

**Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)
Approved Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2006**

The meeting started at 7:00pm with a prayer “I am the Resurrection and the Life” prepared by the Spiritual Formation team. In attendance were George Blandford, Bill Greenwell, Paula Voborsky, Susan Yackzan, Barbara Ulaszek, Lisa Powers, Walter Leachman, John Mitchell, Jenna Canning, Mona Brown, Jennifer Graehler, Steven Gray, Cindy Hellinger, Al Arbogast, Rebecca Ballard DiLoretto, Laura Kaczmarek, Eileen O’Malley, Ann Corley, Otto Piechowski and Father Jacob.

Others in attendance were: Patrice Daniel, Angie DiMeo, Kerry Nemecek, Tom Spanyer, Steven McCauley, Nancy Fister, Karen Snider, Karen Estes, Rita DeFosse, Mary Graehler, Wayne Mattingly, Shannon Johnson, Frank Parigi, Kathryn Banahan, Naisha Thoneay, Luke Smith, Cathy Boyd, Dan Yeager, Amy Brown, Mike Hogge, Mark Lund, Victoria Greenwell, Amy Mattingly, Dan Burch, Peyton Nunley, John Saindon, Ron Wedding and Leo Brown .

The following is a summarization of the discussion which occurred during the meeting regarding a letter that was sent to parents regarding changes in sacramental preparation at Mary Queen. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with Deacon Bill Greenwell presiding in the church:

The Parish Council meetings are open and you are always invited to attend. First let me give you history of how we came to the point where we are at right now. We studied and reviewed different kinds of religious education formation materials – Paula discussed some of the programs. Deacon Greenwell continued that he was hired five years ago and put in charge of this parish to serve the parish needs and be responsible for the parish. He looked around, observed, and listened to see what kind of parish we have. He further stated that he attended as a parishioner for years but had not been in charge. After accepting the Pastoral Director position, people came to me and said that we need adult education formation; we don’t have a young adult’s program; need something for the elderly. We have gaps. There is the feeling of us and them between CCD and the school. Over the first few years, I talked about a Director of Religious Education. Someone who can add some consistency and skills to address some of the gaps we have in education formation. It doesn’t stop at the 8th grade, high school, or 30. Everyday you get up, your religious education is going on. I wanted somebody that had the time and expertise to address religious education. It was not until this year that I was able to hire someone with this kind of expertise. We searched this past summer and hired Paula Voborsky. She has a Masters of Divinity, parish experience, and various kinds of experience with education formation. After hiring Paula, I wanted her to do two things: during the first six months to a year, look at all our educational programs, and assess where they are and what we might do to make the better. At the same time we have these gaps. We’re not doing much for the adults, elderly and young adults. I’m looking for something that will energize the entire parish, i.e. a total parish catechistical model, a total parish catechesis. Everybody at every level is talking about the same thing. She suggested a lectionary based catechism.

In October the Bishop had made up his mind to put a priest/pastor here at Mary Queen and my job as Pastoral Director would go away. At that time we thought there was no need to stop the study and research of the programs. Paula has done a great job. The problem that caused you to be here tonight is this: I got busy during the month of March. Paula was trying to get materials ready for the CCD program because she had looked at the possibility of using some of these materials in the CCD program as a test. In order to have a total parish catechist, you have these pieces that have to be

brought up at the same time. Lots of people have to be talked to at the same time and trained. Paula has begun trying to get some of these materials in place. Long story short, Paula spoke to me about getting information out to the parish. While I was away on a retreat, I did not read the email she was going to send out. I apologize to you for any anxiety this may have caused you. This is purely a study we are trying to work on. If you check the website, St. Andrews in Harrodsburg, Fr. Joe, they use total parish catechism. I think Fr. Joe will be happy with what we have. Ultimately, he and I will have to sit down with Paula and the staff. Nothing final will be done before Fr. Joe comes in. The program is not going to do away with anything that is here. We're looking to supplement what we have. It will get the parents involved more as they should be in the sacramental preparation of their children. The Eucharist level is not that different from what happens at the Confirmation level. Parents are encouraged to get involved with Confirmation preparation. The program Paula is looking at encourages that same kind of hands on family work in Eucharist preparation. We're not trying to do away with anything, not pushing the work on the parents, or teachers. None of those are being considered. We do want to continue faith formation of every person in this parish from the oldest to the youngest. That is what we're looking for.

Questions:

Q. How does this work?

A. Read next Sunday's gospel and then have a question of the week. A bulletin entry each week that talks about next week's gospel. The materials will tie to catechism, doctrine, dogma and have a question of the week. The various committees in the parish will even spend a little time before their meetings talking about the question of the week, on their level. So when you come to Mass, you'll be prepared. We preach the scripture.

Q. Is this a supplemental?

A. It will be supplemental to what normally goes on with the education class. It doesn't take away the other things they do. It doesn't replace.

Q. Rotate every year? Expensive?

A. That's the other part, the money involved. We have a process of ordering text books so just getting materials is expensive. That's why we thought we would test it first with the CCD folks, with a smaller population. It would have to gradually be incorporated into the school. The Bishop seems to like it. The idea is when you come into church on Sunday if you're prepared to hear the word it is much better coming and not knowing what it is going to be. This could be done at the opening prayer.

Q. I had dinner with the Bishop in January and asked him about the lectionary base. He referred me to the US Bishop's Conference. He said the lectionary base is not approved by the Bishop's office.

A. I'm not going to argue with whom you talked too but I know that there are lectionary based programs that are proven and being used by the diocese. We would be using text that had been approved. Paula is looking at and talked with Patrick Guentert who is the acting diocesan religious education person at this point. What I have been told is that the list that USCBC is not necessarily definitive or entirely up to date. We want to take a look at, make sure we review the materials.

Q. United States Catholic Bishops Conference (USCBC) website: Cardinal Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, had serious concerns on lectionary based catechist, general unsatisfactory and uncertain.

A. I don't disagree with what you said. This is supplemental to what we normally do. That's why we hire all of the teachers.

Q. The email seems to send a different message from what you're saying.

A. I am not blaming Paula. I would not have put that email out because there was too much information and it sounds like everything is in place and it is not in place.

Q. The 8th grade Confirmation preparation didn't get started.

A. I am not aware. As far as I know Confirmation preparation is as it has always been. Paula didn't come until the 25th of September. I have done nothing to change the Confirmation preparation. If there is anything different I am not aware of that.

Q. The parents that are sitting here would like to make sure that this is not going to change.

A. The program we are looking at doesn't effect what is going on in the classroom it is supplemental material that brings the family into the preparation. When I Baptize your child, I ask you, are you willing? Is there something that you can give to help us? This is a way to allow parents to get involved. This is a supplemental program, it does get parents involved. They come to a couple of meetings and rituals. It is very much like the Confirmation program which is the one I most recently remember because that is the one that I had my kids through. The parents are involved. There are questions that are things that you share. This Eucharistic program has the same kind of methodology to it.

Q. I think all parents want to be involved.

A. We're not going to eliminate religious education staff from the school.

Q. I don't think anybody is saying that. I want my child to go through the sacrament preparation and hope that it is not taken out of the classroom. You're saying that you are looking at this and going through the process, what specifically or how are you going to do it?

A. I know what I had intended to do. I can't speak past June 30. Paula is here and Father Jacob. I'm not sure if Father Jacob knows where he will be past June 30.

Q. The parents want to be sure that there will be some discussion before a change.

A. I can assure you of this. The reason you are here tonight is for me to tell you that the first conversation I have with Father Joe in the next week or two is this conversation and which direction he will want to go. I can't say Father Joe is going to do this or that. I can say that is not my intention to eliminate anything swiftly and anything without discussion.

Q. I think one sentence in this letter that I think disturbed us parents was religion will still be taught in the school but not sacramental preparation. I'm really upset that we need sacrament preparation in the

school. I think the Christian denominations are far better doing this than we are. And I would be the first one to agree that we need to do that. I strongly think that the sacramental preparation needs to stay in our Catholic school because it is part of our identity, of our Catholic education. That is why we send our children to a Catholic education and if it has to do with getting more non-Catholic students they need to accept the fact that our Catholic identity is based not only on our religion, our Catholic teaching, our faith but also on sacramental preparation.

A. Let me interrupt you there. You've made a leap that has no foundation anywhere and that is that we're doing this because we're not Catholic. The second part is that I haven't heard anything you said that I disagree with.

Q. Since the email that was sent out was not correct, is it still on the website? Should we delete it so more people won't be getting upset?

A. I hope that Father Jacob, Father Danny and my email would have supplemented that email. I have not had a chance to review the first email. Again, I take full responsibility for any anxiety that the first email caused. I asked Paula to move this forward and get information out. I don't have a problem deleting it and the second email that was emailed that we are living by.

Q. I think a lot of people got Paula's but never got the second.

A. I was not aware of that. I would be very happy to do anything we can to try to communicate. It is extremely difficult to communicate with 2,000 people.

Q. So the supplement does not replace?

A. What it does is bring the parents into the process where they should be. It also gives teachers things to work with within the classroom that makes the sacramental preparation more meaningful on both sides. It doesn't eliminate, it makes it better.

Q. How is it that it has become mandatory that we all get involved, with work and my family?

A. If you think that being invited back to the church 3-4 times during the year of sacramental preparation is too much to come back either assisted with the materials or some ritual to make it meaningful with the child, if you think that is additional work then the program has additional burden. What this program is meant to do is give the parents more information, more materials, more skills to assist the child at home to reinforce what the teachers are telling them. There are three assembly meetings, one pot luck dinner, and a prayer ritual over a four month period.

Q. Is this in addition too? We already come together.

A. No. Whatever you do in school is whatever the school has you do. You do not have additional parent meetings or enrollment meetings. Those meetings will be replaced by this program. There is work to be done between the teachers and Paula.

Q. Is the initial letter still on the website? It seems so diametrically opposed to the email sent by Paula.

A. We can take the first letter down and put the short letter on web so everyone can see it that way. Now that we have Fr. Joe, I will talk to him.

Q. The part of the letter I questioned is the criteria for each individual child attending catholic school. For Eucharist are we going to think you should or this this something

A. Also my concern. Sacramental preparation throughout should not be an inconsistency between school, CCD, home school but the program in the parish tries my feelings is that this kind of program in the spirit of the parish should flow out. Our hope is to get the whole parish lectionary based catechisms.

Q. You may have poorly catechized parents. They may get a chance to come back as an adult with a much greater depth and awareness.

A. I want people to come into that door because they want too not because we told them too. I think the way to do that is to try the best you can to continue to catechize people, get people to understand that faith doesn't stop here. Faith formation, it is ongoing journey. If people come to mass prepared then hopefully we'll get more accomplished. There is no way to make it all work without the principal's involvement. I spoke to her about it and she does understand it.

Q. The discernment process?

A. The first person who decides if the child has discerned to the level that is needed for the sacrament is the parent. The parent is the one that makes the decision if the child has discerned to the level of the sacrament. The materials provided to the child will determine if they have discerned to the level that the need to be at.

Q. The school is one of our most important preservations about denying anybody their sacrament because of the parent. What are you going to do if a parent can't come to a pot luck? I would like some kind of discussion, other opportunities? It is very difficult to trust that you're telling us one thing and Paula is saying something else. You're letter said something entirely different.

A. (Paula) The process in talking and listening to people, they want things so that they can be further involved in the religious education of their children. Upon arriving at Mary Queen, in things that I have read, they lined out a policy that two years are needed for preparation. This is where that is coming from. This is the policy that was in my office when I got there. In terms of discernment, it is simply the parent to make that discernment. In terms of the sacrament, whether a person is totally prepared for sacrament that is the option of the clergy/priest in charge. He has the right to say, totally a clergy decision. For First Communion, we currently have a few people not showing up for anything. It will be up to Bill as to the final decision. Discernment, join community and integrate the children, actions of Jesus. What goes on with the table of the Lord? Pull together, family, and church.

Q. Sacramental preparation not in school?

A. The program is a capstone. The Bishop thinks the sacramental preparation should be at a parish level, not CCD, school or home school. Parents make the choice of what is important between extra curricular activity and church. I understand what you are dealing with in slicing and dicing your life. Coach, I can't make this practice because I have this obligation. He either understands or changes it.

Q. Do you think that will alienate some of the kids?

A. Family value system, everything takes precedence over religious values, perception in the family. Educate the entire parish. You're going to have choices to make, sports first, sacrament second? Make a concerted effort to conform the entire parish from youngest to oldest.

Q. We're making a conscious choice to send children to this school. What if you can't come? I have three children. There is no way my wife can get all three where they need to be all the time. You have to make that choice. You're making the assumption that when we are at those other events; I'm not teaching or telling him anything.

A. This program allows you to take the materials with you. Church is not about what you're doing here but what you take with you out the door. In order to make this program work and ease anxiety, we'll have to do a lot of work in showing people, lying out and telling people as to how it will work. It's not going to happen over night.

Q. Is the program on hold?

A. Not entirely on hold. There is still work and research to be done. We will continue to move forward guardedly. I'll be meeting with Fr. Joe next week. I'll have a feeling from him at that point if we scarp this or move gently forward. Looking at Fr. Joe's website it looks like he is in favor of total parish catechist.

Q. Has it narrowed down to one program?

A. The program I am looking at with Paula is Living the Good News, Moore House for Us Publisher.

Q. Can we meet with Fr. Joe? He does not have a school in Harrodsburg to look after.

A. His point and vision are the same. That is what we're all concerned about. We have a lot of work to do.

Q. Seventh graders assist in Confirmation?

A. Laura is responsible for the liturgies. Children may assist with music and responsorial psalm petitions.

Q. Can the home schoolers use the program?

A. My hope is to get everyone working together all part of the parish.

Q. How do logistically, as a parent?

A. I have the same concerns. One of the concerns I have is CCD. We'll have to look at numbers, what needs to be taken care of. A large parish like this, it is difficult. I still believe we can work together as community.

Comment - I've had two kids receive sacramental preparation through the school and two kids through CCD. I can't say enough about how well run both programs were run. Make preparation special for

the kids. The parents already make it special. Kids are going to get what is caught, not taught! Educate parents to catch. Perhaps an extra burden because we're already doing it. Give to those parents not doing. Plea from teachers, please get children to Sunday mass. Educate children and adults, what a parish we could have. The choir is here, we understand, we're already there. Frustration is why people alienate. Those parents are not here. The concept is beautiful.

Teachers are qualified, prepared to teach. Don't take it away and give solely to parents. The program is a supplemental program. No one will lose job. Try to spread gospel. Figure and find ways to set fire. Get parish educated and formed to a level. Fears will go away.

Incorporate full Catholic education. Lectionary is great but don't forget about tradition. Illiterate Catholics need basic training, at home with parents. What takes priority? Plenty of things to teach. Common area, get conversation going. Where I sit, there is a lot of work to do.

Meeting was moved to the RCIA room.

The January 2006 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Youth Leadership – Jennifer Graehler and Steven Gray

We had a very successful Mardi Gras fundraiser dinner/dance. The members of the youth group acted as servers, and the adults who came had a great time as well. The high school group has gone on two wonderful retreats so far in 2006. In February, about 18 youth went to "Fire & Ice" (a Lifeteen retreat in Indiana); and this past weekend 24 youth from Mary Queen (and 16 from SEAS) attended Cincinnati zoo, a Eucharistic-based retreat that everyone loved. The Youth Group began a "Spiritual Adoption" program on March 25 (The Feast of the Annunciation). For nine months each person will pray for a special child in danger of abortion. We will have our annual Lenten fundraiser April 1st, 2nd and April 8th, 9th after the Masses. Over spring break, we are having a 24 hour Food Fast and Service morning. We are going to fast and pray for the poor, then go work at the Catholic Action Center with the Middle School Youth Group the next morning. The High School Youth Group is reaching out to invite new people to attend our meetings. We each thought of a person to pray for in a special way. We had 12 youth attend the BUILD meeting.

Ad-Hoc Communications Committee – Leo Brown

Obviously tonight is an example of miscommunication. We have to find a way to let people feel that they are being heard and that they are getting the information they need. We determined the best method is surveys. Assess how parishioner is getting information. Do they feel informed and connected? We've considered outside sources. About a \$10K initial assessment was submitted by one survey consultant, which is outside of the scope of budgetary concerns. A friend has agreed to assist for a nominal fee, \$3,000. He is a college professor of statistics at Georgetown College. In addition, he would charge about \$1 a sheet to scan the survey forms.

Comment: The Stewardship Committee had a survey with a small committee calculating results. There were about 600-700 returned. They were mailed to every household. This occurred six years ago. The committee did follow-up calls. The most important group contacted were those parishioners not using envelopes.

We want demographics, to get a feel from everybody. We want people to feel informed and connected. It can be done on our own. We're talking about distributing surveys during mass in the

pews. The vocation survey 3-4 years ago, we ended up with about 1,200. Average Sunday attendance is 1,500-1,800. Surveys voluntarily offered will get a return of about 900 – 1,000 people filling them out. Hold in pews, a return will be higher. Conduct after communion prayer or before entrance. Survey should take 3-5 minutes max possibly before the entrance, delay mass a few minutes. There would be a brief presentation. Have questions geared towards adults. A new idea is a power point presentation in the gathering area. This would be an opportunity to catch more people with information. It could drive your point home. Place near the Suggestion Box.

Liturgy – Jenna Canning

Holy week schedule: Thursday – 7:00, Friday – 3:00 and 7:00, Saturday vigil – 9:00, and Sunday – 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30.

Stewardship – George Blandford

The Stewardship Committee had its second meeting of the calendar year on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 from 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM in the Church Parlor/Library. The meeting focused on the spring Time and Talent Registration. Based on input from the Rectory office staff, the sign up form will continue to request that all parishioners register their time and talents. The weekend of April 22-23 is Sign-Up Weekend. This is the weekend following Easter.

Four Stewardship and four PPC committee members attended at least one of the Diocesan Stewardship Programs on Saturday, March 18 at Cliffview and March 25 at Stanton. Deacon Wakefield organized a very good program with a different keynote witness at each seminar. The Mary Queen stewardship activities were included in both seminars. Bishop Gainer praised George Blandford's efforts. Approximately 85 participants attended the two seminars. At the end of each seminar, Bishop Williams shared his conversion journey following the Stewardship Workshop in Action held in Hershey, PA by Kirby-Smith and summarized the topics covered. In addition, Bishop Gainer announced that he is forming a diocesan stewardship committee to advise him and the Secretariat for Stewardship, Deacon Wakefield. Representation on the Diocesan Stewardship Committee will include someone from the Diocesan Finance Council, Presbyteral Council, Council of Pastoral Directors, Diocesan Pastoral Council and at least one at-large representative from each of the six regions comprising the diocese.

School Board – Susan Yackzan

Non-public school accreditation visit completed on March 13th and 14th. The formal accreditation findings are pending at this time. We are continuing to work on Strategic Plan. The board is currently recruiting parishioners with expertise in strategic planning. The Parent Survey will be distributed March 29, 2006. The School budget and tuition for 2005/2006 school year is currently under review. The School board election of parent representative to take place at the end of April. Reviewing Mary Queen standardized test scores and other academic measures. There was a request from group of parents for an informational meeting regarding the curriculum. The presentation is about curriculum and will take place March 29th at 6:30 p.m.

PAC – Ed Flaga

Parents Advisory Committee will host toiletries sorting at the Center for Women, Families and Children on Saturday, April 1 at 10:00 a.m. The parish is invited to participate. Eighth grade activities leading up to their Confirmation are to be completed by this coming Sunday, April 2nd. To date only 35 of the 100 children involved in the Confirmation program have completed all of their activities. We

are currently discussing changes in the CCD program at Mary Queen. Suggestions have been made to change to a more family oriented religious formation program. Ultimately we realize whatever changes are agreed upon will be subject to approval by the new pastor.

Education/Formation – Paula Voborsky

See beginning of minutes.

Parish Life – John Lazzari

There was no report.

Finance Council – Walter Leachman for Jason Ivy

The month end Financials, DAA, Communications Committee, Internal Controls Committee, Mass Schedule Subcommittee, School Finance update, Diocesan Building Commission handout, Dreamstakes, Minutes posting on the web for Finance Council and School Finance Committee, improve links. The Dreamstakes raffle has currently sold 314 raffle tickets and 200 event tickets.

Social Action – Kabby Akers

There was no report.

At-Large

Thank you to Susan Yackzan for bringing the refreshments.

Business Manager’s Report – Walter Leachman

The Diocesan Progressive Tax Assessment will change next year from 8% to 10.2%, to a max of 12.95% the following year. The impact to our budget next year is estimated to be \$100K, \$30K is due to a change in the assessment base and \$70K due to the rate change. The 2006-2007 parish and school budget has been reviewed by the School Finance Council and School Board. The parish budget subcommittee is reviewing the parish overall budget. The joint parish council and finance council meeting is scheduled for April 25th. The total operating parish financials through the first eight months of the fiscal year reflect a net income of \$416K vs. a budget of \$380K, or \$36K to the good. Offertory is up about 5.0% over last year, very positive. Year to date we are matching the budget. The overall annual budget increase was set at 6.22%. School Tuition and expenses are tracking well to budget. The Bulletin Subcommittee recommended a renewal of our contract with Diocesan Publication. We were able to increase our income substantially through the committee negotiations. Diocesan Annual Appeal letters were sent the first week of February to parishioners who did not pledge. We are still \$34K short of our goal of \$111K. **Deadline is the weekend of April 29th and 30th.** The Education Life Center bid process took place last week. The bids exceeded our budget and an Executive Board meeting took place this past Friday. We are going over the bids line to reduce as much as possible. We are planning to go forward with the project.

Pastoral Director’s Report – Bill Greenwell

The BUILD Action rally on March 20 was a success. The Mayor and the Superintendent was greeted by 1,009 registered people, 57 were from Mary Queen. The Mayor agreed to put money in the budget for women incarcerated and implementation of middle school program for anti-bullying with proven track record. The addition of the four classrooms construction process has begun. The bid was a couple thousand over \$525K, \$547K but we are working that figure down with the finance committee,

David Carter, George and parishioners. Completion will be mid August. The original plan stated August 8. It is simple construction but somewhat costly since it is an addition

Old Business –

See Ad-Hoc Communications Report.

Election Transition Team

The election process is moving forward smoothly. The initial meeting was held on Sunday, March 12th. Several interested candidates participated. That meeting was attended by three of the gentlemen who had submitted their Statements of Interest. They were Steve McCauley, Eugene Fox and Dan Burch. Ron Wedding and Leo Brown were unable to attend. Eugene Fox has decided not to pursue candidacy for an At-Large position. He feels that his work schedule would not allow him to attend the meetings as needed. The current candidates for the three At-Large positions are: Leo Brown, Dan Burch, Steve McCauley and Ron Wedding. All Candidate Profiles have been received except one. These profiles and discernment questions should be posted on a board in the church gathering area sometime between April 2nd and April 9th. It should remain there until the election takes place on the weekend of May 20th and 21st. Voting will take place during the masses that weekend. Votes will be counted after each mass. The PPC Final Discernment Meeting should be held on Sunday, May 7th from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in the Mary Queen Parlor. There will be absentee ballots available in the parish office from May 1st through May 12th.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the RCIA meeting room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Cindy Hellinger, Recorder
George Blandford, Editor