

**ST. MATTHEW PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
August 27, 2008**



MISSION STATEMENT: St. Matthew Catholic Parish is an enthusiastic, welcoming and dedicated community called to oneness and growth in personal holiness through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We are sent forth by the Word of God to bring others to Christ through our prayer and acts of charity. We strive to share our Roman Catholic faith, enjoy fellowship as a parish family, educate, serve others and be good stewards of the many resources given to us by God.

Meeting called to order at 7:15.

At-Large

_____ Craig Doyle
_____ Tim Dusing
_____ Kitty Fischer - Chair
_____ Ed Freije
_____ Karen Ridenour – Vice-Chair
_____ Pete Welch – Sec

Commissions

_____ Finance – John Andersen
_____ Spiritual Life –Marilyn Hunter
_____ Administration – Dan Dimond
_____ Christian Life – Bob Kowal
_____ School – Martha Marshall
_____ Youth Ministry – Amy Stimpson
(Beth Wissler)
_____ Stewardship –

_____ Fr. Paul

_____ A Pat Witt (A – Absent)

GUEST: Tom Dempsey

Opening Prayer: Question of the week reflection waived due to time required to conduct elections.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Roll as noted

Elections for Council Officers: Guest Tom Dempsey conducted elections for council officers for 2008-2009. Kitty Fischer was elected chair. Karen Ridenour was elected vice-chair. Pete Welch was elected secretary.

Commissioning Sunday: Commissioning for council members will take place on September 7 at 9:00 Mass

Minutes from June 25, 2008 meeting: Minutes presented for approval. An amendment to the Financial Report was requested by John Anderson. **1M – John Andersen, 2M – Karen Ridenour – Amended minutes approved unanimously.**

COMMISSION REPORTS

Finance

John presented final financial report for fiscal year 2008. Key items noted:

- Collections were significantly under budget for most of the year. Due to a recovery at the end of the year collections ended up only \$11,290 under budget.
- Income for Related Organizations (PFA and Athletics) was not included in the budget, but was included on the financial report as required by the Archdiocese.

- Income from other sources was over budget. This income consisted of donations made specifically to St. Matthew School.
- School tuition and registration fees started the year in the red due to lower than budgeted enrollment. There was an additional gap due to uncollected tuition. All those who are behind on tuition payments have been contacted. It was noted that school enrollment numbers for fiscal year 2009 have exceeded the number used for the budget: 358 students budgeted, 360 students enrolled.
- Other school income was under budget. Funds from this line in the budget were used as tuition assistance for needy families.
- All expense categories came in under budget.
- Net income was \$3,399 in the red.
- The parish maintains a positive cash position.

Bob asked if any parish group could be set up as a designated United Way organization. Some companies offer matching funds for donations made to such a designated United Way organization. It was mentioned that the parish may not be eligible for the United Way; but the school may.

The parish is currently running behind on matching funds for the PAL grant. Tim Dusing did not express concern about the gap being made up.

Father Paul said that finances have been very tight the past two years. He commended the parish commissions for their hard work which has ensured that the fiscal year 2009 budget starts off on firm ground.

John offered his thanks to Marie Carson for her hard work in facilitating the budgeting process.

Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2008 Financial Report 1M – Craig Doyle 2M – Martha Marshall – Financial report approved unanimously

Spiritual Life

The World Café event has been changed from September 23 to October 1.

The Advent theme will be “Be thoughtful, be ready, be joyful, be loved”.

North deanery Advent penance services will take place at St. Matthew church on December 14, 16 and 17.

Administration Commission

Dan noted that Administration commission expenses came in \$6,000 under budget. The café tables have been power-washed. The maintenance crew remains a challenge.

Legacy of Our Mission Activities

- Tuck pointing and coping have been completed on the school building.
- The kitchen refurbishment has been completed. Dan offered special thanks to Joe Renie for all his hard work.
- Handicap access for the school is still in process.
- It was noted that the Archdiocese requires 10% of the total cost of capital improvement projects to be assigned to future maintenance.

Christian Life

The Men's Club has paved the bus barn. Additional work remains to move things from the PODS to the bus barn.

Recent St. Matthew weekends at St. Vincent DePaul have not been well attended.

The Harvest Garden has had a good growing season. Much food has been donated to 2nd Helpings and St. Vincent DePaul.

Upcoming events:

FunFest - September 13

Men's Club golf outing - September 17

Men's Club reverse raffle - September 27

Golden Jubilee - October 5

School Commission

The new school web site will be up in the next month.

There are several new staff members at the school. All have had a good start to the school year.

At the August 20 meeting the commission discussed the possibility of offering pre-school again at St. Matthew. Many organizations in the area offer both pre-school and kindergarten. It is thought that offering pre-school at St. Matthew will increase interest and enrollment in kindergarten and early elementary grades.

Currently there are issues with available space in the school building, and with the number of other pre-schools in the area. The commission is evaluating the alternative of offering after school activities as an outreach to families with young children. Beth Wissler said that committing to keeping Vacation Bible School alive will also provide outreach to these families.

Youth Commission

The commission is considering splitting the high school and middle school groups into two for the King's Island and Holiday World trips in future years.

The commission will conduct interviews with 6th, 7th and 8th graders for the Youth Council.

The commission is actively working to recruit additional high school members.

In celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese, there will be a mass Confirmation for all Archdiocesan candidates at Lucas Oil Stadium on May 3.

The commission plans not to have a Confirmation class for the 2009-2010 school year. The purpose of skipping a year would be to move the Confirmation preparation from freshman to sophomore year of high school.

The Middle School lock-in was a great success. Students from St. Matthew and St. Pius X participated.

Old Business

Strategic Plan – The new executive committee will review goals for the council. Kitty requested input from the entire council on what the areas of focus should be.

Last year an elected member of the council sat in on commission meetings to help support work on the strategic plan. The council agreed to continue this effort. The elected council members agreed to sit in on the meetings for the following commission:

- Craig Doyle – Administration
- Tim Dusing – Christian Life
- Kitty Fishcer – Spiritual Life
- Ed Freije – School
- Karen Ridenour – Youth
- Pete Welch - Finance

Legacy of Our Mission – The Implementation Committee is soliciting for construction managers for the Parish Life Center project. The construction manager should be chosen and the cost of the project known by the end of September. Handicap accessibility for the church will be addressed as part of the Parish Life Center project.

Our commitment to the Archdiocese has been fulfilled. St. Matthew now has approximately \$1.4 million available to move forward. One third of this amount is on hand cash, and two thirds has been pledged but not yet received. It is expected that the cost of the Parish Life Center project will exceed this amount.

Golden Jubilee - A new paten, chalice and ciborium have been purchased for the church. They are engraved with the date of the parish's 50th anniversary.

The Golden Jubilee celebration Mass will take place on October 5 at 10:30. There will be no 9:00 or 11:30 Mass that day.

Executive Committee Meeting – Meeting will take place on September 7 at 7:00.

Closing Comments – St. Matthew Staff

Father Paul mentioned that no date has been set for the Gala. Karen said that the date for last year's Gala was not set until October.

Kitty asked if council members wished to receive the minutes by e-mail. All council members said that they did.

Kitty asked that all commissions e-mail their meeting minutes to Pete by September 15.

Kitty and the council offered their thanks to Pat for hosting the parish council social.

The meeting closed at 9:00 PM with the Our Father.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pete Welch, Secretary