

ST. MARY'S PARISH COUNCIL
June 2, 2008

Present: Joel Fritz, Chairperson, Father Charlie, Jeanne Kelly, Dottie Knechtges, Joanne Koviak, Mike Moore, Matt St. Marie and Dave Stillwell. Also attending were Dale Davies, Maryann Ketchesin, and Stephanie Forthofer.

Joel called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

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

The first discussion concerned the Elyria Cluster. Fr. Charlie stated that we are moving closer to having our cluster plan in place to present to the Bishop in October. He also informed us that a meeting will be held on June 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Cross. Council members from all five Elyria parishes are encouraged to attend this meeting which will be an effort to create an overall Council for the Cluster. There followed a general Cluster review, including Catholic education marketing, fundraising, tuition and evangelization. Fr. Charlie encourages all of our parishioners to stop in at Holy Cross and Sacred Heart for Sunday liturgies in an effort to offer our support and welcome to our neighbors.

Fr. Charlie reported that during the Cluster process we are not permitted to do any major renovations to the School buildings. Therefore, in an effort to minimize utility costs, the junior high classes will be relocated into the Marian Building and several other rooms will be reshuffled prior to the next school year.

Fr. Charlie gave a report regarding the Stewardship Committee. Topics discussed were the Alumni Association, JustGive button and a new Parish newsletter. We discussed offering evenings of reflection beginning this fall in an effort to reach out to more parishioners. We also discussed the need to enhance our hospitality, which could include more greeters and a welcoming social following all Masses on the first Sunday of each month. There was a brief discussion concerning a city wide youth ministry.

Joel reported that the final meeting for the Summerfest is June 9 and there followed a brief discussion concerning the Summerfest. Dottie reported that the Fair Trade event will be held at St. Mary the first Sunday in October. Matt stated that the Elyria Little League will be having their Steak Fry on November 8 in the Hall. Please contact Matt if you would like to support this event.

Joel presented a plaque to outgoing Council member, Dave Stillwell, thanking him for his many years of support and involvement on Parish Council.

The next item of business concerned the prospective new Council members. Dale Davies, Maryann Ketchesin, Dottie Knechtges and Stephanie Forthofer, four of the five nominees who were present at this meeting, briefly gave reports on why they are interested in serving on Parish Council. All four of these individuals left the meeting at this time. Dan Humphrey, the fifth nominee, was not able to attend the meeting. There followed a lengthy discernment session by the current Council members. After discussion, the nominees selected for the three open vacancies were Dottie Knechtges, Stephanie Forthofer and Dan Humphrey.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2008, at 8:00 in the Parish Center Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne M. Kelly,
Recording Secretary