

## St. Maurice Church Parish Council Meeting Minutes September 14, 2010

Attendance: Fr. Stan, Kathy Perlitz, Dolores Betti, Charlie Luchini, Sharon Snuffer, Dennis Eslinger, Janusz Herasimowicz, Sharon Scorso, Bonnie Benevides, Rella Bernabucci, and Patti Cineia.

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

The following agenda was discussed:

1. The minutes from June 8<sup>th</sup>'s meeting were reviewed. Clarified is that an "area" rug will be placed in the library. Woodland Gardens has not been approached yet regarding the removal and replacement of ornamental shrubs in front of the Church.
2. Dolores gave an update on the status of reconstruction activities in the Parish Center. The roofing project has been completed. In the kitchen, cabinets and sinks have been installed. The Christmas Fair Group would like to purchase a warming oven for church wide events. Mike Harney donated two cabinets in the room akin to the kitchen for increased storage availability. The library floor has been tiled, with 3 of the 4 bookcases expected to be finished and mounted by mid October. The library furniture, held in storage, will be delivered Wednesday. The air handler in Rella's office was replaced. The new furnace is fully operational in its new location, and the old furnace room has been converted into a storage room. Admiral Cleaning, hired to clean both the Parish Center and Church buildings for a \$432 monthly fee, thoroughly has cleaned the Center building of reconstruction debris. Some discussion ensued on the issue of possibly replacing the original tables in the hall due to heaviness and a few with some wear; however, a decision was reached to keep the tables due to their sturdiness, height adjustability and greater width. The Certificate of Occupancy is still pending as the town building inspector has added a needs list, including the fire wrapping of the chimney stacks and kitchen hoods. The town sanitarian is requiring the kitchen cabinets to have several coats of polyurethane. There is a meeting scheduled next week with the Finance Director of the Norwich Diocese and the Risk Manager/ Claims Adjustor from Catholic Mutual Insurance. The contract with this property insurance company stipulates that payment for reimbursable damages is given only when these damages have been repaired fully. Thus far, the parish has been compensated approximately 25%. The agenda for this meeting will include clarification of contractor projects and a time table of expected full reimbursement. The cracked backsplash in the Church kitchen has been removed, with damage probably resulting from inability to stay adhered due to chronic dampness perhaps complicated by water intrusion from the many leaks in the Church roof. The interior wall received 2 coats of Kilz. Other immediate concerns are that there are several breaches on the church roof with rain water leaking into the NW vestibule and interior sacristy wall. Dolores has requested bids on replacement of the church roof, with Elite Roofing coming in as the lowest bidder. They would be able to replace a section of the flat roof at a time, with priority placed on the section over this vestibule. Another concern is the failing of the retaining wall in front of the Parish Center, causing erosion with a significant size hole in the asphalt directing water run off towards the foundation of the building. The flat roof sections on the Rectory are leaning in towards the building and eventually will need to be addressed, as well as the lightning rods previously disconnected (? by who), reattached. Fr. Stan stated that all construction projects are on hold until review by the Finance Council and as monies from insurance reimbursement allow.
3. Rella announced that Faith Formation commences 9/22/10. All catechist positions are filled. Thus at St. Maurice, there are approximately 35-40 children enrolled in the Wednesday program, and 8 more children have signed up at Sacred Heart for their Sunday program. Eleven children from St. Maurice are registered in Confirmation Prep, and 4 are involved as Peers for Confirmation Prep and Youth Group. She is still receiving new registrants into the program. Noted was some decrease of enrollment this year, with some families signing up for catechism instruction at other churches, which requires their registration with that parish. Notable has been the opportunity for both catechists and families to choose the day that best fits their needs. The change this year is that Confirmation Prep became a combined program with Sacred Heart, as the youth here had requested last year. There cannot be any classes held in private homes due to Safe Environment for Children stipulations, nor can there be a splitting off of parishioners in starting their own faith formation program.
4. The Finance Council will be meeting in September, with review of the recent auditor's report and finalization of the annual report to the parish.
5. The Building Committee and Building and Grounds Committee have been combined and renamed the Property Management Committee, with a motion accepted for the renaming. Dolores will continue to act as chairperson. Paul Brown and Lou Cloutier, coordinators of the former Building and Grounds, have chosen not to continue in this role; therefore, a person is needed to act as vice-chairperson. Dolores was requested to solicit a person for this role by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

6. In keeping with the adage, "it takes a village to raise a child", Dennis informed that a presentation of "Called to Protect" will be given at St. Maurice on October 13<sup>th</sup>. This is related to the Safe Environment for Children ministry, and will involve a video presentation, followed by refreshments. This presentation will be offered twice yearly. Attendance is required for anyone involved in a ministry working with children and has not yet attended a Virtus presentation or has complete the online Armatus training program.
7. The motion of seeking a vendor employing a professional photographer to undertake the process of formulating a new Pictorial Directory for our parish was approved. Kathy will advertise in the bulletin the need for a new coordinator for our parish to help with this endeavor. The Council expressed gratitude to Mark Fiano for his effort in coordinating the 2006 Directory.
8. Once reconstruction of the Library is complete, this space will be dedicated in honor of Fr. Cronin, who oversaw the construction of the Parish Center in 1970. It is hoped that this will occur in October.
9. In keeping with the policy of rotation of Parish Council members after a 3 year term, as identified in the Constitution of St. Maurice Church, Kathy requested that council members, outside of those recently elected, identify their year end point for their term.
10. Irene Kwiatkowski will begin recitation of the Rosary following Masses on Sunday and Tuesday mornings. Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays will restart in October.
11. Fr. Stan announced as part of the new translation of the Roman Missal, he will be attending a workshop in Boston next week to help prepare the laity to recognize the language changes in responses and song during Mass. Implemented will be a more formal translation of the Latin into English. The new changes become mandatory in Advent 2011. There will be a whole year process of catechesis, giving people time for becoming accustomed to the changes.
12. Tom Manning forwarded an email today to all members of the Council this morning concerning issues he would like addressed in his absence this evening; however, due to time constraints, they will be tabled for the next meeting.
13. Patti will coordinate another Ministry Day for our parish. Date TBA.
14. A motion was made again to have the weekly financial contributions report inserted into the bulletin.
15. Fr. announced that on October 5<sup>th</sup> (at St. Matthew Church) and 20<sup>th</sup> (at Sacred Heart Church) the Vernon Deanery will host the Pastoral Planning Process for Strategic Planning for Parishes. These sessions will be conducted by Sr. Elisa, and anyone interested in learning more please plan to attend. Fr. said that 200-300 people are expected in attendance. Afterward, each pastor is to appoint representatives from each parish to work further on future strategic planning. Fr. identified that these appointees would need to meet 3 qualities: a broad view of church, a great love for the Eucharist, and those who are civil in conversation.
16. Lastly, Sherri expressed a concern about the use of the Internet as a means of communication of parish related information or ideas. She noted that some of the emails she has received had been forwarded to people outside of our parish. Many members articulated concern of the negative comments, some hurtful, communicated by this medium. It was suggested that civility be practiced, and that comments or feedback be communicated in a positive manner.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea