

ST. MARY'S PARISH COUNCIL
September 8, 2008

Present: Joel Fritz, Chairperson, Father Charlie, Stephanie Forthofer, Dan Humphrey, Jeanne Kelly, Dottie Knechtges, Joanne Koviak, Joe Kuebler, Mike Moore and Matt St. Marie.

Matt called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

Father Charlie opened with a prayer. Thereafter, the agenda was reviewed.

Matt welcomed our new Council members, Stephanie Forthofer and Dan Humphrey. He then reviewed the basic roles and responsibilities of the Parish Council and how we work in connection with the Finance Council. He also explained the discernment process for selecting new Council members each year.

The first item of business concerned the Towne Hall meeting last Sunday. Approximately 150 people attended. The program was well presented and the discussion that followed was very good. Council then discussed in general the cluster plan, including the different possibilities for buildings. Our plan will be submitted to the Bishop by October 15 and he will make his decision in March, 2009.

Fr. Charlie gave a school update. We currently have 199 students enrolled, which includes approximately 30 students coming from St. Vincent. Our new custodian, Kevin, has done a great job getting the school buildings ready.

Fr. Charlie gave a report regarding the Stewardship Committee. The first Sunday of each month will be a welcome Sunday with greeters at all Masses and a social following each Mass. He also discussed the retreats to be held in September and October. The "Our Life is Rich" DVD concerning stewardship will be shown. Information about the retreats will be in the bulletin. Fr. Charlie indicated he would email to Council members for their review a new volunteer form. A cluster Mass will be held on Saturday, October 11 at 5 p.m. All five Elyria parishes will celebrate Mass together that evening at St. Jude Church.

There was a discussion concerning the need for a city-wide youth minister to become a resource person for each parish and to coordinate youth activities throughout the three remaining Elyria parishes. We need to reach out to non-Elyria Catholic high school students and create a viable Catholic youth community.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 2008, at 8:00 in the Parish Center Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne M. Kelly,
Recording Secretary