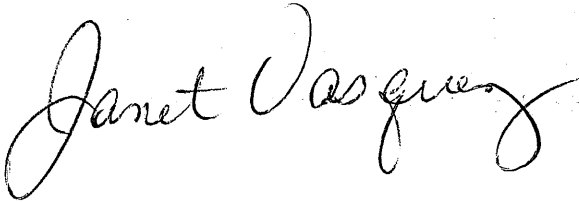
NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be October 22, 2008. We will be having dinner at Reid's at 6:15 PM before the meeting. You and your spouse and or quest are invited.

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

Volunteer for Closing Prayer: Brian Niermann

Meeting closed with prayer by Cheryl Gross, D.R.E.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Vasquez". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping tail.

Janet Vasquez
Council Secretary

Est. 1861

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

† Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord †

St. Mary's Cemetery Rules and Regulations

1. St. Mary's Cemetery is consecrated sacred space and a place of prayer and remembrance. Appropriate behavior is requested.
2. Family and friends are reminded that the cemetery is a public space and personal taste should reflect the common goal of an overall appealing appearance of St. Mary's Cemetery for all.
3. Seasonal floral tributes should be removed in a timely manner.
4. One month before Easter all grave blankets and wreaths are to be removed.
5. Funeral designs and floral tributes should be removed when unsightly.
6. No personal planting of shrubbery, flowers, or trees is permitted.
7. The depositing of rubbish and refuse of any kind on lots, walks, or drives is prohibited.
8. Floral and other memorial tributes must be located on or attached to the monument.
9. Ceramic, glass and plastic items including shepherd crooks are hazardous for cemetery employees and are not permitted on or near grave sites.
10. St. Mary Cemetery visitation is permitted from dawn to dusk.