

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
JUNE 19, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President, Roseanne DeFrancisco at 6:34PM.

The following members were in attendance: Father Jay, Theresa Bifulco, Roseanne DeFrancisco, Kathie Downie, Rich Falk, Joan Frith, Deacon Chris Nichols, Beth Takacs, Mike Takacs and Joe Webb.

Opening prayer: Joe Webb

A motion was made by Joe Webb to approve the May 2008 minutes. It was seconded by Mike Takacs. The minutes were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Blood Drive was held on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Our goal this drive was forty pints. Joan Frith reported that out of the forty nine people who signed up to donate blood, thirty seven showed up and twenty five were actually able to donate.
2. On June 4<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting of representatives from all of the merging parishes at St. Teresa's in Bridgeton. No pastors or Deacons were allowed to attend this meeting. Mike Takacs reported that each of the four groups of parishioners were given sets of questions to answer regarding what we are looking for in a pastor and how he will best serve the needs of the newly formed parish. A discussion followed each set of questions. Immaculate Conception Church in Bridgeton expressed concern over the issue with the Spanish at their church. Attendance has dropped dramatically at the English weekend liturgies. Poor communications between the Diocese and the parishes is a major concern.
3. On Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held regarding the St. Mary's Commemorative Book/DVD. See attached sheet for minutes of that meeting. Mike Takacs, Roseanne DeFrancisco and Kathie Downie will speak at all of the Mass on the weekend of June 28 and 29 regarding the plans for the book/DVD.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. We will be selling brass Christmas ornaments this year, with an image of St. Mary's on the ornament. They will also have the inscription, St. Mary's Parish, Rosenhayn, NJ ~ Established 1914 on them. Rich and Janine Falk have offered to photograph the church for the ornament template.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Evangelization/Ecumenical: There is a tentative schedule in place for the 2008-2009 RCIA program. We already have two candidates signed-up.

Fundraising: See attached 50/50 report. Also, \$14,250.00 has been collected for the House of Charity campaign this year.

Liturgical: No report

Maintenance: No report

Publicity: No report

Religious Education: No report

Social: No report

Social Concerns: No report

Vocations: No report

Youth: No report

Family Life: No report

COMMENTS FROM FATHER:

On Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, a the Diocesan trained team is coming to St. Mary's to speak on dealing with the process of grief and loss in regards to the merger of our parishes. The meeting will last 1 -2 hours and will be held in the Church Hall. Father Jay expressed his concern over the lack of involvement from parish council members. The response from parishioners has also been disappointing. There are only approximately 18 people signed-up to attend.

Father Jay was pleased with the turnout for the Commemorative Book/DVD meeting.

July 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for priests to put in to be conveners/pastors of the newly merged parishes. These newly named conveners/pastors will be announced sometime in August.

Closing prayer was led by Roseanne DeFrancisco, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

**Next meeting - Thursday, September 18, 2008; 6:30PM in the rectory.**