

**Minutes**  
**St. Mary's Parish Annual Meeting**  
**November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Father Tom at 7:05PM.  
Father Tom Biersack led the opening prayer.

Tom Jacquot read the minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting. Between 25~30 members attended the meeting.

**Pastor's Report:**

Father Tom said that the parish has gone to weekly envelopes, which has improved the cash flow. Several members will be doing home visits to meet members who haven't been in regular attendance at the Mass with the goal of encouraging them to come back and participate in Parish activities. There are several new projects scheduled for completion with funding from the Faith In Our Future campaign, which are the remodeling of the Sanctuary and Sound System. The goal is to have these completed by Christmas 2008. We have tried to improve communication by use of the Quarterly newsletter and the Parish Website. Good things are happening and we have more people involved in Parish activities and groups. A question was asked if the construction will affect weekend masses and Fr. Tom said it shouldn't.

**School and School Advisory Board:**

The number of students attending St. Mary's is 90, which are down from last year. **Positives:** 2 grants have been received; one from Mary Schellpfeffer estate which was used to purchase 16 new computers for the school and named the computer Lab in their honor. The other from Bachhuber, which was used for a new phone system for St. Mary's, St. Andrews and parish administrative offices and Internet Access.

**Planning:** An open discussion town hall meeting was held and the School Advisory Board is discussing the results of that meeting. The planning committee is discussing how to reconfigure the school campus's, there will be a town hall meeting in January to discuss how this will happen.

**Fundraising:** The Casino Night/Golf Outing had a profit of \$42,000. The bingo kitchen fundraiser was eliminated.

**Marketing:** Improved marketing is being done to keep the parish members up to date on the school.

**Finance:** The Principal, Wayne Graczyk and the School Advisory Board have come up with a more realistic budget based on how much it actually costs to run the school. A better tuition payment policy was implemented.

**Policy:** The Bylaws were rewritten.

A total of \$6,000 for school/tuition support was received by anonymous donors.

**Christian Formation:**

Enrollment for this school year is 200 students in Grades K through 11. 128 families from St. Andrew's and St. Mary's. Wonderful group of catechists, some who continue to attend workshops and education to gain their certification. Added extra programs to complement

curriculum, Trip to St. Norbert's ROPE course, St. Francis Seminary, Year of St. Paul, Water for Peace. More youth involved with weekend liturgies by forming a youth choir, Jerusalem Marketplace during Lent, Bryan Sirchio concert. We have subscribed to "Gospel Champions" to help children connect with the Sunday Gospels. 21 Children enrolled in the Reconciliation and Eucharist program. 21 also preparing for Confirmation. 4 adults in the RCIA program. The young people continue to hear and learn about stewardship. Weekly envelope usage has grown with the largest return yet and a listing of their activities at home or helping others. A positive contribution by the young members of the parish.

### **Spiritual Life and Worship:**

Goal is to make our church more welcoming. Trying to get more people involved in all ministries of St. Mary's. Need to have more youth involvement. Will try to have the young choir from Friday mornings participate in the weekend liturgy. Several members attended the Liturgy Day workshop. Some events that took place this year were the Outdoor Mass at St. Andrew's, Outdoor Mass at St. Mary's, Remembrance Mass, and a Day of Prayer letter. Tammy Loos is beginning to develop a choir with the high school people. We try to actively increase the involvement of all parish members, both young and older in all church ministries.

### **Human Concerns:**

The Human Concerns committee's goal is to involve all members, both St. Andrew's and St. Mary's in projects to assist the needy at home and abroad, and to educate parishioners about social justice issues.

Annual activities the committee sponsors or coordinates,

**Quilting** - producing 50 bed quilts, 31 baby quilts and an assortment of other items donated to Clothes 4 kids, St. Ben's, House of Peace and Fr. Gene's HELP in Milwaukee.

**Food Pantry Weekend** - emphasizing the ongoing collection of non-perishable items for the Mayville Food Pantry.

**Pave** - Collection of requested supplies during Lent for PAVE in Beaver Dam.

**Socks for the Homeless** - February collection of new socks for men, women and children.

**Christmas in July** - To collect an ample supply of food to stock the local food pantry during the summer months. Also donations of socks and underwear for children and monetary donations given to Clothes 4 Kids to help them prepare for the upcoming school year.

**Crop Walk** - Committee coordinates participation of parishes to become aware of world hunger and raise funds for the needy. Of the \$1270 raised by our 2 parishes, 25% is used for our local food pantry and 75% is sent to Church World Service to assist the needy worldwide.

**Work of Human Hands** - In cooperation with Catholic Relief Services and SERRA International, moneys received by the sale of items crafted by Third World Artisans 7.5% was given to Catholic Relief Services and or 10% profit was given to Water for Peace, for a water filtration project in Iraq.

**Winter Clothing Campaign** - Winter outerwear is collected in October.

### **Plans for the upcoming year.**

Awareness and publicity to bring our programs to the attention of all parishioners. Support of Fair Trade products. Bread for the World to bring attention to the fight against hunger here and abroad.

### **Scrip:**

A new program was implemented where Christian Formation families can order Scrip and get 2% back to help pay next years fees. Scrip gave the School a \$6,000 donation. Although we are down to a yearly donation, we hope to increase it to 2 donations. Sacred Heart of Horicon was contacted and they will be running Scrip information in their bulletins with the goal of generating ore Scrip users. 2 volunteers resigned, but we gained 4 new volunteers.

### **Bingo:**

Started the year with \$5,675.10 Gross receipts of \$46,371.95 Interest income of \$36.66 Total expenses were \$31,406.88 (Prizes paid out of \$23,000.58) Gross profit of \$15,001.73, \$13,000 was given to St. Mary's General fund. 1403 people attended for an average of 140/date. 12 dates were scheduled but only 10 held 2 cancelled due to weather conditions. A new policy went into effect where bingo will be held only if there are 75 or more paying patrons.

### **Buildings and Grounds:**

A new Parish website and phone system was implemented. We reviewed the budget with the school to encourage cost savings and cut expenses. A new HVAC contractor was selected to lower annual operating and maintenance costs. A new Contact List was created and distributed to aid in getting people in contact with the appropriate personnel. The rectory will be reroofed with the shingles and money received in a settlement. Parishioner help was asked for at the Opportunity Fair to help with projects that need to be completed at the Parish and School.

#### **Questions:**

Would there be room for risers for the choir? Consideration was given but they may not fit in the current area.

Could the choir be at the back of the Altar? It was determined that it may be a distraction.

Why does the Church HVAC systems cycle on and off so often? There was a defective component since fixed to eliminate this issue.

Can the thermostats be relocated to get more even temperature throughout church? This will be discussed with the new HVAC support personnel.

Could the house on the corner be purchased and rented out? Archdiocese laws state the parishes are not to be in the business of being a landlord.

A comment was made that in the future we may have to decide if projected costs of maintenance exceed costs of new facilities.

### **Finance and Administration:**

Net income after expenses for the period from July 2007 to June 2008 was a **Negative** \$60,238.15 compared to a Positive \$101,013.64 for the period July 2006 to June 2007.

A net decrease of \$161,251.79

For the period July 2008 to October 2008, a net loss of \$13,559 has been incurred.

Church contributions are down 7.6% or \$9,800, School income is down 6.8% or \$7,700, church expenses are flat, school expenses are down 7.2% or \$14,000.

#### **Questions and Comments:**

Can we combine the Parish Center and Rectory? The costs to remodel without active parish member volunteer support exceed the costs to Heat and Cool the Rectory.

Can we remodel the Parish Center and use it for School Day Care? The School Advisory Board is discussing this.

Can we have another house raffle? It would involve an active and total commitment by the whole parish membership to be a success.

What about closing the school? The costs to maintain the facilities for Christian Formation and other activities keep the operation and maintenance costs similar to what they are today. The Archdiocese plan is to have CCLT schools (Lomira and Theresa) combined at Mayville next year.

What is the intent of the School Endowment fund? Its original intent was for the funds to only be used for tuition support.

A discussion of Stewardship and the fiscal condition of the parish will be held at the masses in the near future.

### **Faith in Our Future:**

The goal was to bring people together as a Faith Community. St. Mary's goal was \$335,000 of which \$328,000 has been pledged.

As of 7/30/08 we have received \$47,980.69

60% of the money received will be used for debt reduction and 40% for projects.

### **Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

A new vocation team was formed with the intent of promoting vocations in the parish.

### **Motion to adjourn:**

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Vogenthaler

2<sup>nd</sup> Vernon Neumeyer

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Minutes submitted by Tom Jacquot.