

**Our Lady of Mercy Parish Council
Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2008**

Present: Phyllis Anderson, Jean Bohr, Fr. Hugh, Dave Groeber, Marty Kadziela, Lou Kearney, John Martin, Tony Martini, John Plummer

Absent: Haleigh Oleksiak, Len Eichkoff, Mary Konkle

- I. Opening Prayer (Phyllis)
- II. Minutes Approval – 2/11 meeting minutes approved
- III. Action Items
 - a. Goals for 2008-9
 - Trying to set 3 or more goals for the year – PC members to consider and discuss at next meeting to finalize.
 - Parish is doing a lot of good stuff.
 - Ideas below:
 - i. Bring Catholics Back (follow Art’s example)
Real good, how do we get more traction?
 - ii. Kids need to be more involved
Youth/teen mass once a month – needs to be enhanced to get the kids more interested
John to email Haleigh (done) and we will discuss at the next meeting
Try to get their parents more involved
More involvement in doing the readings and being in the choir, eucharistic ministers (they must be confirmed to be EM), etc.
9:00 & 10:45 masses have youth mass – younger kids, going well
 - iii. Strengthen Commissions
Phyllis attended the Worship Commission meeting
PC members to attend at least one commission meeting this year
 - iv. No Crapping on the Lawn – Clean up the mess!
Get people thinking – if you don’t like something get involved and help fix it
 - v. What would God say? Not what does Dave say!
We should keep in mind.

- b. Ministry Fair (4/26&27) – what is needed from PC?
Email went out and announcement in bulletin. Set up similar to last fall. Responses back from 12 out of 41. May need assistance from PC members to contact those that didn't respond. Would like to get 90+% participation. Need a pulpit announcement the same weekend.
- c. Volunteer Appreciation Day (5/18 from 2 to 5 pm) – what is needed from PC?
They are working out the details. 3/25 planning meeting at PLC 7 pm. Fr. Hugh will announce at the masses the week before and acknowledge the parish volunteers. Looking to increase awareness about the event. Will send invitations with RSVP to all known volunteers. We are in contact with St. Margaret Mary in Naperville, as they have done this and it has gone well. Will have picture slide show from the various groups.

IV. Commission Reports (next meeting and highlights)

- a. Admin (Dave)
Report attached. Highlights:
We are going to run a deficit this year – budgeted \$26k per week, running \$22-\$23K. Will see how Easter goes and decide next steps from there.
- b. Faith Formation (Phyllis) 3/10
Report attached. Highlights:
Teen mass slated for 3/16 5:30 mass for those who want to attend and see how it goes
Mom's retreat went well.
Alpha coming along.
Having trouble with Small Faith Group - no leadership
Next FFC meeting will be 5/22
- c. Service (Len) 4/28
absent
- d. Worship (Marty)
Ministry schedules passed out
Mary statue in the lobby is the one from outside – looking into buying another one
Fire Marshal concerned about candles at St. Peregrine statue
Discussed outside signage can only be in front of new building
Grayson Warren Brown seeking him for mission in 2009
Deaconate class of 2009 may have the ceremony here at OLM
Altar of the repose in Narthex as opposed to PLC

V. Commission Reports

- a. Youth (Haleigh)
absent

- b. Building (Lou) Mtg 3/11 at 7 pm
Kitchen is ready for use, but users need to be trained prior to use.
Policy out soon on building use - posting, decorating, etc.

VI. Other Items

- a. Fr. Hugh suggested that we include a brief write up in the bulletin following PC meetings to let the parish know what's going on with the Parish Council – Dave G. to work on the first one.
- b. There was some discussion about the distribution of communion by visiting priests. Looking for consistency. Needs to go to Worship Commission. Marty K. will take this one.
- c. Oct 9-12th – Mercy Fest (Columbus Day weekend). Joe Beltz will take over leadership of Mercy Fest. Need to make more money this year. Sponsorships?
- d. Ministries campaign coming up from Diocese – supposed to start 4/5 & 6. Fr. Hugh will talk at the masses the weekend of 3/12 & 13th.

VII. Closing Prayer – Fr. Hugh concluded the meeting with prayer

VIII. Meeting & Prayer schedule – April 14 (Len), May 12 (Mary), June 9 (Tony)

Next PC meeting: Monday, April 14, 2007 @7:00 p.m. in the PLC.

Respectfully submitted by John Martin

Minutes Approved: 3/26/08 Signature: John Martin

Admin Committee Report

The group met on 3/5 at 7:30 in the PLC and attached are the items addressed:

1. Jean B. & Dave M discussed their 2008-9 RE budget and gave their recommendations for the 3 year tuition adjustment. The committee wants to change tuition every 3 years. The commission will take their budget under advisement but will not approve until we understand what the total budget looks like for 08-09. The commission did approve the following tuition increase for 08-09:

	Current year	Next 3 years
1 Child	\$125	\$150
2 Children	\$175	\$225
3 children or >	\$175	\$250

All other fees for RE will remain the same.

2. Deacon Tim submitted the FMT budget for 08-09. As with the RE budget the commission did not approve the budget until all the other budgets have been submitted.
3. All budgets are due in April. Some have already come in.
4. Unless collections pick up significantly we will run a deficit. We are looking for ways to reduce costs but the only way appears to cut back on budget spending. We will look at ideas and act next meeting.
5. Host of building issues must be addressed so the building subcommittee will meet. Date was changed to 3/10 or 11.

Meeting Adjourned.

MINISTRY REPORTS FOR MARCH 6TH MEETING

Faith Formation Commission Report--Kindergarten - Fifth Grade

January:

Catechist Workshops:

- January 12: "Sacrament of Confirmation" - 9 - 10:15 a.m.
- January 17: "Sacrament of the Sick" - 9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

- Second Grade Church Tours - week of January 14th
- Third Grade Rosary Lesson - week of January 21st
- Third Grade Families Prayer Service - January 24 - 7 p.m.
- "The Joy of Forgiveness" 4th graders and parents - January 31 - 7 p.m.

February:

Catechist workshops:

- February 2: "The Sacrament of Matrimony" - 9 - 10:15 a.m.
- February 16: "The Sacrament of Holy Orders" - 9 10:15 a.m.

- Rice Bowls for Lent - all grades (Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6th)
- Prayer Service for Kindergarten Families - February 9 - 10 a.m.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation - Special Sacrament Classes - Feb. 23, 10 a.m.

March:

- First Reconciliation Celebrations - 4th Grades
March 1 or 8 at 10 a.m.

Senior High Confirmation Report

The year is winding down pretty quickly. There will be one final large group session for level two candidates on Sunday, March 9, and only three remaining small group sessions (third week in March; first and third weeks in April).

The final youth Mass is slated for Sunday, March 16.

Candidate and sponsor interviews are scheduled for Thursday, May 15, and Sunday, May 18. The concluding event(s) on this year's calendar is the level two overnight retreat at the Lisle Wyndham. Candidates are asked to pick one date from two options: June 20-21 or July 11-12.

Nothing after this until Autumn rehearsals for the Confirmation ceremony and, of course, the ceremony itself.

In all probability (at least in my case) the remaining small group sessions will be held primarily as opportunities to provide guidance for end-of-the-program requirements. Saint reports, letters to Bishop Sartain, etc. and to tie up whatever loose ends are still in

play (confirmation name, sponsor). There aren't all that many loose ends, thank the good Lord.

I loved the Seder meal back on Feb. 21, but I'm wondering if we can tie the meal more closely to the sacrament of Confirmation. The meal was great, the parents and kids had a good time, but the activities seemed to be self-contained, i.e., a fun night, but not particularly connected to the sacrament.

The year has gone by too quickly. The kids have been great (as have their parents).

Submitted by John Noppen

Senior High Youth Ministry Report

The Peer Ministry team is planning a Teddy Bear drive for Hesed House as well as a Sports Lock-In. Both of these will be held on April.

The 30 Hour Food Fast is happening in March. This service project will be held at Sts. Peter and Paul in Naperville.

Our mission trip this summer is to Longmont, Colorado at the end of July. We will be taking 45 teens and 10 adults. We are now in the midst of fundraisers—marketday, cookie dough sale, bake sale and an added fundraiser this summer—a Car Wash!

Living Stations of the Cross will happen on Good Friday. We have 12-15 teens helping with this event. Nancy Luna is coordinating it this year.

Our cluster of parishes is beginning to plan for next year's events.

Finally, we had a successful Search Retreat back in January. We had approximately 20 teens attend the event. Three of our teen leaders and six of our adult leaders headed up this event. Special thanks for Chuck Damore for coordinating.

Submitted by Dave Miserendino

Young Adult Ministry (Current) Report

We are finishing up our Theology on Tap speaker series at Mullen's Bar and Grill in Lisle. Our last one for the year will be in April. We will participate in the summer Diocesan Theology on Tap.

We are also in the process of recruiting more adults to help with the planning process. We are meeting with the diocesan director to formulate our efforts in this regard.

Social and spiritual events for adults continue in our diocese. You can go to our website at www.currentministry.com to get all the details.

Submitted by Dave Miserendino

Adult Faith Ministry Team Report

Catholics Returning Home – Art Tiongson gave an overview of the program and progress made to date: A page was devoted to *Catholics Returning Home* in the February 16-17, 2008 Church Bulletin, Page 7. A sign has been posted on the lawn, visible to parishioners entering church. He will give a talk at the March 9th mass. Advertisements will be made on the radio and Explorer newspaper. The program will be offered twice a year, after Easter and after Christmas. There are four (4) in his group

Alpha and Small Faith Groups: Small Faith Groups will not be active this year. Funds allocated for *Small Faith Groups* (\$505) have been redistributed to Alpha. We brainstormed on ways to keep Alpha strong: 1) Link up with other churches. 2) Have reunion with Alpha participants periodically and discuss bible utilizing books similar to *My Peace*. 3) Hold *Alpha* sessions once a year, rather than bi-annual. 4) Ask to be invited to RCIA meeting to offer candidates a program (Alpha) after graduating from RCIA. Phyllis has cards completed by some 2007 Alpha attendees and will mail them to participants before March 13th.

Parish Mission: Audrey will prepare coffee and cookies after masses. Father Hugh, Phyllis, and Rose will attend dinner with Sister Mary Benet McKinney after the 4:00 mass Saturday, February 23rd.

MOMS: Retreat is planned for the evening of March 7th and the morning of March 8th. Sister Paula Hagen will be the presenter. Evening session is from 6:00 – 9:30; the morning session starts at 8:30 and ends at noon. Tim will talk with Jolene regarding budget and having a representative at FMT meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Kueper
Bettye S. Abbott

Middle School Youth Ministry-Report-None submitted

RCIA Report-None submitted

Baptism Report-None submitted

Marriage Ministry Report-None submitted

Ministry of Mothers Sharing Report-None submitted