

## Parish Council Meeting of October 11, 2011

**Attendance:** Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Dorli and Lou Cloutier, Sharon Snuffer, Janusz Herasimowicz, Tom Manning, Ron Massimino, and Patti Cinea.

Fr. Wojciech opened the meeting with prayer at 7:03 p.m. The following agenda was discussed:

1. **Faith Formation:** Classes are progressing well with 64 children now registered in the program. This number may continue to rise in October. Class size is not greater than 16 children, with the highest number in the upper grades. Currently 4 youth from St. Maurice are in the second year of Confirmation Prep, which is being held at Sacred Heart Parish.

2. **Safe Environments:** Approximately a dozen persons attended the Safe Environment video presentation here at St. Maurice last month. All adults actively working with youth, including catechists and teacher's helpers, are required to be certified in Safe Environments.

3. **Finance:** The Chancery has mandated that all parishes in the Diocese participate in the Increased Weekly Giving Program. This entails mass mailing of letters to all parishioners encouraging them to prayerfully consider increasing their weekly offertory donations to the parish. The letters mailed to our parishioners have been customized. The cost of this program for the parish is \$350. This covers a \$1 per household mailing. The Finance Council will meet at 7 p.m. tomorrow. A question arose whether the parish could accept matching donations from employers. Paula Meyers will be contacted to clarify this issue. The replacement of the flat roof sections on the Church at a cost of \$67,000 has been borrowed with an interest rate of 5%.

4. **Property Management:** The one leak that occurred after the flat roof sections of the Church were replaced has been corrected. There is a more elusive leak in the Sacristy area, probably involving the tower and brickwork. The circular construction of the tower with straight brick increases the incidence of water intrusion. The most effective means of remediation might be to repoint the brick and seal it. The Property Management Committee will solicit three experts. This autumn, attention will be directed to replacement of the damaged ceiling tiles in the worship space of the Church, and painting of the interior walls. The Parish Center Hall interior window trim has received a fresh coat of paint thanks to Ron. Due to the enhanced activity in the Center because of the start of Faith Formation classes, the building will once again receive weekly cleaning from a professional contracting service.

5. **Property Rental:** Tom has received and is presently reviewing documentation from the Diocese with respect to property rental and insurance restrictions.

6. **BINGO:** The loaned equipment from St. Margaret Mary Parish has arrived. Application for permission to commence has been forwarded to the State of Connecticut. There will be a meeting on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Library for those persons directly involved with initiation of this activity.

7. Several Parish Council members continue the phone campaign of contacting parishioners identified on the inactive members list. The purpose is to inform them of the many changes that have occurred in the parish and extend a warm invitation to return to active membership. Members shared their experiences of reaching persons on the phone, including several voicing appreciation of being contacted; the challenges of solely reaching answering machines, and phone numbers no longer in service. This campaign will continue with the plan to complete contact by November 8<sup>th</sup>. Kathy and Sharon will draft a second letter for distribution before Christmas which will include an invitation to the December Triple Play Café Breakfast, and provide information as to the Christmas Vigil/ Day Masses.

8. In an effort to promote socialization for those persons attending the Saturday Vigil Mass, Father Wojciech has offered to make a pot of coffee for those wishing to stay awhile after Mass, and visit with fellow parishioners. Ron will discuss with the KOC the possibility of hosting a monthly Saturday evening meal with grinders, chips, salad, coffee and punch. Start date and location (lower level of Church vs. Parish Center) has yet to be determined.

9. The Youth Group will meet this Friday evening at 7 p.m. with the presentation of the movie, Soul Surfer.

The meeting concluded at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea

