

Minutes
St. Mary's Parish Annual Meeting
October 23, 2007

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bob Struck at 6:30 p.m.
Father Tom Biersack led the opening prayer.
In attendance were Father Tom Biersack and 26 parish members.

The minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting were read by Katy Schuessler. Dick Guse made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Phil Luce seconded this motion. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Father Tom reported that many positive things have happened this year. The school was reorganized and has a new principal. This next year the Finance and Administrative committee will look into ways of making the church more efficient. The Capital Campaign from the Archdiocese will begin this year. The celebration of the 150th anniversary of the church went well. Father is happy with the way things are going spiritually in the church. We are moving forward.

OPEN FORUM:

No issues from the floor.

SCHOOL REPORT:

Principal Wayne Graczyk reported that the school had an excellent start to the year. It has a wonderful staff. Enrollment is down some. They are repositioning the school. The School Advisory Board is very active, rewriting bylaws and forming subcommittees. They hope to bring the endowment fund under the Advisory Board. A Casino Night/ Golf Outing is being planned. There was a question from the floor regarding school security and unlocked doors during school hours. Mr. Graczyk responded that unlocked doors are allowed as long as a staff person such as the school secretary can observe them.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORT:

Kathy Ritger, Director of Religious Education, reported that 212 young people are involved in the program, ten less than last year and about 145 families. The catechists continue to work at improving their skills through workshops and classes, more of which are now available in Dodge County. A summer Bible Program was started this summer. Thirty children participated. She hopes to have this type of program again.

HUMAN CONCERNS REPORT:

Ann Guse gave the attached report on the Human Concerns Committee. She also made a plea for better communication in the parish. A discussion on improving church communication followed. The Council will look into this. Parish Ministries are reminded to put information on the website calendar.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

Mary Hoffman gave the attached report on the Prayer and Worship Committee. Also we have a new organist Tammy Loos, who is doing a great job.

Someone asked if we had considered having a Eucharistic Adoration. Father will look into it. Other parishes have had difficulty staffing it.

BINGO REPORT:

Deb Helmbrecht has prepared a report on Bingo results from the last several years. This year the contribution to the Parish from Bingo was \$15,000, up from \$10,000 the previous year.

Progressive Bingo was implemented last year, which was very successful. Bingo could use more volunteers.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- **BUILDING AND GROUNDS:** Bob Struck reported that projects currently before the committee are the altar rework, the rectory and church roofs and parking lots. We will receive compensation from the manufacturer for defective shingles on the church which are still under warranty.
- **FINANCE:** Don Bauer reported that the 2006-2007 fiscal year had a net income of approximately \$31,000 versus a loss of about \$81,000 the previous fiscal year. Some factors contributing to this were \$40,000 from the House Raffle and an increase in School Support. The Carpet fund currently has about \$15,000 in it. In response to a question Don explained that any money donated to this fund not used on the altar project would stay in the Capital Improvement fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

No issues were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ALTAR REWORK: Jeff Andes reported that the Building committee has met with an architect and come up with a plan to extend the second step of the altar area, move the altar down a step, tile the altar area, and put a vinyl sheet good under the pews and new carpet elsewhere. This would address some issues with acoustics and sight lines as well as brighten up the church. Total cost is estimated to be \$40,000. In response to questions, Jeff stated that the committee will check with an undertaker regarding their need for space near the altar, that no plans are being made for the choir area at this time and that he hopes to find a replacement for the side door.

Jeff Andes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Jacquot seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m. Father Tom closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Schuessler
Parish Trustee