

PASTORAL COUNCIL
ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION
Minutes of May 21, 2009

Present:	Fr. William Foley, Pastor	Andrew Smith
	Steve Showalter, School Principal	Sr. Myra Gilbert
	Robert Braswell, President	Barbara Fealy
	Josephine Clay, Secretary	Lisa Huntley
	Mimi Smith	
Absent:	Fr. Mark White, Associate Pastor	Gloria Garner
	Paul Sukalo, Vice President	Annette Gilbert-Jackson
	Regina Piazza	Charles Long
	Joseph DeCesaris	Johanna André

I. Opening Prayer / Introductions

Mr. Braswell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m., giving his welcome remarks. Fr. Foley opened the session with a prayer. Today was the Ascension of the Lord. It was not celebrated today because the feast was moved to Sunday. In other archdiocese like Pennsylvania, however, the feast was celebrated today.

II. Minutes of the April 16 Meeting

These minutes were posted on the parish website prior to the May meeting. The minutes were also electronically distributed to the Council members. Numerous hard copies of the minutes were available for review at the meeting. There was a quorum in this meeting. Lisa Huntley moved to approve the minutes of the meeting, and Mimi Smith seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved that "the minutes of the April 16th meeting be accepted as written without amendment."

III. Committee Reports

A. Principal's Report

In light of the tragic incident (Frank Vitale's passing) within the school and parish family, Steve Showalter observed how both families grieved and healed together. He expressed how poignant was the music during the Monday morning Mass in St. Mary's. He noted how the faculty choir has set an example to the students.

Presently, the school is accepting enrollment. The current count is 227. There are six to eight new families in the upper grades. Two new students signed up for Pre-K. Last August 2008, the Pre-K program was full.

Mr. Showalter received a phone call about St. Mary's closing. He had to clarify and verify that information and surmised that the school could be in Baltimore. He further mentioned that a task force has examined schools within the Archdiocese in terms of making Catholic schools available to all. St. Mary's is doing satisfactorily.

B. Knights of Columbus

The Knights would be nominating its officers for the new term on July 1, 2009. Last April 11th weekend, the Knights attended their annual convention in Ocean City, MD. The St. Mary's KOC Council received four First Place trophies in Youth, Church, Family, and Community categories. The KOC Council also received Second Place in Council service.

Fr. Foley commended KOC in ameliorating the traffic flow of the funeral services for Mr. Vitale. They helped the County Police Department, Sheriff's Department and the motorcycle escort police. KOC coordinated the flow of traffic with the local law enforcement.

Andrew Smith brought up the annual scholarship that KOC awards to an 8th grader. The student must submit an essay on one subject. The scholarship is for the amount of \$1,000.00 and a luncheon on June 5, 2009.

KOC would spearhead the barbecue on Pentecost Day. A discussion ensued concerning the decoration on the cake for the Pentecost. Fr. Foley referred to a window donated by an American church in the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome. The window is located behind the altar.

KOC also fed the homeless during the week of April 6, 2009. Mr. Smith noted that the number of recipients had been increasing each month and seemed to have stabilized in the hundreds.

C. Liturgy Committee

There will be processions in all five Masses for the May celebration. Following the May celebration will be Corpus Christi in June. Fr. White would be asked to get involved with Corpus Christi Sunday on June 14, 2009. There would be one procession for Corpus Christi. Two processions would be outside while the other three would be inside.

Rob Braswell reported generating a flyer handout for the Liturgy Committee. He gave two names of interested parishioners to [Linda Trott for Regina Piazza](#).

D. SMA Website/Church Bulletin

There are no new items in this area. The Pastoral Council has a corner in the bulletin. Hopefully, the Council Corner will be a regular feature.

E. Capital Campaign Update

St. Mary of the Assumption Church selected Market Development, a local company, to assist in the capital campaign. The Development Committee closely reviewed all vendors. This firm was the one that best fit the expectation of the parish concerning the operations of the campaign. Market Development was aggressive and characterized as a hybrid of the other firms. The Archdiocese approved this firm to handle the campaign and has a proven record of accomplishment. It has gone to Fr. Foley's home parish twice.

Market Development will help organize and minister the program. The church leadership, however, will need to implement the program. Fr. Foley reiterated what has been contained in the minutes of the previous meetings – to work with the architects and to concretize the vision for the parish. This capital campaign would provide an opportunity for the parishioner to pledge and to exercise other options to donate *e.g.* cash, credit card or stock options.

The campaign will start in August. Pledges will be sent out in early Advent. The strategy of Market Development is to work with current data and design a program that teaches people where to go and how to get money. There will be an explanation of how to give. Additionally, there will be a direct mail campaign.

Fr. Foley gave an update on the Crandall Rothstein House. Twenty-five thousand dollars of work were done on the façade of the house to comply with the County requirements.

IV. Pentecost Sunday Social

After the 1130 Mass, George Floria, Sr. would help with the grilling. Deacon Klco would help coordinate and display the cake. Rob Braswell would assist in the PCR. The plan is to get ice from the school kitchen. The Council would need donations for bottled water or soda. These items could be dropped off at the rectory. There would be refreshments with one jug of ice tea and one jug of lemonade. This social would be a simple event. It would also be a celebration of

the church's birthday, and a gesture of recognition for Charles Long's dedicated service and for the newly baptized and confirmed members of the parish. Beth Birch offered to bake the cake with an edible digital photo of the Holy Spirit.

V. SMA September Picnic/Ministries Fair

September 20, 2009 is the date for the parish picnic. The goal is to bring the entire parish and school community together. It will also be an opportunity to have a ministries' fair.

Last year, the CYO banquet and award of trophies occurred concurrently with the picnic. This year, there would be no CYO banquet with the picnic because CYO sports would start in the fall and no sports activity occurred in the summer.

Lisa Huntley acknowledged the Teen Club's assistance with the children's activities during the picnic. Perhaps, the Club would consider getting involved again this year.

VI. Council Elections

The term for the Council runs from June 2008 – June 2009. The Council must hold elections. Three members' term ends this year. Rob Braswell received three new names for Council membership. A member has to be eighteen years old, a registered member, a practicing Catholic, a willingness to serve, and attend meetings. The Council needs to get more names for new membership.

The election of the Council members has been scheduled for Pentecost Day. This time is now questionable due to the time constraint. Because of a delay in getting a slate of nominees to run for the three open positions, the election would be delayed until the weekend of June 20/21. These nominees would be presented in the church bulletin on the weekend of June 13/14. Elections will follow at the June 20/21 Mass.

Not all Council members are rotating. Fr. Foley notes that should one leave the Council, that person is invited and strongly encouraged to share his or her talent with another ministry. A member of the Council can serve up to a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Rob Braswell raised an issue for the Council. There was a need to follow up on new members of the parish. The parish would receive three or more new registrations. Although the parish has a Welcome Committee, the committee is not functional for this purpose. Mr. Braswell suggested that the Council reach out to the new members within the similar vein of St. Vincent de Paul Society. For

the next Council, the group needs to be more engaged by reaching out to the community and becoming visible. Wearing a name tag or a flower that will identify one as a Council member. Mimi Smith volunteered to get flowers. Mr. Braswell also requested for names to join the Council. Fr. Foley suggested scanning the parish directory and see whose name stood out. For example, Chris Gomez was not elected in the Council, but he redirected his talents to St. Vincent de Paul.

The Council's last meeting would be June 18, 2009. The Council's officer elections would be held at the September meeting. The first meeting for the new Council would be held thereafter.

During the summer, there would be subcommittee meetings to prepare for the Feast Day of the Assumption of Our Lady and for the parish picnic. The Parish Council would reconvene on September 17, 2009.

VII. New Business

- The pictorial directories were delayed due to the group photos. Presently, there was an option to get the individual photos out. The projected date of distribution was this past January. Questions were raised concerning availability of pictures on line in pdf form. There was no certainty.

VIII. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Fr. Foley invited Mimi Smith to say the closing prayer. Dr. Smith recited the Hail Mary in French. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.