

Meeting Synopsis - September 19, 2006

Present: Fr. Steve Binsfeld (pastor), Mike Boyle, Deb Castellanos (sec), Ann Cofell (trustee), Tom Gaetz (pres), Ed Goering, Joanne Harguth (first meeting), Vonnie Ibes, Karen Reisdorf, Tim Seeman, George Sjorgren (business manager). **Not present:** Suzanne Owen, Peter Donohue (trustee), Tim Seeman announced that Jami Bestgen has stepped down and Joanne Harguth has agreed to step in for the remainder of her term.

1. **School report:** Fr. Steve reported a very "smooth beginning" to the new school year. Enrollment either 139 or 140 as of September 7, 2006.
2. **Are wide pastoral planning update:** Laura Wocken reported. Laura is on the Cluster Implementation Team (CIT) - includes two representatives and a pastor each from Saint Mary's, Saint Augustine's, and the Newman Center. They have been meeting for many months. Our three-church cluster will be served by two priests and eventually a full-time deacon and a parish life coordinator for Newman Center. This will take effect on July 1, 2007. The CIT is currently fine-tuning the revised mass schedule. The schedule received much consideration, including the number at each mass, the seating capacity of each church, the financial stability of the parish, and the time it takes for a pastor to travel between churches. Laura listened to input from the council and was able to share many of the reasons for some hard decisions. She also expressed her appreciation in being able to try and represent the 'people in the pews' of Saint Mary's. The schedule will be announced the second week of October throughout the city and will go into effect on January 14 weekend.
3. **Pastor's report:** The CIT will continue to meet with the larger representation from the clustered and stand alone parishes of Saint Cloud area. Need to discuss weddings, funerals, Holy Week. Father Thomas is leaving shortly after Christmas. And Steve learned just today, that both he and Father Kevin will be leaving Saint Mary's and Newman Center at the end of their twelve years in late June.
4. **Block Party report:** Not all bills are in yet, but may turn out to be more profitable than last year (because of the raffle), even though the attendance was down. Some discussion about how to select bands with "local" recognition. Tom Gaetz suggested collaboration with supportive business owners when drawing up contracts with the bands. Better opportunity to negotiation.
5. **Committee Reports:** Tom Gaetz has requested the following for the October council meeting: that each committee representative present the mission statement for their respective committee.
6. **Faith Formation:** Mike Boyle. RCIA to begin first Wednesday of October. Mike looking for ideas to have the committee cross the many sub-groups of faith formation; bible study, youth groups, religious education, etc. Father Steve also identified the opportunity to work with Lisa Neu from Saint Augustine's.
7. **Stewardship:** Vonnie Ibes reported, has met once. Organizing the time and talent survey is under way.
8. **Liturgy:** Most of the planning done between Fr Steve and Eileen Farrell. Ministry schedule will soon be published through January 6. Advent and Christmas seas plans are underway.
9. **Finance:** George Sjorgren reported that we are only shortly into the new fiscal year. Summer is always slow, but with the loose collection, we are close to budget. Saint Mary's has received a bequest for over \$40,000 from the Margaret Liem estate. Margaret was not a member of Saint Mary's, but often attended daily Mass here. We have a bid from Hardrives for replacing the upper parking lot. This will be a week-long project scheduled for early fall. Rent for the upper lot is now \$100/month. Lower lot is now \$95/month.
10. **Parish Life:** Deb Castellanos reported that plans are solidifying for the next three events. November

10 is a Hot Dish cook-off starting at 6:30. January 19 is the third annual Ugly Sweater event starting at 7:00. March 23 is a Marzo Pazzo (crazy March) party.

11. **Faith in Action Team (FIAT):** Karen Reisdorf. Plans to attend the GRIP meeting on September 26 at Bethlehem Lutheran.
12. **Buildings and Grounds:** Tom Gaetz. Tom reported on two options for fixing the damaged retaining wall (16 inches by 50 feet) between the church and rectory. Option #1 is to excavate and replace. Option #2 is to use cultured stone to adhere to existing surface. Tom moved that we proceed with option #2 and the council unanimously agreed.
13. **Vision 2000:** George Sjogren. George reported we are receiving bids to address the floor of the lower church, but will delay discussion until the new mass schedule is published. Father Steve reported he is working on the new cross for the upper church.
14. **Next meeting:** October 17 at 7:30 PM.