



**In Attendance:** Allen Bond, Ben Liuzzo, Jeff Sumeracki, Lou Agosto, Jeannie Buckner, Tom Fox, Thomas Donahue, Arelis Herman, Robert Murphy, Christopher Tucci, Laura Hogan, Jim Klein, Jim Doyle, Msgr. Bellow, Father Reid, Deacon Ron, Deacon Louie, Patti Fulford

**Absent:** Diana Peloquin

**Excused:** Eric Kennedy

**Formation:** Lou Agosto. Lou talked about a past visit to Hiroshima, Japan. Remembering this catastrophic holocaust can help us to forward the movement of world peace and ensure the use of atomic weapons does not happen again...

**Minutes:** The May, 2005 meeting minutes were accepted by the Council with one correction; the word "no" should be inserted on page 3, Pastor's Comments, paragraph 2, line 3 to read "but no immediate announcements are planned."

**Finance Committee Report:** Jim Doyle presented the Finance Committee Q4-2005 quarterly report. In summary, the full fiscal year, operating expenses were 4.3% above budget but offset by offertory revenues which were 6.4% higher than budget. The building fund savings currently stands at \$550,000 with expenditures of about \$100,000 for initial architectural renderings and marketing materials. \$2.2 million is currently pledged and St. Mark currently has no debt.

The Finance Council rolled out "DirectGive" during the week of August 15, 2005. This allows parishioners to automatically draft their weekly offertory on a monthly basis from their checking or savings account. As more parishioners participate, the time to process weekly contributions will decrease and cash flow will become more predictable. It is hoped that this program will result in an overall increase in offertory revenue.

**Capital Campaign Update:** Patti Fulford and her husband George recently took over the Capital Campaign Committee. They have had one meeting so far are preparing to present the Building Committee's schematics and architects renderings to church parishioners. They will also lead a revitalized capital campaign with the goal of reaching the remaining 50% of the parish that have not made a pledge to date. Key dates to note:

**September 17-18:** The unveiling of the schematics and drawings of our new church to the congregation at all Masses. Craig Lewis will make the presentations. All new banners will be installed and marketing materials distributed.

**2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Week of October:** Letters inviting all parishioners to "ABC" meetings will be sent. These meetings will be a town hall format from approximately 7:30pm - 9:00pm weeknights. Building Committee members will be present to answer questions about the project and to help promote further contributions. If parishioners cannot make their assigned meeting, they can attend any other without concern.

**Early November:** The Capital Campaign and Building Committees will "regroup" and plan for the meeting with the Diocese in December, 2005. The expectation is that St. Mark will request special consideration be made for early construction due to the rapid growth of the church.

**Constitutional Amendments:** The changes to the Pastoral Council Constitution [presented and discussed during the last meeting] were passed by unanimous vote of all members present. The document will be converted to PDF and posted on the website in addition to being archived in the church office.

**Council "Thank You" Notes:** The tables was opened for nominations of those to receive Pastoral Council "Thank You" notes. The secretary shall hand-write and mail the cards before the next meeting.

**Dawn Bonen-Clark** and **April Agosto** were nominated for their outstanding planning and leadership of this year's Vacation Bible School. **Patti and George Fulford** were nominated for accepting the call to lead the Capital Campaign Committee.

**GO Review:** Tom Donahue informed that the Reverence Committee met on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Tonight Tom presented two handouts titled "Preliminary Reverence Action Plan" and "Back to the Basic Questions" totaling 5 pages. The overall vision of the plan is to increase reverence during Mass through education and example. Tom requested each council member review the document and provide feedback and suggestions to him via email.

Ben Liuzzo reported that there are currently two people working on the new website's design and a 3<sup>rd</sup> person is "in the works." The website may not be ready to "go live" in September, but quality is being emphasized and the new Capital Campaign marketing materials and drawings will be utilized. There is still nobody identified to lead the Evangelization Committee. David Hains will lead the Stewardship Committee and has recently led the efforts of the Building Committee's Capital Campaign.

### Commission Reports

**Liturgical Commission:** Did not report during this meeting.

**Education Commission:** Laura Hogan handed out report containing a summary of Year 2005 to date and future plans. The upcoming series on the Liturgy and the Sacraments was discussed and will be presented by our Parish priests and deacons. Father Reid anticipates doing another series in addition to the 2<sup>nd</sup> "Seeking the Heart of God" series. In the Spring of 2006, a one-night talk for couples focused on marriage enrichment is being considered, possibly with a dinner and a guest speaker.

**Community Life Commission:** Did not report during this meeting.

**Family Life / Social Commission:** Jim Klein reported that a Volunteer Appeal is upcoming to encourage parishioners to volunteer their time and talents in any number of functioning committees. There will be a single "Interest Form" with several check boxes to be passed out after all Masses. The appeal will occur in September. Jim also presented a tentative social calendar. Furthermore, the Nursery Coordinator is now conducting training and background checks of any parishioner who baby-sits for any official church function.

**Stewardship Commission:** David Hains has accepted the chair of the Stewardship Commission. Monsignor asked that the secretary extend David an invitation to attend all future Pastoral Council meetings.

**Pastor's Comments:** Monsignor Bellow reiterated that the St. Mark Policies and Procedures Manual is nearly complete. Eric Kennedy is expected to present the final draft during the September meeting. The next step is to develop corresponding procedure manuals for each ministry in the church, such as LifeTeen, Preschool, Religious Education, etc.

We pray that our upcoming Capital Campaign be received well and generate a new excitement for our financial and construction goals. We also pray for and encourage participation in the upcoming Eucharistic Congress. The Women's bible study has moved to Thursday.

Home-school participation is on the rise. Due to the many needs of the program, a decision has been made that all requests related to the needs of home-school parents will be directed to the church office through a single contact person. Faith formation registration is down 400 compared to last year, possibly due to late registrations.

Deacon Ron is assisting the Education Commission in the development of curriculum and study materials.

**Closing Prayer:** Monsignor Bellow led the closing prayer.