

St. Margaret Mary Parish Council

Minutes : November 1, 2011

Members present: Mary Jo Gerlach, Kathryn Gaspard, Steven Gastreich, Holly Machi, Fr. Vince Kobida, Jan Kitazaki, Tom Pechacek. **Excused:** Pat Boeckeler, Susan Mickelson.

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm with prayer and the question of the week.

Minutes of October 4, 2011 were approved with the addition of "regular report of the SLW committee to the council".

Parish Council Focus:

Liturgy Forum follow-up

- SLW is not following up on recommendations of the Forum, however they will start with formation for the committee.
- Fr. Vince will use a document to study, reflect on it and ask questions. Eugene Walsh's book "Gathered in His Name" could be used to help focus.
- Four areas of focus resulting from the Forum are: involvement of youth, music, formation for the parish and communication between pastor and parish.

Director of Music

- It was noted that music is critical to the person's experience of liturgy.
- Several questions were raised: How is hiring Craig going to make music great?, Is there a job description? Is there a plan for Christmas music? Should there be a choir to rotate all three weekend Masses?
- Fr. Vince indicated that Craig is in charge of musicians, Fr. makes sure music goes to all involved and it is not realistic to form a choir for Christmas. Plans are being made for Advent and Christmas liturgies. A rotating choir may be difficult for volunteers.
- Holly suggested asking people to come together for a Christmas choir if someone can lead.
- Parish Council requested a job description before the next meeting on Dec. 6.

Plans for the year:

- Thanksgiving events with Blessed Savior were featured in a flier in the bulletin.
- The Adult Speaker series of the year starts on Nov. 10 at 7 pm at St. MM with Carol Poth speaking about the Center for Peacemaking at Marquette. The April speaker will be Bishop Hying. Blessed Savior will have a program in January. These are the three speaker events planned this year.

Pastor's Report:

- The School Advisory Board is functioning thanks to Ryan Krienke's initiation.

- The Greater Milwaukee Catholic Education Consortium is a group of colleges willing to promote higher education for Catholic children and is working with St. MM with a diversity of students and will seek grant money for focus groups of parents who send their children to the school.
- The annual parish appeal was sent out and the results, so far, are the same as last year.
- Cathy Smith is developing a new program for grade school students titled “Kids for Christ”. The group will meet twice a month from 2 – 3 pm after school. They will begin to develop Christian values through stories, lessons and crafts. 60 students are presently involved.

Other Business:

- Wisconsin Concealed Carry Law. The Archdiocese indicated that there is no increased liability to the parish if weapons are banned from the property and the decision to ban is up to the parish. Fr. Vince and the council agreed to a weapons ban and signs to that effect will be posted.
- There is no written copy of the council constitution with the change from 12 to 9 members. The 2007 constitution will be distributed to all.
- It was noted that the parish council and staff met at the request of the Archdiocese to respond to questions regarding Father Vince’s request for renewal as pastor. This was a separate meeting rather than at the regular council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn J. Gaspard