

## St. Maurice Parish Council Meeting of August 8, 2011

**Attendance:** Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Sharon Scorso, Ron Massimino, Sybil Bartone, Dennis Esliger, Janusz Herasimowicz, Tom Manning, Jonathan Van Dine, Bonnie Benevides, and Patti Cinea.

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

The following agenda was discussed:

1. Fr. Wojciech introduced Jonathan as appointed new trustee for the parish.
2. Minutes of the Council meeting of May 10<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and accepted.
3. **Pictorial Directory:** Sybil presented the Council an itinerary of dates with respect to meetings, information flyers, bulletin postings, requests for volunteers, and photo appointment sign-ups for the new Pictorial Directory for our parish, slated for this Fall. The motion to again include group photos of various ministries was accepted. Sybil will be meeting with a representative from Olan Mills shortly to assess the parish facility for best picture taking areas. Parish volunteers are needed to assist with coordinating appointment times for parishioners to have their portraits taken, as well as greeters and clerical support for the photography team on dates of photography sessions. Sybil stated that Linda Wiley has volunteered to make reminder calls the night prior to the appointment. Volunteer sheets will be posted in the back of the church starting the weekend of September 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>. The Council expressed gratitude to Sybil for coordinating this endeavor.
4. **Property Management:** Ron stated that the doors to the Parish Center have been rekeyed. A listing of parishioners retaining new keys is filed in the Rectory Office. A partition wall with a pocket door has completed construction in the Rectory kitchen. Ron painted trim both in the Rectory and Parish Center, as well as radiators in the latter. He would like to paint the exterior trim on the Parish Center, and stated that Lee Snuffer has offered to power wash the deck. Father Wojciech stated that he has received a loan for the church flat roof replacement cost of \$67,000. The roof project has been completed. It has an expected life of 20 years. A slight pitch was added to encourage water run off; however, there is still ponding in select sections, which should not have any negative outcomes. Tom added that if there is any interior water intrusion in the Sacristy, then this would probably be a masonry problem. The masonry appears to be in good condition. Father hopes that repairs to the interior of the church worship space, including replacement of damaged ceiling tile and painting of wall sections, be completed prior to the start of Faith Formation. Father has a meeting with the insurance representative this Monday regarding potential reimbursement. Discussed was the possible replacement of the ceiling lights on the interior of the church proper with more appropriate and luminous fixtures. Tom will contact a national manufacturer, located in South Windsor, whose specialty is church lighting, for more information and cost.
5. Offertory envelopes for visitors have been acquired and will be reserved at the usher's tables.
6. A letter of support for the appointment of Fr. Wojciech as administrator for our parish, signed by all members of the Parish Council, was forwarded to Bishop Cote.
7. **Youth Ministry:** a small number of teen youth attended the Teen Canteen dance May 13<sup>th</sup>.
8. **Faith Formation:** Father announced that thus far, 44 children have registered for the Faith Formation Program. Due to the number of youth enrolled and classrooms, there will be a combining of grades (ie. preK/Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2). A benefit is that this will enhance time allowed for sacramental preparation. There are a sufficient number of catechists, with another meeting anticipated for teachers in September, before classes commence. Upcoming events kicking off the program include the blessing of students and their backpacks, and the introduction and blessing of catechists. Faith Formation classes will begin Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.
9. **Safe Environments:** Dennis stressed the necessity to provide Safe Environment training for all adult parishioners that will come in contact with children during any ministry activity or event on church property. All catechists need to complete training. Failure to comply could jeopardize our insurance protection. There are 2 ways to complete training. One way is to complete the Armatus on-line training program. The second manner is to attend a video presentation. Dennis will give a video presentation open to all parishioners on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-9:00 pm. Father Wojciech will contact catechists to ensure they have completed certification. The Diocese requires that age appropriate handouts on the subject of Safe Environments are given to children attending the Faith Formation Program. The handouts are to be simply reviewed by the catechists at the

start of Faith Formation. Ensued was how to present this information to the children. Father will address this further during the next Teachers Meeting. Dennis added that he anticipates relocating out of state; therefore, a new coordinator for this ministry will be needed. The Council is grateful for the time and energy that Dennis has devoted to this important ministry.

10. **Finance Council:** Father Wojciech announced that Mike Harney has been named chairperson of the Finance Council.

11. **Property Rental:** With respect to reviewing opportunities to increase financial revenue, Kathy provided an update on BINGO. Upon review of other parishes that sponsor a weekly BINGO night, approximately 6-10 volunteers/week are needed for proper management. Doors generally open to the public at 5:30 and close at 9:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed between 4:30-10:30 p.m. Profits are generated through the selling of BINGO cards and food. These parishes report an annual income generated from \$20,000-\$30,000. A few of these parishes ceased operating BINGO due to a decrease in attendees and lack of volunteer support. Start up cost is about \$1000. A parish who upgraded their electronic equipment has offered their old equipment in good condition free of charge for 6 months. Afterwards, if this activity proves successful, then we could elect to purchase for a nominal fee. The Council motioned to first solicit a group of committed volunteers to coordinate/assist with this activity, and then institute a pilot program. With respect to rental of the Parish Center, Tom and Sharon volunteered to pursue and investigate how it could be managed reasonably, legally and feasibly. Issues, such as renters needing to acquire insurance through Catholic Mutual, as well as cleaning fees, parish overseers, were addressed.

12. **Survey:** Sharon stated that she received 40 responses to the parish survey that was mailed earlier in the year. Some feedback obtained were on issues of reinstating Children's Masses, Pro-Life activities within the parish, reinitiating the Confirmation Prep program at St. Maurice, initiating adult faith formation groups. Father Wojciech stated that a monthly Adult Bible Study group could be formed. Social activities after the Saturday Vigil Mass, which might include a light dinner, were addressed. The Council will discuss this further in upcoming meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea