

**MINUTES OF  
SWEETEST HEART OF MARY PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
Wednesday, June 13, 2007**

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

**Absent:** Judith Courtright      Michael Filliccia

Meeting commenced at 7:05 PM with mass and reassembled in St. Joseph Hall following mass. Minutes from last meeting were approved with note that Palm Sunday's breakfast by the Ladies' Guild should not have stated it was Father's Day breakfast.

**Our Polish Story Video Premier**

The video is completed and it will premier on Saturday, June 16 on WXYZ-TV at 7:00 PM (commercial-free). There was a showing to all of the sponsors at the Rock Financial Center on June 10. Radio 760AM is also airing a piece about the video. We will probably have this video available for sale in our gift shop.

**Festival Planning**

Festival planning is well underway. Karen Kulic gave update:

- The pierogi dinner will include meatballs.
- All food handlers must have license. Permits are available at Herman Kiefer Health Complex. One-hour session offered multiple times a week. License costs \$5 and is good for one year. Permits are given immediately following session.
- Starting to solicit ads in about a week. We have a list of past advertisers and prospects. People have been assigned to follow up with these contacts.
- The removal of four electric poles may impact how the festival is set up. DTE Energy representative visited our site. We will know more in a few weeks if these poles can be removed.

**Cluster Calendar**

- Events for all three parishes will be coordinated to avoid conflicts. Fr. Mark suggested that representatives from each of the three groups submit an annual calendar, so we can avoid conflict. Then a master schedule can be put together for the entire year and given to each of the parishes.
- After we solidify annual calendar, we can publish monthly in the bulletin. We could post to web page, as well.

**Electronic Giving**

- Questionnaire was sent to parish members and we've received 72 responses so far. 55 said no, 17 said yes (a little more than 20%). When compared to the survey done by the Archdiocese, this is a good "yes" vote – as they only had a 6% "yes" response.
- We need to look at the annual report on envelope usage to see what the rate of giving is in order to see what 20% might represent. Fr. Mark thinks that about 80 of our 450 parishioners do not give at all.
- Tony stated that we can start this service with a minimum of 20 people. We need to look further into this and perhaps offer this to parish members. Committee would have to work out the details for Council approval. Comments from Council were primarily positive, as long as it doesn't cost the Church money. Tony also looking into "e-commerce" option.

**Reports & Cluster Activities**

**Stewardship**

- Weddings: Fr. Mark has prepared a brochure for weddings at our church. It includes all details needed to book a wedding at our church. In addition, he suggested that we buy a table at a bridal show and have a display of our three churches with an album of weddings at our cluster churches. Price for a table at Novi Center this fall is \$695, which could be split three ways. Need to think about how many additional weddings we can handle. May need more coordinators. Tony to take photographs and we will supplement with historical photos.
- School building: Work is continuing on the tuck pointing. Clearing out of the school interior continues and we will need another dumpster. Dumpsters will be gone by the time of the fireworks. Building almost entirely gutted. Ventilated glass block windows are going to be installed on the basement windows on the parking lot side. Basement has a terrazzo floor, just like in the church. It will need to be cleaned, but is in good shape. Basement walls are glazed brick and also in good shape. Current thinking is for the basement to have a kitchen. First floor would be for banquet rental and church activities. Second floor would be for KofC if they pay for it's restoration.
- Windows: Letter from the City of Detroit Historic Commission was given to Fr. Mark – windows are in conflict with what the Historic Commission requires. Fr. Mark will handle the situation, if necessary.
- Outdoor Maintenance: Fence is being painted. Trying to have Russell Street fence finished this summer. In addition, the new lot with Russell frontage was seeded. We will not be able to park here for fireworks. Ramp platform has been extended on top and privacy fence built to conceal smokestack. Also looking at plans for deck/ramp for entrance to school. We may have this completed by the Pieorgi Festival, with renderings of how we're envisioning the final interior, so that people can look at the inside and offer donations to the project.

**Worship**

- Two new lectors – Veronica Cuipek and Donna Tepper.
- Tony will now making the quarterly schedules for servers and lectors. Current schedule will go through September.

### **Christian Service**

- Alumni Dance was a social success, if not a monetary success. Looking for someone to take over responsibility for next year's 50th Anniversary dance.
- Food pantry is going to be moved to St. Joseph as of July 1. Notification has already been put in the bags that we hand out. Still need donations from all three parishes.
- Knights of Columbus – Tiger Tickets still available for June 25. The Fireworks event June 27 being coordinated by Tony Ziebron. Tony is also working with Men's Club and Ladies' Guild to make sure everything goes smoothly. We're looking at a possible attendance of 500 people. Security will be provided. We will have a moon walk for the kids and a variety of food. Knights would like more help from the Men's Club – Jerry will discuss with his group. In addition, some of the expenses could be shared (i.e., event license). Also need to get approval from City of Detroit – Building, Safety & Engineering Department. Request should go to City Clerk.
- Ladies' Guild - Father's Day Breakfast did ok, but not as many attendees as expected.
- Men's Club is preparing to submit a pedestal design to Fr. Mark for the statue they purchased for the new lot.

### **Education**

- On vacation for now – nothing to report.

### **Vicariate**

- APC reps. were asked to review the parish restructuring document and email changes back to the Curia.
- Marriage Encounter was shown as a vicariate/diocesan resource
- A Christian Service Advisory Council has been created and approved.
- The Vicariate Structure document has been approved from input.
- Some vicariates wish to screen and elect their own Legislative Advocate.

### **St. Joseph**

- Work is continuing in the church vestibule. One of the porches has been rebuilt and fence is being painted.
- Fr. Paul is leaving in July and we have another priest available to assist – Fr. Grzegorz Tokarski.

### **St. Josaphat**

- Knights of Columbus will meet monthly in the lower hall starting in July.
- The church interior has not been painted since 1968. Fr. Mark wants to change the outdated stenciling of the sanctuary walls.
- All new light bulbs in dome will be installed when painting is being done.
- Tridentine community was granted permission to have weddings, funerals, baptisms, holy day masses, in accordance with old tradition. They will have a Town-Hall meeting on July 1.

### **Fr. Mark's Talking Points**

- When it comes to clustering, we are the role model for the Archdiocese on how to do it well and peacefully.
- The cluster pictorial directory may not be published. The publisher said, according to our contract rules, we waited too long to complete and submit our part of the directory. Fr. Mark apologized for failure to submit in a timely manner.

### **Open Forum**

- Tony Ziebron: Today is the last meeting until September.
- Joan Kitka: Thinks that wedding show is a good idea and suggested that we include wedding videos. We can drop these into the PowerPoint presentation.
- Question regarding advertising for fireworks – Tony remarked that the KofC advertised to other nearby KofC Councils.
- There were objections to the fireworks crowd size that might show up, more people than we can accommodate, concern about the security of church property. The Knights should not have invited others from outside the cluster.
- John Zaporski: Regarding the Polish Story DVD – when will it be available? Probably one month after the premier showing
- The Polka Mass will be recorded again this year – last year's tape had some problems that couldn't be fixed.
- Phil: Question about Fr. Paul's leaving and his replacement – There will be a farewell lunch for him on July 1 at St. Joseph. The new priest, Fr. Grzegorz, will commute to St. Joseph, since he lives and works at Orchard Lake St. Mary's.
- Laurie Jarocha commented that she'd like to hear prayer intercessions for Life in the General Intercessions during mass. Normally our Prayers of the Faithful are pre-printed for us.
- Poland trip – only seven people thus far, so it may be cancelled.

Meeting closed at 9:05 PM with a prayer led by Fr. Mark. Next meeting Sept.12, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mercatante  
Parish Pastoral Council Secretary

Tony Ziebron  
Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson