

MERGED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
HOLY CROSS, ST. CATHERINE, AND ST. MARK
SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

Members Present: * (N) New Member

Fr. Tim Birney	Paul Ivan (N)	Matt Fett, III (N)	Mike Rector
Sandy Malik	Margie Smith	Don Smith	Midge Fannon
Peggy White	Bob Goldenboggen	Angela Rochon (N)	Sandy McNeely
Debbie Vernier	Mary Endres		

Members Excused: Mary Patrick Ralph Buchman (N)

Others Present: Sr. Janet Judy Beauvais

1. Opening Prayer: Fr. Tim opened the first merged Parish Council Meeting of the year with a prayer to St. Francis. Fr. said he thought this prayer was appropriate for what we are trying to accomplish together.

2. Audience Address: No one was present to address the Council.

3. Approve Minutes: May Minutes were not approved at this Meeting.

4. Vicariate Report: Sandy McNeely stated that she will report on the Vicariate at our next meeting, since they have not met yet since the summer break.

5. Commission Reports: Margie Smith, D.R.E. stated that classes for Rel. Ed. will begin on Sept. 17th for preschool and the 18th and 19th for grades 1-8. There are 360 students, 118 of which are from St. Catherine's, and there are 26 teachers this year.

6. Pastor Report: Fr. Tim conducted the first Meeting of our newly merged parish council in order to introduce new and old members and to explain the functioning of a Parish Council representing three sites yet one parish. He reminded us that we will be an advisory board not a judicial one.

Informational sheets were distributed, stating the Stewardship/ Administration and Christian Service Commissions would be reporting to the council 3 times a year: November, February, and May. The Worship and Education Commissions will report 3 times a year as well: October, January, and April. As such, the Parish Council Meetings will be different from other meetings where, in the past, all commissions met at every meeting.

We were given sheets with "Frequently asked Questions regarding merging of parishes." Fr. stated that we are the first merging parishes who are keeping all three sites open. We are also unique because we are the largest clustered parish in the Archdiocese.

- a. What is a Merging? Merging is the joining of two or more parishes in a single new or consolidated parish with one site or one Mother Church and satellite worship sites. The merged parish has one parish pastoral council, stewardship/finance council and commissions. Clustering is two or more parishes, remaining somewhat independent, sharing a pastor, and is the first step leading to a merger of parishes.
- b. Why not remain as a cluster? Many pastors in a cluster situation find that duplication of administration and meetings is taxing physically. With a merging, we could utilize many unnecessary buildings differently and could expand our resources.
- c. When a merger occurs, does the parish take a new name? Often, a new name brings unity to the members of the merging parish. We would be keeping our church names but would have a new parish name comprised of three worship sites. We would be referred to as the Parish of comprised of the church of Holy, Cross, the church of St. Catherine, and the church of St. Mark. One site would be designated as the main church and administrative site for all of the parishes.
- d. How are sacramental records, parish membership, and finances handled when parish merge? The sacramental records of the parishes will be brought to one site designated as the main church of worship and administrative site. The membership is consolidated to form the new parish census. In January, new envelopes will be distributed to consolidated members. All finances are consolidated into a new account. The new parishes acquire all assets and liabilities, inclusive of debts.
- e. Will people lose their jobs? Discernment needs to be done by the Pastor to determine if some jobs need to be eliminated or new jobs added.

The next sheet addresses what Canon law requires regarding naming the newly merged parish. The name must have (1) the name of the Trinity, (2) the name of Christ, (3) the name of the Holy Spirit, (4) the name of Mary under a given title already found in the Mass, (5) the name of the Angels, (6) the name of a canonized Saint, or (7) the name of a Blessed, providing the Holy See has given its permission. The key elements for facilitating change in

the structure of a parish community and a successful merger are prayer, vision, and leadership.

7. New Business: Fr. Tim named our new President and Vice-President. Some discussion took place regarding obtaining a competent person to take the job of Secretary. Margie Smith nominated Peggy White for Secretary, after this discussion, and she accepted the office:

President:	Sandy Malik	-	St. Catherine Parish
Vice-President:	Debbie Vernier	-	Holy Cross Parish
Secretary	Peggy White	-	Holy Cross Parish

8. At our next meeting we will be:

1. Discussing our new parish name. A few names were suggested and will be submitted with names from the parishioners ballots.
2. Reviewing our goals and objectives.
3. A vote in the pews for naming the parish will take place in December.
4. After three names are chosen from ballots submitted, proper papers will be submitted in January to Cardinal Maida and he will choose our parish name from one of the three submitted, in order of our preference.

9. Member Reports: Sr. Janet asked that any member wanting to attend the Parish Leadership Conferences from Oct. 7 -12 should fill out a registration form for one of the five dates and locations listed. The Oct. 7th meeting will be at St. Mary's parish, St. Clair.

10. Concluding Prayer: Mary Endres gave the Scripture Reading.

11. Meeting adjourned: 7:50 p.m.

12. Next Meeting will be at St. Catherine's Chapel on Monday, October 9, 2006. Members agreed that the Chapel was better acoustically than the Gym for our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy White
Secretary