

**Our Lady of Mercy Parish Council  
Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2008**

**Present:** Fr. Hugh, Dave Groeber, Lou Kearney, John Plummer, Terry Sheen, Tony Martini, Len Eichkoff, Haleigh Oleksiak, Phyllis Anderson, John Martin, Dave Miserendino  
**Absent:** John Bremner, Mary Konkel  
**Invited Guests:**  
**Prayer and Reflection:** Dave Groeber  
**Minutes of last meeting:** (December 10, 2007), approved.

**Announcements:**

- Ministry Fair is set for the weekend of April 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>. Tony Martini will again chair the spring event with support from J. Plummer. Fr. Hugh has requested that we begin to get the word out and was very pleased with how everything went with the last fair. All groups are encouraged to attend.
- Parish Appreciation Day – John Plummer will chair the event and contact St. Matthews for input as to their yearly event. The kitchen should be ready and we will be inviting ALL of 2007 volunteers for a luncheon served by the Parish Council and Staff. A letter will be mailed out from Father thanking those who have helped make OLM the parish it is today. The event will take place shortly after the 12:30pm mass and will go until 5PM. The confirmation Group has offered their support in helping set up the room.
- Many thanks to Terry Sheen, Past President, for his many years of service on the Parish Council and his instrumental efforts in building the PLC. Terry has, without fail, given countless hours and his many talents for the future of OLM.
- Council Elections were held for the 2008 year. We would like to welcome and congratulate;
  - Dave Groeber, President
  - Lou Kearney, Vice President
  - John Martin, Secretary
- The council has explored possibly changing future elections to a parish vote with bios of the candidates located in the bulletin. We will revisit this topic later in the year. Currently we operate on a self-elect system that is prevalent within most council settings.
- The PC will focus on further creating awareness within the church and have addressed the need for a Town Hall Meeting. Attendance has been low at previous attempts. J. Martin suggested that we have an 'Open Meeting' with a topic that revolves around the future/vision of our parish.
- Fr. Hugh has asked that we further research the possibility of having a Parish Homily twice a year that would focus on the state of OLM and create a closer connection with the congregation as a whole.

**Commission Reports:**

**Administration Commission (AC):** D. Groeber reported that the Christmas collection was very good and contributions were just shy of \$90,000. Currently the parish owes \$1.9M on the PLC addition and \$1.2M on the original structure. We are operating under a positive balance but do not have enough of a surplus to last. The

Admin. Commission is currently reviewing the budget and hopes to have a revision by their next meeting. The Knights of Columbus have announced that they will be donating \$2,500 to help out with our kitchen needs. The PC is currently generating a 'special needs' list for items to operate the kitchen. Lastly, Manna is in need of some support with the weekly tasks that help make the program successful.

**Faith Formation Commission (FFC):** P. Anderson reported that they had their quarterly meeting and was very productive. The marriage Enrichment program will be eliminated. The Mom's Group will be sponsoring a Dancing with the Spirit during the four Fridays of February, participants must register. In addition, Sr. Paula Hagen will be conducting the March 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> retreat. Sr. Bennett will speak at all of the masses during the weekend of March 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss our upcoming parish Mission scheduled on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. RE would like to see an Aide in each classroom to better serve the goals of each group. Traffic still seems to be a concern with kids darting in front of cars to reach their rides. Art Tiongson (Deaconate) will be holding an event for 'Returning Catholics'. ALPHA is in need of food volunteers (Teens, Senior Gems) on Thursdays during March 27<sup>th</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>. ECHO is going extremely well with over 230 kids. Many of our youth are bringing their friends and are very involved in its structure.

**Service Commission (SC):** Len Eichkoff reported that they will hold the first meeting of 2008 on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> and develop their fiscal plan. Hessed House raised \$2,000 by parish donations which enabled a special Christmas meal for the homeless. There is a \$500 surplus which will be used for an upcoming event or need.

**Worship Commission (WC):** (Vacant Position) Fr. Hugh reported that over 1700 people attended the 3PM Mass on Christmas Eve and the overflow in the Narthex was too much. It would be nice to have an extra Priest to perform a second mass in the PLC, this void will be a challenge. Larry Harris will provide a replacement to John Bremner whose 2 year term has expired. The Council would like for John to stay on as an AT-Large member.

#### **Action Items:**

#### **Committee Reports:**

Youth Ministry Report: Haleigh Oleksiak reported that the upcoming there will be sports lock in on April 18<sup>th</sup> and the admission will be a teddy bear and \$10. The bears will help support the Teddy Bears for Cops campaign. On Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> there will be an Ice Skating Event, more to follow in the bulletin.

Building Committee Report: Terry Sheen reported that the children's room has been repainted, movie screens will be installed in the PLC, landscaping will take place in the spring and the volleyball sleeves should be installed in the near future. We will have the ability to have 2 half size courts or one regulation size floor. We also have dual stripped the floors for various events. Awaiting dedication policies on recognition plaques and what will be done as far as security cameras. The old Ministry room is being carpeted for future use. Feedback on the tile in the Narthex has been very positive and looks beautiful.

**General Announcements:**

- The Admin Commission is asking for all budget submissions to be in by Feb.

Closing Prayer: Father Hugh concluded the meeting with prayer.

**Next PC meeting: Monday, February 11, 2007 @7:00 p.m. in the PLC.**

Respectfully submitted by John Plummer

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_