

**MINUTES OF
SWEETEST HEART OF MARY PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Wednesday, March 14, 2007**

Present:	Fr. Mark Borkowski Amy Papernik Stephen Weber	Tony Ziebron Jerry Strzalkowski Judith Courtright	Mary Mercatante Laurie Jarocho	Lorraine Wilk Judith Covatch
Absent:	Tom Christenson Brenda Suiter	Scott Palus Jennifer Waligora	Michael Filliccia	Richard Karlowski

Meeting commenced at 6:30 PM with mass and reassembled in St. Joseph Hall following mass. Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Lenten Fish Fry

The attendance at the Fish Fries has been very good. Dinners sold thus far: 155, 167, 160, and 217. Experienced cooks who work at Louie's Ham and Corned Beef are helping in the kitchen. Food is coming to our customers hotter and faster. Our own folks are learning some tips from these cooks.

Parish Property Improvements Committee

The Parish Property Improvements Committee is now in place. John Zeck, Dennis Felcyn, Mark Farrell, Frank Schtek, and Phil Ziezulewicz are the members of the new committee. It was noted that the school renovation project, at some point, will need the involvement of this Committee

Faith Direct/Electronic Giving Report

Tony Ziebron reported that the subcommittee had a meeting on March 12 and reviewed information collected from four major service providers who specialize in setting up electronic giving services for churches. The subcommittee recommended using one of these specialty providers rather than a banking institution because they have more options and fit our needs better. Tony handed out two documents for review: EFT Service Comparison and Summary of Email Responses. To aid us, Fran Ashe, from the AOD Parish Support, sent out a 13-question email survey to all parishes and within 3 days, had 28 responses. Tony summarized observations garnered from these surveys. After reviewing all of the responses, he recommended that we put an article in the Bulletin to determine whether or not parish members would use it.

SHM Blog Web Site

Some of the Council members had visited the site. Jann would like to put in a topic tree for easier searching and to make the interface clearer. Jann will make an appointment with parish secretary and others to provide some instruction to use it. An update will be given at a future Council meeting.

Festival Planning

The Festival Committee is in place. Arnie Lester is the chairman and the committee members are Dan Waligora, Jack Paulus, Fr. Borkowski, Karen Kulik, Mike Kapusniak, Dennis Felcyn, and Tony Ziebron. They have met twice thus far. The planning is coming along: bands are booked; have sponsor for tickets; working on licenses, etc. The booths are going to be remodeled (primarily the pierogi dinner booth) and we will move the location of some of the booths (i.e., Poker Tent) around to be more efficient. With regard to the pierogi booth, the ticket line will be moved, and frozen pierogi sold inside the hall. St. Joseph's Hall will be used for extra seating. We also considered eliminating the Bingo in the Hall, as we do not get a good enough participation. Finally, we will start serving food at 1 PM on Saturday (we'll stop for Mass).

Christian Service Commission

- **Alumni Committee:** Still recruiting for members to attend the dinner dance in May.
- **Men's Club:** Main project is helping with the Lenten Fish Fry. John Zeck was welcomed as a new member
- **Ladies Guild:** St. Pat's dinner had a good showing. Ladies will sell St. Joseph's Bread on Mar. 17, 18. On Palm Sunday they will prepare breakfast, and also have a special basket raffle. Membership meetings have been changed from 3rd Sunday of the month to 4th Sunday.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Tootsie Roll Drive on Mar. 31 and Apr. 1. Knights are sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday afternoon for children. Knights will be in the Easter morning procession. Orders for Easter ham and kielbasa are being solicited.

Education Commission

- For the Archdiocese DRE Council, our pastor is the designated Director of Religious Education.
- There will be one baptism during Easter vigil.
- Fr. Paul is preparing several people for Confirmation on Sept. 9 by Bishop Quinn.

Worship Commission

- Worship meeting was held on Feb. 24.
- On March 11, St. Josaphat will begin a 7 day Novena to St. Joseph.
- Friday, March 16, begins the Forty Hours devotion as described in the cluster Lenten Schedule. The Gorzkie Żale on Sunday will be sung by the choir from Orchard Lake Seminary. Banners from all three churches and societies will be carried in procession. It is hoped that a new banner for the Purgatorial Society will be delivered in time to use in procession. Only 100 tickets will be sold for the 40 Hours Banquet to be held in St. Joseph Hall.
- Statues in church will be covered on March 23 for "Passion Sunday".
- For Palm Sunday – weather permitting, a procession will begin with a blessing of palms on the porch of the hall.
- On April 2, the tomb is scheduled to be put up and the side altar prepared for the Exposition on Holy Thursday.
- For Holy Thursday liturgies, St. Joseph Choir will provide music. Fr. Mark may present this Mass in Latin.
- Good Friday – Tenebrae Service at 6:30 PM. All decorating for Easter must be completed following the service.
- There will be a Resurrection procession on Easter Sunday, 8:30 mass. Bishop Reiss will celebrate the 10:30 mass.

St. Joseph

- The parish will celebrate its feast day on Monday Mar. 19 instead of moving it to Mar. 18. They will have a Novena to St Joseph on Sunday and a Solemn High Mass on Monday, with an evening spaghetti dinner.
- Repairs are continuing to fix water damage.
- Painting is being done in the back of the church. The wretched-looking usher's room in the rear was torn down.

St. Josaphat

- The Corned Beef & Cabbage fund-raising dinner went well.
- Remodeling work in the hall is still on-going.
- Fr. Mark asked our bishop for permission to broaden the Tridentine liturgies for weekday and holyday mass, baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

Vicariate

- The 64 parishes under Bishop Quinn are preparing for a Young Adult Ministry program
- The USCCB is still supporting a minimum wage increase now despite Senatorial delay of legislation.
- For the Protecting God's Children mandate, 34,600 staff and volunteers participated in 609 workshops.
- There will be a new teen workshop "Called to Serve", to equip 16-17 year olds, who serve children, with the appropriate knowledge and skills.
- The APC Stewardship committee reported on parishioner offerings. Also noted average annual Protestant giving is \$2,541 compared to \$1,065 for Catholics. There is disconnect between giving and faith in parish life.
- Four upcoming regional gatherings were announced on "Prayful Stewardship through TIF" in late May.

Fr. Mark's Talking Points

- Restoration of the school continues. The upstairs is almost completely gutted. Some donations are coming in to help pay for help and also for paying for dumpsters to remove debris. The front part of the building has historic significance, as it was the original pastor's parlor/sitting room. There is an original "grand staircase" as well. We will try to preserve these two areas. The two other rooms upstairs will become bathrooms. The kitchen in the basement will be re-done with dumbwaiters to bring food up. The front entrance will be preserved and the back entrance will be reworked to be totally accessible. We will also try to secure floors where they have rotted. When the building is gutted (aiming for July 1), we can call in architects to design. The inside of the building does not have to adhere to Historical Society standards.
- Painting continues on the mural in church. We need to have this completed by April 4. We will have to wait until next Lent to do the other mural because of the many weddings scheduled and don't want the scaffolding present.
- The sanctuary chairs are being restored by master woodworkers who recreated the wood side altar in St. Mary's (Greektown) that was destroyed by a fire. We are starting with the deacon and sub-deacon chairs.
- The kitchen in the basement of the rectory is being enlarged and it should be completed prior to the Festival.
- A shared payment was made for participation in the Our Polish Story documentary by SHM and St. Josaphat. There is a link on the producer's web site to ours. (www.ourstoryof.com)

Parish Council Meeting Discussion

Some council members preferred to have council meetings after the 10:30 Mass on Sunday. Fr. Mark cannot accommodate this time slot. We will continue the current meeting time.

Meeting closed 9:05 PM with a prayer led by Fr. Mark. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Mercatante
Parish Pastoral Council Secretary

Tony Ziebron
Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson