

Meeting Synopsis - October 17, 2006

Present: Deb Castellanos, Peter Donohue, Tom Gaetz, Joanne Harguth, Suzanne Owen, Karen Reisdorf, George Sjorgren. **Not Present:** Fr. Steve Binsfeld, Peter Blattner (youth rep), Mike Boyle, Ann Cofell, Vonnie Ibes, Tim Seeman.

1. Tom Gaetz announced that Ed Goering has stepped down and asked for advice on securing a replacement for Ed. This led to a discussion of the many changes facing Saint Mary's in the upcoming year; i.e. the reassignment of Father Steve and the loss of his strong leadership as well as the loss of the 6:00 Sunday Mass. Members acknowledged the strong faith community here at Saint Mary's. With eleven priests servicing in the place of fifteen, there will be an increased need for lay activity.
2. **School report:** George reported an enrollment of 139. Some financial changes coming. Parishes that own their school building will receive a rebate to cover cost of maintenance in fall of next year. There may also be a movement towards income-based tuition.
3. **Administrative report:** George passed around a picture of the new cross for the upper church. The corpus has been ordered. It is 5 feet tall, so the cross will be about eight feet - a little larger than the brown cross hanging there now. The old sanctuary Paschal candle stand is being refurbished for the upper church. Fr. Steve is having an ambry (oil shrine) designed to fit on the present granite paschal stand. He is seeking a donor. Downstairs, the new altar and pulpit are now in place. These items have been paid for by donations in memory of Jane Nelson, Father Voigt and other gifts. Planning has also begun to insure there will be enough Gather hymnals for the Saturday 5 PM Mass.
4. **Cluster update:** Father Kevin has submitted a request on behalf of our three-parish cluster implementation team that our cluster be served by two seasoned priests (versus a priest and a newly ordained associate) because of the very diverse combination of parishes. A new support group has begun for Mothers of pre-schoolers. This is being organized by Lisa New of Saint Augustine's. The group will meet Wednesday morning at the Mary Center.
5. **Unfinished Business:** SWOT Analysis still outstanding
6. **New Business:**...
7. **Block Party report:** The final numbers are still outstanding, but it looks like the raffle brought in about \$29,000 in profits. Some discussion regarding the need to change admission to cover entertainment (the bands). It was noted that the block party is Saint Mary's primary fundraiser.
8. **Committee Reports:** Tom Gaetz had requested that each committee representative present the mission statement for their respective committee. This discussion started with a review of the Saint Mary's constitution, in particular *Article V - committees*. This reaffirmed that only the Finance Committee is required by canon law. There was some discussion regarding the different "kinds" of committees; advisory, informational, and working committees. It was noted that the important work done by the Outreach Committee is not reported under the committee meetings. The council will continue to "push its understanding of the standing committees." Once established, they should probably be reviewed annually.
9. **Faith Formation:** no report
10. **Stewardship:** no report
11. **Liturgy:** no report
12. **Finance:** George Sjorgren reported that contributions are down about 2.2% in both loose collection and adult giving. Joanne Harguth is considering joining this committee. Joanne has accounting experience.

13. **Parish Life:** Suzanne Owen reported November 10 will be a Hot Dish Cook-Off starting at 6:30. January 19 will be the third annual Ugly Sweater event starting at 7:00. And March 23 will be the first Marzo Pazzo (crazy March). People will be asked to bring a meatless dish from their heritage.
14. **Faith in Action Team (FIAT):** Karen Reisdorf attended the GRIP meeting on September 26 at Bethlehem Lutheran. It was a packed house with many speakers, including government representatives. Father Steve Binsfeld was the leader of the meeting.
15. **Building and Grounds:** Tom Gaetz reported the plans to repair the retaining wall (with cultured stone) before winter. Tom also submitted suggestions for the committees...
 - o **Mission Statement:** To advise pastor/rector in many or all matters regarding the maintenance of and improvements to all parish buildings, grounds, and fixtures. Advice may include but is not limited to: selection of contractors to all parish buildings, grounds, and fixtures. Advice may include but is not limited to: selection of contractors, review of bids, selections of materials and design or techniques.
 - o **Goal:** To maintain safe, sound, aesthetically pleasing environment for Saint Mary's parishioners and guests. When opportunities present themselves, this committee may elect to complete certain projects "in-house" with interested volunteer help.
 - o **Membership** may include: council rep, custodian(s), business manager, other interested parishioners
16. **Vision 2000:** George Sjorgren reported that Father Steve recently visited Alexandria to view the flooring. There is \$170,000 in funds available for rework to the lower church. Fr. Steve is also working on the air-conditioning study for the upper church, but there is no funding at this time.
17. The last discussion of the evening started planning a going-away part for Father Steve. He will be leaving the first of July. It was suggested that we target the first week of June, since that is also Steve's birthday.
18. **Next meeting:** November 14 at 7:30.