

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of September 11, 2012

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

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:05 p.m.

The following agenda was discussed:

1. The minutes of June's meeting were read and approved.
2. **Faith Formation:** Catechists will be blessed this Sunday during Mass, with classes commencing the following Sunday. Enrollment currently is 51 students with anticipated more registrants forthcoming.
2. **Safe Environments:** A letter composed by Karen Caise, Director of Safe Environments for the Diocese of Norwich, was read. The letter included a status report for our parish. All new parish volunteers must complete required training within one month of starting service. Safe Environment reports and materials are on file in the Rectory Office. Dennis Eslinger has resigned as Safe Environment Coordinator for our parish. Patti was asked to fill this position, at least on interim.
3. **Finance:** Stable.
4. **Property Management:** Painting of the front exterior of the Parish Center is completed. Lou has been asked to forward the name/contact of person to complete the back exterior of this building. The difficulty in achieving hot water from the faucet in the kitchen has been resolved with plumbing correction. The new walkway in the back of the Church requires fill. Professional cleaning of the lower level classrooms ceased for the summer months. It is expected to resume with the start of Faith Formation classes. Mike Harney is investigating the quandary with the phone system. The generator that supplies the Rectory is malfunctioning.
5. **Facility Usage:** Rental for a family reunion party held this summer was successful. Another inquiry for usage within the next 3 weeks has been submitted. Action will need to be immediate as paperwork will need submittal and approval.
6. **Social Media:** The use of direct deposit in lieu of offertory envelopes is growing. Tom will print out an electronic giving envelope for those parishioners who have expressed a need to drop something into the collection basket. Faith Formation Registration forms with payment can be done on line. The monthly cost for the Vanco service is \$25. Recommended is to separate both weekly electronic donations online and traditional offertory envelopes followed by a total amount collected into the bulletin. Methods of promoting evangelization of the parish have included posting pictures of both the interior and exterior of the church on Facebook. The possibility of introducing social media to the parish could be held during the October Coffee Social. Requested was to provide links of the four churches involved in the Bolton Ecumenical Council on the parish website. Proposed is to have a few parishioners involved in promoting the Annual Catholic Appeal and helping to build support within the parish.
7. **Bingo:** Projected weekly gain is between \$150-200. Added to the Christmas Fair, both fundraisers provide needed finances to help meet future capital expenses. 64 persons attended Bingo last evening. The machine needs replacement. More volunteers are sought to help with various duties.
8. **Pastoral Planning:** The next restructuring meeting will be held next Tuesday at Sacred Heart Church. Weekend Mass attendance will be counted during the month of October.
9. **Appreciation Dinner:** The Knights of Columbus suggested providing a dinner to help acknowledge parishioners who generously give of their time volunteering in various parish ministries and groups. This Council supports this past tradition at St. Maurice. There will be a sign up list in the vestibule, along with bulletin inserts, posters, and announcements from the pulpit to advertise this event. Suggested is to have both an adult and children's entrée. A date of October 14th was decided.
10. **Parish Nursing:** This ministry began 11 years ago with 14 parish nurse volunteers. The number now has decreased to 5 nurses. A regular service this ministry provides to the parish is monthly blood pressure screenings. New upcoming activities include sponsoring health awareness programs and possibly a flu immunization clinic. Parishioner Barbara Fiano, RPh, will lead an AARP sponsored program on a Wednesday morning in October. The agenda includes a video presentation about medication education and time for questions.
11. **Bolton Ecumenical Council:** The annual Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will be held on Tuesday, November 20th, 7:00 p.m. here at St. Maurice Church. Don Benevides has been informed and will work with Fr. Wojciech on music selection. Don will be contacting the choir directors of the other 3 Bolton churches to arrange for combined choir practices.
12. The next meeting for the Parish Council will be Tuesday, October 9th with no meeting in November.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea