

**ST. MATTHEW PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
September 24, 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 7:03.

**At-Large**

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

\_\_\_A\_\_\_ Fr. Paul

**Commissions**

\_\_\_\_\_ Finance – John Andersen  
\_\_\_\_\_ Spiritual Life –Marilyn Hunter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Administration – Dan Dimond  
\_\_\_\_\_ Christian Life – Bob Kowal  
\_\_\_\_\_ School – Martha Marshall  
\_\_\_\_\_ Youth Ministry – Amy Stimpson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Stewardship –

\_\_\_\_\_ Pat Witt (A – Absent)

**Opening Prayer:** Question of the week reflections

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Roll as noted**

**Minutes from August 27, 2008 meeting:** Minutes presented for approval. A correction to the Financial Report was requested by John Anderson. **1M – Craig Doyle, 2M – Karen Ridenour – Corrected minutes approved unanimously.**

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Finance**

John Anderson presented the finance report for the period ending August 31. August collections were below budget; and collections for July were lower than they had been for any July in recent history. Marie is monitoring collection income during September.

Fr. Paul and John will address the parish at Masses on an upcoming Sunday. They will talk about how the parish spends its money, and about how expenses have increased 3% over last fiscal year. They plan to ask parishioners to consider increasing their financial offerings to match this increase. After some discussion about which weekend to schedule this address for, John said he will follow up with Fr. Paul and get it on the calendar.

Although the number of students in St. Matthew School matches the number of students budgeted, as of the end of August there was a shortfall in collected school tuition. Marie is in the process of contacting each family that is behind on tuition. She is tracking the number of families who are behind, and the reasons they provide for being behind. She told John that there have been more requests for assistance this year than in the past.

School expenses are reasonable for this time of year. There are heavy expenses for new text books at the beginning of the school year.

**Motion to approve August Financial Report 1M – Craig Doyle 2M – Tim Dusing – Financial report approved unanimously**

### **Spiritual Life**

Marilyn reported that the Spiritual Life Commission did not meet last month.

Pat reported that World café is on hold.

Pat also reported that a Bible study group has been formed; and they will study the Book of Revelation.

A Wings event will take place on November 9 which will have separate presentations for adults, youth and younger children. There will be a potluck dinner; and babysitting will be provided.

### **Administration Commission**

Dan reported that there will be a tree clean-up on September 27.

The Fall Fling has not yet been scheduled, but will most likely occur in mid to late November. It took place too early last year.

A parishioner will provide a trailer as a potential replacement for the existing concession stand trailer. The trailer will have separate compartments for the concession stand and for storage of football pads. The football pads are currently stored in the bus barn.

The school administration submitted a written plan to the Administration Commission regarding the management of an ongoing paper recycling project. The commission has approved the plan.

The maintenance crew is doing just OK at this time.

### **Christian Life**

The St. Matthew Dad's Breakfast club met on August 29. There were approximately 70 people in attendance. The guest speaker, Dave Siler, spoke on the topic of respect.

The St. Matthew Men's Club golf scramble took place on September 17. The St. Matthew Men's Club reverse raffle will take place on September 27.

The FunFest took place on September 13. There were difficulties in getting enough volunteers. Due to potential inclement weather, the inflatable attractions for children were relocated into the gym. Attendees and volunteers all agreed that was a nice change; so it will most likely be done again next year regardless of the weather.

The Welcoming Committee met on September 16. They are planning a training class for mentoring families.

St. Matthew participation on St. Vincent DePaul weekends has been low.

## **School Commission**

The commission has decided to start a Saturday morning program for pre-schoolers. The current plan is for the program to run from November to January. The School Commission will run this program rather than the Youth Commission.

School staff will be trained on a program featuring six aspects of character development.

There was a recent incident of vandalism at St. Matthew School. The students responsible have been identified. They and their parents have agreed to an 11 step plan to enable them to remain as students. Cathedral High School and St. Monica Parish have donated monitors to replace items damaged in the incident. There was an additional \$2,000 in damage to printers.

The new school web site has not yet been completed.

## **Youth Commission**

Fr. Tony, from New Orleans, LA, will speak at St. Matthew on October 7 at 7:00 pm. Fr. Tony has addressed the National Catholic Youth conference. All children are strongly encouraged to attend. Jan Baele is organizing a group of youth who will travel to New Orleans to help rebuild Fr. Tony's parish which was damaged by hurricane Katrina.

## **Old Business**

Legacy of Our Mission - Sheil Sexton and Summit Construction have been chosen as the two finalists for the Parish Life Center Project. They will provide prices within two weeks. The budget for the program will be developed based on their quotes. The current goal is to break ground this spring.

The following projects have already been completed:

- bells
- sign
- handicap doors for the church
- new vessels for the church
- new tapestry and altar cloth for the church
- kitchen
- tuck pointing

Golden Jubilee – 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. A picnic will follow the Mass.

Pat reminded everyone to RSVP for the Jubilee events, and to turn in their memories information by the morning of September 29.

A DVD is being produced which will present the memories of long time members.

The Jubilee team had a booth at FunFest selling Jubilee ornaments and 50/50 raffle tickets. The winner of the raffle will be drawn at the November 15 dinner dance. The cost is \$11 for an ornament and a raffle ticket.

Executive Committee Meeting – Meeting will take place on October 13.

## **New Business**

Gala - At the Christian Life Commission meeting it was discussed whether to have a Valentine's Day dinner dance in place of the Gala. Bob offered this proposal to the council.

Pat said that Fr. Paul had also told her that the North Deanery priests put forth the idea of a combined North Deanery Vanetine's Day dinner dance at the K of C.

After some discussion the council agreed that the Gala should be held. Karen said she could work with Bob to help this year's team get organized. The PFA recently collected names of potential volunteers for parish ministries. Pete will provide to Bob and Karen the list of those who signed up for the Gala.

Strategic Plan – Karen presented a new web-based format for use in updating and tracking the strategic plan. This format would ensure that all strategic plan documents would be in a single format, and would be readily accessible for updates and reviews. The cost of the web-based system would be approximately \$300 per year.

Karen had entered existing strategic plan documents for all commissions into the web-based program in three different formats. Print-outs of the information in all three formats were passed out to council members for their review.

The council agreed to proceed using the web-based program for the strategic plan. Karen will provide information to each commission about how to access the web-based program. Karen asked that each commission have their plans updated (manually or on the web) by the next council meeting.

The council discussed how to proceed with the reviewing the vision for the parish. The current strategic plan is in the third year of a three-year plan. The last time the parish-at-large met to review the vision for the parish was six years ago.

At the Executive Committee meeting the group will discuss options for how to proceed with the strategic planning process.

## **Closing Comments – St. Matthew Staff**

Pat reported that the situation in the parish office has been very busy. Ruth Tansey is scheduled to have surgery on September 25.

Pat wanted everyone to be aware of who in the parish office is now responsible for the following items:

- Bulletin inserts - Marie
- Mass announcements - Pat
- Requests to address the parish at Mass – Pat
- Prayer intentions – Pat
- Requests for events in the gathering space – Pat (selling is not allowed)

The meeting closed at 9:12 PM with the Our Father.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pete Welch, Secretary