

**Our Lady of Mercy Parish Council
Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2008**

Present: Len Eichkoff, Dave Groeber, Fr. Hugh, Marty Kadziela, Lou Kearney, Mary Konkle, John Martin, Tony Martini, Haleigh Oleksiak, John Plummer, Candy Rice

Absent: Bettye Abbott

- I. Opening Prayer (Fr. Hugh)
 - a. Dave and John will assign for the months going forward
 - b. October will be Mary K.

- II. Minutes Approval – 6/09 meeting minutes approved

- III. Action Items
 - a. Goals for 2008-9
 - i. What did everyone hear from the commissions?
 - Service Comm
 - a. If we don't have enough volunteers we will need to drop some of the commissions.
 - b. We are recycling the same, small group of volunteers.
 - c. Ideas discussed:
 - Regular announcement in bulletins.
 - Pulpit announcements.
 - Call people in the parish and ask them to join you for a meeting. Personal appeals.
 - Find ways to get kids involved.
 - Putting faith to action
 - Find ways for the young adult group (20's & 30's) to get involved
 - At hospitality weekends have a commission (i.e. Faith Formation) "sponsor" the event and they could promote their commission, seeking volunteers
 - Faith Formation
 - a. Hospitality
 - b. Getting kids/teens involved
 - c. A sense of community
 - d. Faith is a call to action and discipleship
 - ii. Goals suggested by PC:
 - Recruitment and awareness toward stewardship and service for the parish
 - Get Youth more involved

- a. try to get Young Adult group (20's and 30's) more involved
- b. Acknowledge the current volunteers started in this demographic in the mid to late 90's
- c. Try to get college and younger involved through fun activities vs. participating in the work of the church.
- Action Steps: PC members need to come up with ideas on how we can accomplish our goals (at least 2 for each member) – we will discuss and work the action plan each month

IV. Commission Reports

- a. Admin (Dave G.)
 - i. Have been meeting every couple of weeks to discuss budget.
 - ii. Will have to start paying mortgage for building.
 - iii. Holding on some expenses.
 - iv. They are doing some improvements (roof, parking lot).
 - v. Discussed raising funds in general.
 - vi. Audit in progress.
 - vii. Next admin meeting 9/10.
- b. Faith Formation (Bettye A.) – Report attached.
- c. Service (Len E.) – Discussed, see notes above under goals.
- d. Worship (Marty K.) - Nothing to report. Next meeting 10/6.

V. Other Items

- a. Volunteer Recognition day – Date was set, but for Mothers day weekend. John P. will work getting a different date. Same group is willing to coordinate again.
- b. Ministry Fair – Discussed whether or not to still have it. Decided we would. Thinking of ways to change and improve it. Will promote Mercy Fest with Pizza. Seek Young Adults to volunteer. Announcement in bulletin and/or pulpit? Tony M. to coordinate.

VI. Closing Prayer – Fr. Hugh concluded the meeting in prayer.

VII. Meeting & Prayer schedule – Oct. (Mary K.)

Next PC meeting: Monday, October 13, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m. in the PLC.

Respectfully submitted by John Martin

Minutes Approved: 10/8/08 Signature: John Martin

OLM Faith Formation Commission Report September 8, 2008

Faith Formation Commission met August 14, 2008.

Business:

Goals for year were developed and approved by members. The Goals for 2008-2009 are:

- 1) Parishioners of all ages and backgrounds are offered opportunities to grow in their faith (i.e. womb to tomb philosophy).
- 2) Parishioners will have a sense of belonging to a community through faith formation activities and events.
- 3) Adult parishioners (with a special emphasize on parents) are invited to a deeper understanding of their faith and the call to discipleship.

Dave Miserendino will submit to Parish Council to be included in their overall parish commission goals for 2008-2009.

Ministry Reports:

Ministry Reports are on pages 2-4.

Faith Formation Commission Ministry Reports

Children and Teen Formation

Religious Education (Grades K-5)

- 1) Registration Packets were sent home with the current RE students in April. The registration forms were also placed on the parish website. We began accepting registrations May 1st.
- 2) As of August 4, seven hundred fifty families had sent in forms. This does not include the families of the approximately 100 catechists and aides who have children in the RE program.
- 3) Almost 80% of the catechists/aides who helped last year, have signed up for this coming year. Almost 90% of the parents who helped as program volunteers have also signed up to help again. As well, we have 12 new catechists/aides for K - 5th, and 11 new program volunteers so far.
- 4) As we move into August, I expect more folks to volunteer as they begin thinking about fall.
- 5) Our goal this year is to get all NEW RE staff thru "Protecting God's Children" and the police background check completed before classes begin.
- 6) All books and supplies for the coming year were ordered in early July.
- 7) Vacation Bible School was held August 4 - 8. We met our goal of 120 children attending the program, with about 10 adults helping coordinate, and 35 teen helpers.
- 8) Placement will be held:
 - August 13 for catechists and aides
 - August 18, 19 and 20 for the rest of the families
 - September 3 for Late Registration
- 9) Classes begin the week of September 29

Middle School Youth Ministry (Grades 6-8)

The EDGE program will begin in late September. We will have a 6th grade EDGE night and a 7th/8th grade EDGE night. Recruitment of leaders continues-we still need 10-15 adult leaders and 10-15 teen leaders.

Senior High Youth Ministry (Grades 9-12)

We will have a Teen Leader Kick-off event in mid-September. This event will help recruit teen leaders to serve in this year's ministries (social, service, retreat, etc.). Our teen mission trip (45 teens and 9 adults attended) was a great success despite bus problems. We have chosen Racine, Wisconsin as our next trip. Summer softball has 15 teens come out from OLM to compete against other local churches.

Sacramental Formation

Baptism

Eucharist/Communion

Reconciliation

Confirmation

The year will kick-off in late September. We are still in need of 4-6 adult leaders to help as mentors. We will have 8 Level 1 and 8 Level 2 small groups. The ceremony for this past year's candidates will be on Sunday, October 26th at 2:30 PM with Bishop Kaffer.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC)

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Marriage

Adult Formation

Faith Ministry Team

ALPHA plans are ongoing. In June, Phyllis and Bettye attended an Alpha Convention at Wheaton College. A meeting was held with Sam Stevens, Western Suburb Coordinator, and he shared marketing initiatives for Alpha:

- **FOUR BILLBOARDS**
- **MOVIE THEATRE ADVERTISEMENTS**
- **METRA TRAIN POSTERS**
- **PACE BUS TAIL ADVERTS**

Initiatives will kick off August 22nd and run through September 20th. All the advertising has www.alphausa.org. Interested persons will go to website, click on the Alpha Invitation, receive list of participating churches with contact details, and links to the churches' websites. OLM will be listed on the website as a participating church.

Five yard signs have been ordered and will be placed in selected team members' yards.

Other initiatives are planned, to maximize advertisement opportunities.

Alpha will run from September 11th to November 20th.

Small Faith Group is scheduled March 3, 2009 to April 7, 2009.

OLM Bible Study has been postponed.

Catholics Returning Home next session is planned for January 4th to February 8, 2009.

Special Events featuring Mary Amore is scheduled May 12, 2009.

Young Adult Ministry (Adults: 20's & 30's, married/single)

Theology on Tap was a huge success. We had 40, 25 and 30 people in attendance on the three nights. Our session was geared towards young couples. The Current ministry is now involved in promoting young adult ministry to all our member parishes. Other events will be planned soon.

Marriage Program - Sponsor Couples

Marriage Enrichment Program

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS)

- A) "10 Great Dates" sessions will kick-off this fall.
- B) Autumn Tea on November 7th
- C) Spirit Spa Day on January 9th