

ST. MARY'S PARISH COUNCIL
November 3, 2008

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

Excused: Joe Kuebler.

Matt St. Marie called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and Fr. Charlie led us in prayer. The agenda was then reviewed.

The first item of business concerned the Cluster Plan. Council members reviewed a copy of the official cluster plan that was presented to the Bishop last month. Fr. Charlie stated that a meeting was held today about creating a School Advisory Board once it is approved by the Bishop. Two subcommittees of this Board will be a marketing committee and a financial oversight committee. There followed a discussion concerning marketing the School in southern Lorain County in connection with the new housing developments. We also discussed having a second collection for tuition assistance instead of the collection for Diocesan assessments.

The next item of business concerned a city wide youth ministry. A core committee of adults and teens is being established to assist us through this interim period. We are hopeful that a full time person will be hired in the future. Please contact Fr. Charlie if you are interested in helping on the youth ministry.

The next discussion concerned Stewardship. Fr. Charlie indicated that over 75 responses have been returned. Our collections are increasing. We discussed the Welcome Sundays and the Life is Rich retreats. The Bible study evenings have approximately eight to ten people attending. Information regarding the Heritage Society and memorial pavers was distributed last Sunday. We also discussed a possible "recognition tree" for substantial donations to the capital campaigns. An alumni gathering will be held following the 4:30 Mass on Saturday, November 29. We discussed having the School buildings open for tours. Further information will be in the bulletin.

There was a discussion concerning the success of the Corvette raffle. Plans are already underway for another Corvette raffle next year. There was a brief discussion concerning the need to establish an evangelization committee. Joel gave a brief report on the Parish festival. Discussion regarding dates and ideas for next year's festival will be held at our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2008, at 8:00 in the Parish Center Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne M. Kelly,
Recording Secretary