

ST. MAURICE CHURCH
Bolton, Connecticut
Combined Parish Council and Finance Council Meeting
November 18, 2010

Attendance: Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Rella Bernabucci, Ray Lemaire, Joel Cohan, Michael Harney, Mark Fiano, Charlie Luchini, Sharon Snuffer, Sharon Scorso, Lou and Dorli Cloutier, Bonnie Benevides, Dennis Eslinger, Tom Manning, Janusz Herasimowicz, and Patti Cineia.

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:05 p.m. led by Fr. Wojciech.

The following agenda was discussed:

1. Fr. Wojciech introduced himself to and was welcomed by the combined Councils.
2. Kathy provided Father an introduction to the process of selection, term membership and rotation of Parish Council members. Membership to the Finance Council is appointment by the Pastor.
3. Rella presented to Father the recent history of the changes to the Faith Formation Program. This included the change to a more traditional program with weekly catechetical instruction, the use of a text for each grade level, as well as the combination of both programs at Sacred Heart and St. Maurice. This has allowed families a choice in either attendance on a Wednesday at St. Maurice or Sunday at Sacred Heart. The catechists from both parishes have also interchanged parishes. Due to the small size of youth involved, the Confirmation Prep Program of both parishes was combined together to allow for more community. Currently there are 55 children from St. Maurice participating in the Faith Formation Program, with another child registering today. Presently, a teen baptized as an infant with no further catechetical instruction, is progressing through the RCIA program, and will be received into the Catholic Church this Easter.
4. Ray introduced the members of the Finance Council. He informed Father that St. Maurice Parish had no established Finance Council until one was appointed by Fr. Stan in 2009. He further stated that a primary goal of this Council is to recommend to the Administrator that only high priority items get approved for expenditure. He recommended to Father that no further extraordinary expenses occur unless approved by the Finance Council to help prevent further financial strain on the parish. The Christmas Fair and Share and Care Groups have their own bank accounts and that Father will need to co-sign checks. Ray referred to the recently submitted bulletin insert entitled, **Financial Review for the Period 7/1/08-9/30/10.** He gave a background of the liquid assets, capital expenditures, and projected annual net loss of \$16,400, which increases currently due to payment of the salary for a full time priest (the parish paid half of Fr. Stan's salary when yoked). Recommendations made by this Council include: adding a third Mass on the weekend; reducing tithing from 10% to 5%; review all our operating procedures; better management of heating systems (correcting the thermostat problems in the Church to avoid overheating the worship space); ask the Property Management Committee to investigate rental income with review of the Diocesan insurance policy and request those renting out space to provide their own insurance coverage with a rider; and a reduction of the cathedraticum. Mike added the listing of items as presented by the Property Management Committee requiring attention in 2011: restoration of the flat roofs on the Church and Rectory roofs, replacement of the water tanks in the Parish Center, adding a dehumidification system to the Church basement, and addressing the eroding bank in front of the Parish Center. Questioned was whether the church property was zoned by the Town of Bolton for property rental. Father Wojciech has signature authority over any expense. Father was informed of the significant reduction of Mass attendance when yoked, including the popularity of the 7:30 a.m. Mass. Many parishioners enjoyed the early Mass because of its timing and meditative aspects without music.
5. Lou provided an update on the current focus of the Property Management Committee. He stated that this committee would assess repair and maintenance needs with looking at the total cost. He noted that an overhead pipe in the main hall of the Parish Center was repaired recently to prevent unnecessary damages from water leakage. A dumpster was rented to take care of the immediate needs of the Christmas Fair. M & M Oil Co. has readjusted the thermostats, with particular attention in the Church to fix the current problem of over heating the worship space area, and daily

programming to accommodate only the current needs when this area is in use. There are three zones in the Church: basement, sacristy and church proper. He stated the 20 remaining gallons of paint -- paint which was used for application to the church basement at a cost of \$90 per can, total cost of \$1,800 -- will attempt to be returned to the vendor. He advised to look at resource within the parish that may provide services at minimum cost.

6. Father was informed that our parish has 31 active ministries with coordinators appointed. The listing of ministries is available on the parish website. A recommendation was made to include this listing in the bulletin.
7. Dorli addressed the increase in activities of the Christmas Fair Group in preparing for its 40th annual Fair this Saturday. Some of the proceeds from the Fair will be dedicated to payment for completion of the last bookcase with floating lower shelving in the Library. Mike will meet with Theresa this week to ascertain the balance owed to the contractor who built the cabinetry in the kitchen and Library, and thus the money needed to complete this work.
8. Joel provided Father the historical background of the Bolton Ecumenical Council. Many years ago this council was created as a charitable organization tied in with the Salvation Army, and provided financial support to Bolton families in need. Presently, the Town of Bolton assumes this activity. Currently, the group membership includes the pastors of the 4 churches in Bolton, along with lay representation. Meetings occur generally three times per calendar year. Addressed are areas of common interest and town projects, and planned are a joint activity during Lent and Thanksgiving. This council sponsors local Boy Scouting.
9. The Vernon Deanery will begin the Pastoral Planning Process for Strategic Planning for Parishes. A group of three representatives from each of the eight parishes within this Deanery will meet monthly until April 2011. The first cluster group meeting on November 8th was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6th.
10. The Library Dedication Ceremony has been delayed due to the incompleteness of the last bookcase.
11. Father Wojciech announced that the new schedule for weekday Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. He will add a third weekend Mass, with Mass times to be scheduled for Saturday vigil at 4:00 p.m., and Sunday mornings at 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The announcement will be made this weekend, with institution of the new Mass times the following weekend. He will determine the Mass schedule for Christmas.
12. This year the Holiday Share Program will be limited to Bolton families in need only. Currently there are 43 families identified by the Town of Bolton in need of assistance. St. Maurice will provide Thanksgiving Food Baskets to all these families, with the assistance of Tom and the Confirmation Prep students in arranging and delivery of the food collected. For Christmas, the Methodist Church and Bolton Women's Club will provide assistance to St. Maurice in collection of gifts.
13. Correction of minutes of the October 27th Parish Council meeting includes the bookshelf on the back wall of the Library with roll out shelving will not cost \$7,000. Lou discussed this issue with the contractor. The corrected cost of construction will be \$5,325.
14. Father was informed of the purpose of the Share and Care Ministry Group. The intention is to provide a reception following the funeral of a parishioner. All requests for funerals and receptions require notification and permission. The food is prepared by a group of parish volunteers, with some of the food items purchased.
15. Sign up for Father Stan's reception is in both vestibules in the back of the church. All are encouraged to attend.
16. The meeting adjourned with another welcome to Father Wojciech, and closed at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea