

## St. Mark Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes † January 8, 2008

**In Attendance:** Tom Donahue, Kim Antolini, Scott Campbell, Mark Conter, Eileen Gallagher, Arelis Herman, Arthur Packard, Joyce Zagrobelny, Msgr. Richard Bellow, Dick Christian, Linda Gray, Debbie Hains, Father Pat Hoare, Deacon Robert Murphy, Deacon Louie Pais, Elizabeth Polo, Greg Scharlemann, Deacon Ron Sherwood, Stacey Wackerman, Beth Zuhosky

**Excused:** Rick Bonen-Clark, Theresa Rouse, Tom Rider, Christopher Tucci

**Absent:** None

**Guest:** Mary Alice Hollars, Elder Ministry

Tom Donahue welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Elder Ministry:** Mary Alice Hollars - In charge of Elder Ministry - discussed the programs and ministries provided by St. Mark. The goal of the committee is to serve the entire person - socially, mentally and physically. The Elders in the parish are very interested in the Health Ministry Lunch & Learn program. The ministry has just recently had a great response by elderly men. Depression is one of the major issues that the elderly face (due to loss of friends, loved ones, etc.). The Ministry tries to get them out of the house to social events, stewardship events, so that they can continue their faith development and enrichment. The parish now has 1002 adults that are 55+. Communications with the older members of the parish occurs via the bulletin, email, and word of mouth. We also leverage the paper to publicize events. The same communication approaches are used to solicit for volunteers, and this is very successful. The Elder Ministry would like to provide: 1) Computer class, 2) A "Lots of Helping Hands" website to help with, and 3) a more robust Bereavement ministry.

**Minutes:** The November 28, 2007 meeting minutes were approved.

### **Goals and Objectives Review:**

**Actively Involved** - Mark Conter and Arelis Herman expressed the difficulty they are having in how to be more creative with bringing people into the ministries. Tom Donahue mentioned that bulletin fliers are helpful (e.g. David Hynes with the Liturgy Committee). Tom asked that everyone review their needs so that we can publish flyers in the bulletin during March.

**Feels Like Part of the Family** - Arthur Packard and Scott Campbell discussed the need to understand from each commission/committee the events which they sponsor, manage or run. This will assist in better understanding what (if any) groups in the parish are underserved.

**Understanding the Faith** - Kim Antolini discussed the progress on RCIA follow-up, Catholic Book review and complementary programs for the parents of religious education.

**Survey** - This team is continuing to review the survey questions: documenting the need for each question and the potential uses of the information gathered from each question. Msgr. Bellow mentioned that St. Matthew's recently completed a survey, and recommended that someone contact St. Matthews to get a copy of that survey.

## Commission Reports

**Liturgy:** Need to determine if we are going to have a Spanish Mass on Christmas Day 2008. Tom Loughlin will handle the Homebound Committee chairman responsibilities. Ash Wednesday is February 6; there will be four Masses. Will have an Extraordinary Minister training on January 19. Noise between Masses was discussed, specifically related to events after Mass.

**Community Life:** Elizabeth and Beth discussed the Community Outreach Day to be held Saturday, June 7, 2008. The team is looking at many different service projects, each with a team leader. Team leaders need to sign up volunteers for the projects. After the day's events, Mass would be held, followed by a meal to be catered by Waiter's Choice. The team wants to publicize the event in the parish on February 23-24 and again on April 19-20. Elizabeth suggested that each parishioner bring someone new to the parish to welcome them to the community and spread our stewardship needs. We will want people to volunteer for as much as possible (a few hours to all day). Also we will have team t-shirts for each volunteer opportunity that can be purchased for a nominal fee. It was suggested that Beth and Elizabeth speak to the parish on Feb 23-24 and April 19-20. Also, the team is still looking for opportunities in addition to the ones that have been identified. Need to determine if we can have Mass following the Community Life Day on the St. Mark School field.

**Communications:** As soon as Community Life is done will print the remaining brochure and the ministry cart will be complete.

**Adult Education:** Scott Bruno has volunteered to help out. Why Catholic will start February 24, take a 2 week break for Easter and finishing in mid-April.

**Stewardship:** Children's offering envelopes are ready and will be available after Masses of January 24-25. We have a newly formed Children's Offertory Counting Committee. First weekend in Feb will be the first collection. Commitment Sunday will be coming after Easter; we will be talking up the need to volunteer. There is a Stewardship Conference April 19 in Concord to for which we'd like to encourage attendance.

**Family Life:** The Walk for Life - will have a group of people meeting at St. Mark to carpool down to the march at the end of January.

**Prayerful Reflection:** The prayerful reflection was led by Kim Antolini.

**Old Business:** There was some discussion on phone calls placed to new parishioners about the pledge campaign. Based on conversation, the calls were effective and pledges continue to come in.

**New Business:** Church Groundbreaking event needs to be planned; we're considering the weekend of March 29-30, 2008.

**Thank You Notes:** Recognition will be sent to: Claudette Kaveler and her committee for decorating the church during Christmas; David Hynes for all his efforts on the Liturgy Committee.

**Pastor's Comments:** We have the 40% in cash and 30% in pledges - we are over \$1M in new pledges. We will be adding the choir loft (which will add some length to the church) and the walkway. Entire church

will now be tiled and under the alter marble. The entire grassed area will be fenced in plus the drive next to the Stumptown Rd. The first thing built will be the new parking lot. And, there will be some additional 'closures' as needed by the construction committee. The meeting with Diocese will on February 26. The architectural diagrams are now 50% complete. We are still in need of a tabernacle, baptismal font, pews, etc. We will use memorials to fund these. Msgr. has asked Fr. Pat to head up the Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment (FFE&E) needs. With the Choir loft in the church, it will seat approximately 1400-1500 people. Msgr. expressed some concerns with the town of Huntersville, related to the traffic circle and the necessary permitting. Msgr. will be leaving on January 18 and will be back on January 27.

**Closing Prayer:** Deacon Ron Sherwood led the closing prayer.