

Meeting Synopsis - August 16, 2006

Roll call: Voting members present: Mike Boyle, Deb Castellanos, Tom Gaetz, Ed Goering, Vonnie Ibes, Suzanne Owen, Karen Reisdorf, Tim Seeman (President). Voting members absent: Jami Bestgen, Peter Blattner (youth representative). Non-voting members present: George Sjorgren (business manager), Fr. Steve Binsfeld (rector). Non-voting members absent: Ann Cofell (trustee), Peter Donohue (trustee).

1. **School report:** Fr. Steve reported enrollment at Saint Augustine & Saint Mary's Cathedral Elementary School is 139. Projected enrollment is 140. Last year 153 were enrolled with a projection of 160.
2. **Block Party report:** George pleased to report that a large number of raffle tickets have been picked up. Good sign. The remainder to be delivered (cannot be mailed).
3. **Pastor's report:** Discussion of the new clustering re-organization. One pastor and associate pastor to take care of Saint Mary's Cathedral, Saint Augustine's, and the Newman Center. No details yet in terms of Mass schedule. It presents many challenges; eg: how to handle weddings and funerals. The Cluster Implementation Team is to determine the Mass schedules.
4. **Unfinished business:** Discussed the SWOT analysis being prepared by Jami Bestgen. Everyone agreed this is an important tool in identifying how to reach people in the parish, but also important to get it finished and published.
5. **New Business . . .**
6. **Elections:** New officers are Tom Gaetz, president; Tim Seeman, vice-president; Deb Castellanos, secretary.
7. **Committee Reports:** Council members should be involved in each committee. Mike Boyle to join Faith Formation. Karen Reisdorf considering FIAT. Some discussion about re-evaluating the existing committees. Some do not meet regularly and don't really require a formal committee to be productive. Also important to adjust the transition and reach across the three parishes.
8. **Faith Formation:** Includes religious education and adult formation. Brief discussion of "Theology on Tap" becoming a cross-parish event in Saint Cloud.
9. **Finance:** Ed Goering and George Sjorgren. The year closed with \$17,800 deficit last year (due to excessive heating expenses, a little lower profit from the Block Party than budgeted and no major bequests after a parishioner has died). Considering a yearly budget of \$761,000, George felt this was not too bad. But we cannot depend on reserves. A bid was accepted for \$26,000 to completely take out and replace the upper parking lot which has been problematic for years. This will come out of reserved funds.
10. **Stewardship:** Vonnie Ibes. Planning to meet in Septemeber.
11. **Liturgy:** Fr. Steve and Eileen Farrell do much of the work here. There is not a centralized committee, but many tasks are done by many - eg: decorating, managing ministries, etc. Could use some help with managing volunteers.
12. **Parish Life:** Suzanne Owen, Chili cook-off in July included 18 pots of chili. Great success. No event in September (Block Party instead). Next event in November.
13. **FIAT:** Faith in Action Team works with GRIP, Anna Marie House, and community meal. GRIP public meeting coming up September 26 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.
14. **Building and Grounds:** Tom Gaetz. New issues included retaining wall near rectory.
15. **Vision 2000:** Geoge Sjorgen. It is the goal to finish the lower church this fiscal year (re-do the floor, demolish permanent walls separating chapel from gathering space and construction of movable walls so that the entire space can be opened up for large liturgies (if too hot upstairs) and larger diocesan

receptions. The Blessed Sacrament needs to be enclosed. Entire crypt needs to be repainted. The floor is still a vexing problem. We have a bid for a porcelain tile floor...but we are afraid it would eat up most of the budget. Bob Mack, restoration architect from MPLS, is drawing up possibilities for various floor treatments to present to us. Repainting is necessary in lower church. Upper church needs to get an estimate of the cost to re-do the floor. It is cracking badly and is becoming a safety issue. Under the pews is asbestos tile - which requires special handling. The upper church will have to be repainted as well. This will mean another capital campaign in the future.

16. Next meeting: September 19 at 7:30 PM