**Minutes of St. Mary Parish Pastoral Council July 11th, 2016**

**Present Members:** Father Tim Sheedy, Mark Sovers, Mark Petersen, Adam Haluska, Alan Wieskamp, June Maiers, Kathy Hirl, Deacon Mitch Holte, Mary Knight, Marianne Harney, Nancy Upmeyer, Pat Zimmerman and Deacon Chris Weber.

**6:35 pm –**President Mark Sovers called the meeting to order. The group read the Mission Statement together.

**6:36 pm – Roll Call -** Mark Petersen

**6:37 pm –** Father Sheedyled us in prayer and reflection using the new prayer format.

**6:40 pm –** Motion was made to approve the **Minutes from June 20th meeting and passed.** Motion was made to approve the agenda for the **July 11th meeting and passed.**

**6:45 pm - Article 11, Section 1, bullet point 5.** Discernment discussion revolving the nomination of June Maiers to the Pastoral Council while holding the Liturgy Commission chair. Father noted that June has done and continues to do a wonderful job with the Liturgical Commission. Her name should have been pulled from the nomination before the drawing, last year Bonnie Mattaliano’s name was pulled because she was the chair of social action. Kathy Hirl noted that the by-laws specifically state that a commission chair cannot hold a discerned member position on the Pastoral Council. By-laws are handed down from the Diocese as a guideline. An alternate could take her place and she can continue to serve on the Liturgical Commission.

Nancy Upmeyer noted that the morning of the nomination things moved quickly and that they assumed that since her name was in the basket of 4 names that everything was ok. Vise President Adam Haluska was out of town that weekend and they proceeded with the drawing.

Father Tim offered that he felt her name being drawn was the work of the Holy Spirit and he didn’t want to go against that. Father also noted that a motion would need to be made to either allow a “suspension” of the rules in the by-laws or that we remove June from the Pastoral Council and allow an alternate to take her place.

Kathy Hirl noted that again the by-laws are a guideline handed down from the Diocese and Father Tim stated that the council has the ability to make changes to the by-laws.

A motion was made by Mary Knight to “suspend” **Article 11, Section 1, bullet point 5** and it was seconded by Kathy Hirl. Motion passed by majority.

Pastoral Council elections: Mark Sovers discussed Page 5, **Article7, section 1 and 2, bullet point 1** in the Parish By-Laws. Mark Sovers has been President for 2 years in a row now and according to the by-laws was ineligible to be President of the Parish Council.   
When asked if he would accept the nomination he said he would. Pastoral council then discussed changing the Article 7 section 1 by-law allowing for Mark Sovers to remain President. A motion was made by Mary Knight to nominate Mark Sovers as President. Seconded by June Maiers to suspend **Article7, section 1, bullet point 1.**

Vice President nomination was made to be Alan Haluska by Mark Petersen with Kathy Hirl.

Recording Secretary nomination was made to be Mark Petersen by Kathy Hirl and seconded by June Maiers.

**6:46 pm – Lightning Round for Commission Report:**

**\*Faith Formation-** No report.

**\*Church Life:** See Social Action.

**\*Liturgy, Worship and Prayer:** June stated that there hadn’t been a meeting since the last meeting but wanted to thank everyone involved in the 40th year celebration for Father Tim. Concert by Julie Carrick with the theme of “Mercy”. August 15th at 7:00 PM. Next meeting is August 16th at 5:00 PM.

**\*Family Life:** VBS planning in process. Family picnic August 22nd.

**\*Music Ministry:** No report.

**\*Helping Hands:** Beginning preparation for Harvest Festival. September 11th is the scheduled date. Helping Hands will be doing the Bidding Barn. Meet the week of 8/15/16. Met last June 20th. Updating circle leaders and Helping Hands help book.

**\*Social Action:** Alan represented for Bonnie and he discussed the fact that Social Action would like to hand out pamphlets for educating the parish on voting. No one will be allowed to speak to the congregation due to sensitivity of the church and state. Discussed conscious protection act bill 4828, could prohibit all employee health plans to cover abortions. Father stated that Bonnie should get something in the bulletin about the bill.

Well-formed conscious when voting. There is a form available to that helps voters identify how best to identify a candidate for this falls Presidential elections. Bonnie will be printing the form and putting in the pews.

Dear Bonnie --

This is an urgent alert… The House of Representatives will be taking up Rep. John Fleming’s legislation to protect doctors and health care providers who have a conscientious objection to taking part in abortions.

The [**Conscience Protection Act of 2016**](http://www.patriotvoices.com/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fpatriotvoices.rallycongress.com%2F20712%2Fsupport-conscience-protection-act%2F&e=042a77531f3d37392eba43e5dd391bc14af69062&utm_source=patriotvoices&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=conscience_cpa&n=1)(H.R. 4828/S. 2927) will also stop states like California who have mandated that all employee health plans, including churches and religious organizations, must cover abortions, even late term abortions.

Louisiana Congressman John Fleming has fought tooth and nail for this critical bill for 5 long years and now Speaker Ryan is bringing it up for a vote.  Barack Obama’s Administration has refused to uphold federal law that bars your federal tax dollars from being used to discriminate against pro-lifers like you and me. Congressman Fleming’s bill is necessary to enable victims of this government discrimination for their pro-life convictions to pursue legal action, as that is often the only way to hold governments accountable.

No point is this more critical than after the Supreme Court’s decision to turn its back on women and the most vulnerable in our society just a few weeks ago. The time for our voices to be heard is now!

Call your Member of Congress and Senators now at [(202) 224-3121](tel:%28202%29%20224-3121) or [**send them a quick email here and urge them to support Congressman Fleming’s Conscience Protection Act.**](http://www.patriotvoices.com/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fpatriotvoices.rallycongress.com%2F20712%2Fsupport-conscience-protection-act%2F&e=042a77531f3d37392eba43e5dd391bc14af69062&utm_source=patriotvoices&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=conscience_cpa&n=2)

And call Louisiana Congressman John Fleming at [(202) 225-2777](tel:%28202%29%20225-2777) to thank him for standing tall for life!

Pro-life leaders need to be encouraged and those on the fence need to know that we will hold them accountable.

Standing for life,

Rick Santorum

P.S. [**Please ta**](http://www.patriotvoices.com/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fpatriotvoices.rallycongress.com%2F20712%2Fsupport-conscience-protection-act%2F&e=042a77531f3d37392eba43e5dd391bc14af69062&utm_source=patriotvoices&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=conscience_cpa&n=3)[**ke just 1 minute to send a quick email here to your Member of Congress and Senators to tell them you support the Conscience Protection Act of 2016**](http://www.patriotvoices.com/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fpatriotvoices.rallycongress.com%2F20712%2Fsupport-conscience-protection-act%2F&e=042a77531f3d37392eba43e5dd391bc14af69062&utm_source=patriotvoices&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=conscience_cpa&n=4)**!**   
  
Patriot Voices  
[http://www.patriotvoices.com/](http://www.patriotvoices.com/?e=042a77531f3d37392eba43e5dd391bc14af69062&utm_source=patriotvoices&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=conscience_cpa&n=5)

**\*Parish Nurse:** Grief share will start August 2nd at 7:00 PM once a week in order to allow some time for Deacon Chris Weber to attend. Finishes up in mid-November. 3 presenters are scheduled. Article will be in paper and other churches are being asked to attend as well. October 2nd visiting nurses are doing Flu shots. Loan closet is missing a wheel chair. Nancy will put out a note to request some more equipment and label it boldly so that they won’t go missing. Looking for speakers for health speakers as well as topics, two in the fall and one session in the spring. Working well, looking at a company to manage the AED for certification. Nancy checks it every week. Doug and Nancy will take Kirkwood CPR instructor class and offer it at St. Mary’s possibly in the fall. If parish members want to be certified it would be $5.

**\*Stewardship:** No report.

**\*Knights of Columbus:** Elected officers for this year and they are working on a new Tootsie Pop drive. May be run around Halloween at the end of October. Respect for Life where Tootsie Rolls are for support of those with mental disabilities. August 7th is the altar servers picnic.

**\*Finance Council:** July 26th there will be a town hall meeting about the dismantling of the old church in the church hall at 7:00 PM.

**\*Deacon Chris Weber:** Deacon Chris updated the council on the meetings he has attended. He will be meeting with Nancy Upmeyer’s grief share program in August. Making visits to Mercy Hospital and the Nursing homes. Summer Stretch ministry activities will help with preparing kids for Steubenville and for those kids getting ready for the work force or to enter college.

**7:40 pm – Father Tim’s Report –** Town Hall meeting about dismantling the old church is July 26th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center. Chuck Brock will take the piano, needs the keys for donor board. Need to make sure everyone knows that the environment at the old church is very unsafe due to mold and asbestos. May require a signature by people if they want to go in.

1.5 to 2 years out. Need an engineer and architect to look into the process. Required so that we can keep grave space. Not safe to leave the old church standing as well as the cost to maintain insurance etc. Looking at having an auction to sell bricks, pews etc.

St. Mary’s is selling land out by the trail head for water collection and electrical sub-station. Money collected was approved by Diocese and will go towards the tearing down of the old church. This area will have trees planted around the area to hide some of the look.

Nick Satterlee replacement resumes are being collected. Advertised in Dubuque, Catholic Massager and Universities. Only 10-15 hours per week.

**7:50 PM- Current Works: Work session will be August 8th.**

1. Liaison of Parish Council to other commissions. Mark Sovers currently sits on Finance and we have 7 commissions and only 6 members. Looking to add Stewardship as a commission with an assigned liaison.

* Liturgy- June Maiers
* Church Life- Alan Wieskamp
* Stewardship- Mark Sovers
* Family Life- Mark Petersen
* Social Action- Mary Knight
* Faith Formation- Adam Haluska
* Finance- Trustees (Jim Luedtka or Kathy Hirl)

1. Update items on the By Laws. Changed “elected” to “discerned”. Eliminate area discussing you must be 18 years old to “elect”. We don’t elect members.
2. Vote on change allowing Mark Sovers to serve a 3rd year as council President.
3. Council members to start reading “Stewardship Throughout the Parish” and “Rebuilt”. “Jubilee of Mercy” should be read and underline the first 9 pages before next meeting. “A church on the move” is another book that we could purchase and members to read.
4. The last 15-20 minutes of the meeting were spent discussing the End Pew collection of names and distributing those to the appropriate commissions or contacts so that they can be contacted. Stewardship will be meeting on this and refining the list then they will follow up with the appropriate contacts soon. Volunteers were promised that they would be contacted within 3 weeks and it has been nearly 2 months.

**8:20 pm- Summary of the pastoral council meeting.** Work session topics identified.

**8:25 pm-** Following the new prayer format, the closing prayer was said by Father Sheedy and the group.

The next meeting will be a Work Session on **Monday August 8th at 6:30pm** in the Adult room.

**8:35 pm-** The meeting was adjourned