

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Council Meeting

September 12, 2009
8:30 AM to 11:45 AM
St. Mary of the Hills

Attendees: **Worship: Annette Kelly, Christine McGowan (Secretary)**
 Christian Service: Claire Bono, Dee Valade
 Education: Jim Soisson
 Fellowship: Margaret Sheldrick
 Finance: Bob Jackson (Vice President), Sue Thorn, Marlene DeBrosse, Mark Gathof
 Pontiac Vicariate: Mark Joyce, Jack Cashman
 Other: Cindy Yanachik (VoP), Bob Sheldrick (Seniors), John Hundiak (President), Fr. Stan

Agenda

Prayer Service	All	8:30 – 9:00
Opening Comments	Fr. Stan	9:00 – 9:05
Announcements	All	9:05 – 9:10
Commission Meetings	Commissions	9:10 – 10:10
Break	All	10:10 – 10:15
Welcome and Introductions	J. Hundiak	10:15 – 10:20
Old Business	J. Hundiak	10:20 – 10:30
Archdiocese Status	Fr. Stan	10:30 – 10:40
2009 Vision and Actions to Achieve	J. Hundiak	10:40 – 10:45
1) Parish Mission	Fr. Stan/ C. M ^c Gowan	10:45 – 11:00
2) Marriage Ministry	Fr. Stan	11:00 – 11:15
3) Marketing	J. Hundiak	11:15 – 11:25
Critical Commission Reports	Commission Reps	11:25 – 11:40
Closing Prayer	All	11:40 – 11:45

Additional Information

Special notes:

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Council Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2009
8:30 AM to 11:45 AM
St. Mary of the Hills

Prayer Service

All

8:30 – 9:00

[Celebration of autumn's changes and life's changes](#)

Opening Comments

Fr. Stan

9:00 – 9:05

Thank you to all for all the wonderful summer events – the 20th Anniversary, Vacation Bible School, SAW, etc were a great success and brought our parish community together during the summer. Now looking to the new year, we have our Parish Mission and the new Marriage Ministry to focus our attention on. The Parish Mission should set the tone for all parish activities this year, while the Marriage Ministry will help people be in fulfilling lifelong relationships (*see below for details on both*). Some of our Staff is participating in training called Good Leaders/ Good Shepherds. This training unifies us, and our goals for the new year are based in this training.

Announcements

All

9:05 – 9:10

- [Welcome to new members: Eileen Hohner \(Worship\), Marlene DeBrosse \(Finance\), and Cindy Yanachik \(Voice of Parish\)](#)
- [Finance – all bills were paid for Fiscal Year.](#)

Commission Meetings

Commissions

9:10 – 10:10

[See attachments](#)

Break

All

10:10 – 10:15

Welcome and Introductions

J. Hundiak

10:15 – 10:20

[Thank you to new and returning members. We are all looking forward to a good year ahead serving our parish community.](#)

Old Business

J. Hundiak

10:20 – 10:30

[June 2009 minutes approved.](#)

Archdiocese Status	Fr. Stan	10:30 – 10:40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Archdiocese lost \$14.5 million last year. CSA was less, investment income was less and collections were less than prior years and budgeted amount. The Archdiocese costs that are not covered are \$42,000/ day. As a result, 77 people within the Archdiocese may be let go from their positions. The Gabriel Richard building may be sold, and facilities and services may be moved to other buildings. The Archdiocese will be restructuring, with many areas not finalized yet. The St. John Retreat Center will most likely be affected in some way, since its budget is not being supported by the hotel/ golf course as intended when the center was built. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the changes affect St. Mary directly? Although nothing has been officially confirmed, some changes may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our tax will probably be raised by 1%, from 6% to 7% ○ Our CSA goal will probably be frozen at the current amount for the next 3 years. ○ Our return on savings may decrease from 3% to 2%. ○ Support services and auditing/ bookkeeping support services to the parishes will be decreased or discontinued. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The important thing is to be open and honest with the parish and any questions that may arise. If the council does not have the answer to a particular question regarding the status of the Archdiocese, parishoners may contact the parish office for follow-up. 		
2009 Vision and Actions to Achieve	J. Hundiak	10:40 – 10:45
<p>Our 2008 vision remains strong for 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To invite & encourage our parishioners to utilize their God-given gifts to become more involved in the parish toward full devotion to Christ. • To strive to play a more significant role in the lives of our parishioners. 		
<p>How do we (as servants) foster an environment to address these needs and others?</p>		
<p>Remember to wear your Parish Council badges when coming to Mass and circulate with people we don't know during coffee and donuts. NOTE: Parish Council is scheduled to host coffee and donuts on October 18, 2009 and June 20, 2010</p>		
<p>Continue to look for new ways to get new people involved in every aspect of parish life.</p>		

1) Parish Mission

Fr. Stan/ C. McGowan

10:45 – 11:00

Our Parish Mission is scheduled for October 25 – 28 (Sunday – Wednesday).

- The theme is DARE TO BE HOLY, presented by Bill Wegner of Good News International. Morning sessions will be offered at 9:45am (following morning Mass) and evening sessions will be at 7pm. The morning sessions will be condensed versions of the evening sessions. While the sessions build upon one another, they are independent enough, so that a person can attend any or all of the sessions. The Worship Commission is working on being able to provide child care for the evening sessions. Fellowship will follow each session.
- What is a mission? A mission is just like a retreat weekend, except with the entire parish here at our church home. It is a time to rejuvenate and revitalize, both ourselves individually and our congregation as a whole.
- Why now? This is a perfect way to continue celebration of our 20th Anniversary. A mission is the perfect time to reflect back, enjoy the present, and look forward. As we continue to Build Up God’s Kingdom – One Heart at a Time, our Parish Mission will help us grow individually and build up our parish community.
- What is the cost? There is no fee for anyone to participate in any of the sessions. There will be a free will donation for our speaker, and the parish will pay for Bill Wegner’s travel arrangements to Detroit.
- **Please spread the word about the mission in every activity and meeting for every group within the parish. We are also trying to advertise at neighboring parishes, within the vicariate, and within the local community.**

2) Marriage Ministry

Fr. Stan

11:00 – 11:15

There is a concerted effort being taken by local churches to strengthen marriage. St. Mary will be starting a new parish ministry with 3 aspects to it:

- **Parish Ministry** – this new ministry at St. Mary will focus on all aspects of married life, and will build off the existing pre-marriage ministry.
 - This is an opportunity to provide a service/ ministry to our parishioners and show our parish we want to be involved in what is important in their lives.
 - The pre-marriage portion will switch from the Pre-Marriage Inventory currently in use to Prepare-Enrich as part of this new ministry.
 - The ministry will assist engaged couples preparing for marriage, help newly married couples adjust to married life, provide enrichment for existing marriages, provide support for marriages in crisis, as well as be a resource for handling the unique challenges of second marriages and step-children.
 - **We are looking for couples who would be willing to be mentor couples as part of this ministry. There is training for this on November 13-14 at Zion Christian Church in Troy. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please have them contact the parish office. The parish will pay all fees for this training session. The training will be provided by Marriage Savers, a group from Maryland who assists local churches begin their ministries.**
- **Community Marriage Policy** – the second aspect of this new ministry lies within the community. It encourages churches to commit to forming a strong marriage ministry within their church.
 - There are currently 244 churches with this kind of marriage ministry in the US. In these communities, there has been a documented decrease in the divorce rate, a decrease in co-habitation, an increase in marriage, and an increase in satisfaction within marriage.
- **Legislation** – this third portion is being led by the Family Rights Coalition, and focuses on investigating modifications to the no-fault divorce laws in cases where children are involved. This is not only a community issue, but a financial one as well. In Michigan alone, there were 34,000 divorces last year and each divorce costs the state \$30,000 – that’s over \$1 Billion.

3) Marketing <p>New Marketing Ministry - How do we communicate in a new way to our parish and to our community around us about who St. Mary is and what we have to offer? This was a topic last year during our council meetings and we would like to start a new Marketing Ministry to be able to use the talents of our parishioners who have gifts and expertise in marketing/ advertising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force – Sue Thorn agreed to put together a task force to identify people within our parish who have advertising/ marketing experience/ talents. This team would offer suggestions and guide how we advertise our events so that our community is united in our activities and a common message is given to the community about who we are as a faith community. If anyone is interested in joining this new ministry, please contact Sue Thorn or the parish office. • The vision for the Task Force (Marketing Ministry) would be to improve and communicate St. Mary of the Hills' image to the parish and to our surrounding community. • During the next meeting Sue Thorn will report back on the status of developing the small team for the task force and we will discuss the guidelines for the ministry as well as the commitment from the council, commissions and staff to support this new ministry. 	J. Hundiak	11:15 – 11:25
Critical Commission Reports	Commission Reps	11:25 – 11:40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship – October 4th – Blessing of the Animals at 1pm, Life Chain 2:30-3:30pm, Rosary by Candlelight 5pm • Education – GIFT is starting with a focus on the Creed this year; enrollment is up for this year. Three families specifically stated they joined the parish because of the GIFT program. RCIA is in the forming stages. We have 2-3 people committed for this year, and are looking for any others would be looking to participate. • Christian Service – The Career Ministry met through the summer and will continue. If anyone knows of good, qualified speakers, please contact Christian Service (John Hundiak or Mary Patrella). The Giving Tree starts planning in October, with the final turn-in date for gifts in the beginning of December. • Fellowship – The calendar for the year is set – look for many activities planned. • Finance – All of our bills were paid for last year. The trend for collections is decreasing, so we will need to watch our budgets especially with any changes from the Archdiocese. • Vicariate News – The Hispanic Mass and fellowship afterwards was very well attended. Approximately 250 – 300 people attended, parishioners and those from other parishes. The Fall Assembly will be on October 26th at St. Andrew. All parish leadership from all vicariate parishes are invited to attend. Soup and salad supper at 6pm, followed by guest speaker Sheri Weddell from Catherine of Siena at 7pm. 		
Closing Prayer	Fr. Stan	11:40 – 11:45
Additional Information Prayer for the Parish Mission attached Parish Council meeting dates attached		

PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH MISSION

God our Father
We offer You praise and thanksgiving for
All the many gifts you have given us.

We thank you especially for the gift of
Our Parish Mission

Quiet our minds and open our hearts
To receive the gift of your truth.

Grant that our coming Mission will be a
Time of Grace for all.

A time of Growth for our Young
A time of Refreshment for our Old
A time of renewal for our Families
A time of Healing for the Broken
A time of Joy for the Sorrowing
A time of Challenge for the Complacent
A time of grace for the Sinner
A time of strength for the Holy
A time of Homecoming for those who
Have been away.

Grant, most loving Father, that the Mission
May bring down your richest Blessings
On one and all!

We ask this through the Intercession of
Mary, Our Mother, and all our Patron Saints
In the Name of Jesus Christ
Who is Lord of all. Amen.

2009/10 PARISH COUNCIL DATES

September 12, 2009

October 10, 2009

November 14, 2009

December 12, 2009

January 9, 2010

February 13, 2010

March 13, 2010

April 10, 2010

May 8, 2010

June 12, 2010