

**St. Mark Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes
23 Feb 2017**

Meeting Time: 7pm
Location: The Cenacle

Prayer Leader: Nathan
Refreshments: Don

Scripture/Shared Prayer: Donna for Nathan

Roll Call– Present: Father Todd, Deacon Tom, Donna Kern, Jesse Cleary, Wilma Cross, Teresa Wenzel, David Olivares, Don Toll, and John Hibner. Absent Bill Sherman and Nathan Campbell. Guests, Ann Berkemeier, Cindy Able (School Commission) and Marty Meyer (Finance Commission)

Presentation – Ann Berkemeier presented on a new option for the pictorial directory. Life Touch Studios is offering an option to do an annual, but less extensive (and smaller sized), pictorial directory. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of the options and made a recommendation to Father that the current larger, more extensive directory should be continued due to the amount of history and information it provides.

School Commission – Cindy Able updated the Commission on the school. Next year there will be 2 classrooms for the Pre-K, 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade. Mr. Albertson is currently working with Mr. Merkel on the school budget for next year. Mrs. Bruner will be the full time music teacher next year. Mrs. Klein will be the full time Assistance Principal next year. The open house was one of the largest SMCS has had. Catholic Identity was a major emphasis of the Commission and interviews with students show that it has taken hold. A game night is being considered for school families. The Bridge is now available on the SMCS website recorded in Spanish and two dialect of Burmese.

Finance Commission – Marty Meyer presented on the Finance Commission including the transition of our new Business Manager. It is going very well, with some changes in procedure. Budget work is starting including some groups being responsible for their own budgets. The Building and Grounds Committee has been re-formed and has taken their first walk around and developed a list of 38 projects which they will prioritize. A very small tuition increase will be put into place for the school next year. The Archdiocese has implemented a new salary structure for teachers which will result in slightly increased total payroll costs for SMCS. The Parish financial information (budget, collections) will be put in the Bulletin monthly.

The minutes were approved as presented.

Good of the Parish – Three comments to the For the Good of the Parish box were discussed. One was a thank you for the Incense Free Mass at Christmas. There were also questions about chairs with arms (currently in production) and reserved handicapped seating near the front for ease of receiving communion. There was also a concern stated about increasing the number of Missalettes. 50 are currently ordered. As a follow-up to previous comments, the flowers for the Easter season will be placed in different locations than during the Christmas season.

Old Business –

Update on new chairs with arms – they are in production.

Update on Feast of St. Mark celebration – Plans are underway to install relic of St. Mark donated by Monsignor Shafer's family after Mass and prior to pitch-in. Youth of the Parish (SMCS & SMRE) will bring up the relic. School children will create place mats. Prayers to St. Mark will be produced and distributed. There was a discussion on best way to provide information on the various ministries and groups at St. Mark. Plans are to have hand out with information regarding groups and contact info. Deacon Tom will be designing a standard format poster for the various ministries that will be hung around the walls of Schafer Hall.

New Business –

Nomination & Selection process for new members of Pastoral Council. Discussion included providing information on nomination form regarding the dates of meetings and the orientation session (decided that the best way to do orientation was before the first meeting of the year). Timing of the first announcements regarding the nomination process will be discussed at a future meeting.

Planning is continuing for the trip to St. Mary of the Woods for Saint Mother Theodore Guerin pilgrimage with 15 Parishioners signed up, Mass will be at St. Mary Margaret Church with dinner to follow at MCL/Terre Haute.

The Men's Club provided a portion of the funds to procure new round tables and a second cart for the banquet tables. Much of the funds came from the Golf Outing.

Thank you cards – It was decided to send Thank You cards to the Men's Club for the purchase of new round tables and an additional cart for the banquet tables. A card will be sent to Lynn and Mike Swift and the Dinner Dance Committee for the excellent job done again this year. Cards will also be sent to Jill Deak for tending to the plants during Christmas and to John Fattic for resetting the railing on the back steps to the Parish Office.

Youth Report – St. Mark had excellent participation at the South Deanery Jr. High Youth Rally. Six adult chaperoned and 34 youth attended from SMC. This was the largest participation. The Parish nominated two youth for the CYO Spirit of Youth awards. Grace Albertson received The Spirit of Service Award. Youth participated in the Cookie Drop for Seminarians. Preparations are beginning for the Youth's presentation of the Passion on Good Friday. Planning has begun for November's NCYC.

Social Life – No Report

Liturgy – Deacon Tom presented the Lenten schedule to be available after Mass this weekend along with the "Little Black Book" for reflection.

Spiritual Life- the Welcome Catholics Home will start having meetings after the Easter season. We will pray for those who have left the Church during Lent. Cathy Jolley is heading

this group. There will be letters available for Parishioners to address for family friends as well as notices in South Side papers. The Committee developed a charter, with emphasis on making the Holy Spirit visible. A list of possible topics for presentations was developed and the possibility of a survey of which would be of most interest to Parishioners. There will be presentations on four Sundays of Lent. Two by Deacon Tom and one by Dr. Katherine Harmon and one by Dr. Matthew Sherman.

Religious Education – Angi Swiezy provided a report – the Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education (ACRE) for Fifth & Eighth grade students was completed and mailed to the Archdiocese in January. Wilma Cross & Christy Cross (Catechists) completed their Level II Training in Catechist of the Good Shepard program. This involved another 270 hours of formation. Fifty children are preparing for First Holy Communion on Aprils 29th (2 P.M.). SMRE will present the Stations of the Cross on 3/10, the First Eucharist Family Workshop is on Saturday, 3/18; and the Pastor’s Appreciate Breakfast for SMRE families will be 3/19 after 9:30 Mass. Thirty-two Scouts received their Religion Emblems this year.

Communications - David has started to update the Parish Website including notifications of the passing of Parishioners including time of Mass and showing.

Outreach – Two Parishioners attended the conference by the Catholic Relief Services regarding being a Global Solidarity Ambassador. Four men from the Parish signed up to participate in the Kairos ministry to work with imprisoned men.

Pastor Comments – There is a story in the Criterion about Father David and his ministry to the Burmese community in Indianapolis. The Disabilities Awareness Mass planning is upcoming. The new St. Felix Council of the Knight of Columbus will remove mulch from around the south side of Church and move it to the playground. They will apply new mulch to the areas on the south side of Church. The Building and Grounds Committee did a walk around and found 38 action items which they are working on prioritizing. A new Parish Planning Committee is being formed. O’Riley Funeral home has been sold, but the staff is staying. We are working on a permanent easement for the drive near the Rectory with the new owners. The Archdiocese has upgraded St. Mark from a Median-Small Parish to a Median-Median Parish.

Upcoming Events –

- Ash Wednesday – March 1st
- Men’s Club Fish Fry (first) – March 3rd
- Grandparents Day at SMCS – March 17th

Closing Prayer - Donna

Reminders

- **Next Meeting** – March 23rd
- **Prayer Leader** – Jesse
- **Refreshments** – Nathan

