

ST. MARY'S PARISH COUNCIL
April 7, 2008

Present: Joel D. Fritz, Chairperson, Father Charlie, Joanne Koviak, Dottie Knechtges, Matt St. Marie and Dave Stillwell. Maryann Ketchesin was present on behalf of the Lorain County Furniture Bank and Social Action Ministry.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:03 p.m.

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

Father Charlie initiated a discussion about the Spring Gathering for Parish Pastoral Council Chairpersons with Bishop Lennon to be held Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Father thought that it would be good to have a representative there as this is an opportunity for direct communication with other Councils. Joel Fritz and Mike Moore attended the Fall Gathering. Joel reported that the Fall Gathering was a good experience. We are looking for at least two people to attend.

Father Charlie then gave Council an update with regard to the Elyria Cluster. Father advised that letters were sent to Sacred Heart and Holy Cross extending our welcome in the event members choose our Parish. The members of both parishes are currently in the discernment process.

Father Charlie also gave Council an update on school enrollment. We currently have 172 students recommitted for the 2008-2009 school year. We also have 15 students from Saint Vincent DePaul enrolled for a total of 187. We still have 35 families at St. Mary's who have not made their intentions known for the coming year.

A brief discussion was had with regard to a Family Assessment passed around indicating trends in population. There was also discussion about Bishop Lennon's request for a 5 year plan of financial solvency from all parishes and schools.

There were discussions about two upcoming dates that members of all councils and organizations should be made aware. The first date is 4-19-08 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This meeting was to be held in March. Unfortunately, a snow storm prevented the meeting. This meeting is to discuss the results of the Town Hall meeting as well as brainstorming with regard to a more organized method of fund raising and events.

The second date is not currently set. However, it is in regards to coordination of all calendars from all groups. Your group will be contacted soon to provide your calendar requests for the coming year.

Dottie Knechtges and Maryann Ketchesin presented information on predatory lending and their efforts at awareness about this growing problem. If you are interested in assisting in this endeavor, please contact Maryann or Dottie. Also, Catholic Action in their effort to become more "green" will have a box in the office and the library in the lower church where you can

deposit old ink cartridges and cell phones. All parishioners are encouraged to bring those items to turn in.

There are Five nominees for Three open council positions. The Five nominees are:

1. Maryann Ketchesin
2. Dan Humphrey Jr.
3. Stephanie Forthofer
4. Dale Davies
5. Dottie Knechtges

According to our by-laws these individuals are invited to attend our May meeting which is scheduled for May 5th at 8:00 p.m. At the June meeting, the nominees will again attend and reaffirm their candidacy. The current Council members will discern and announce their selection in a closed session at the end of the June meeting.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel D. Fritz, Chairperson