

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of October 8, 2013

Attendance: Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Sharon Scorso, Janusz Herasimowicz, Sharon Snuffer, Tom Manning, Jonathan Van Dine, and Patti Cinea.

Guest: Joel Cohan, Finance Council member

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

1. September's meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. **Finance:** Joel presented an updated finance report from the Finance Council. Their present focus is on the weekly offertory collection. There is a decrease in weekly ordinary income in comparison to last years. Special offertory collections are on target. The new rectory boiler cost \$7500. All major projects have been paid in full. Many property enhancement projects have been paid from the generous donation of a deceased parishioner, including this parish in his will. Insurance reimbursement money for the damaged ceiling tiles in the sanctuary has been set aside for its future repair. He stated that the fiscal report to the parish is being finalized. Recommended is to have Finance Council members meet as a group with interested parishioners in the Parish Center a week after this report has been made available. Also requested are recommendations from the Finance Council on interventions should ordinary expenses begin to exceed ordinary income. For those parishioners who choose to financially contribute their weekly offertory electronically, Tom has designed a card stating, "We gave electronically". This card could be dropped in the offertory basket and would be located on the tables in the back of the church. It would be recycled for weekly use.
2. **Bingo:** Weekly attendance varies. Last night, 28 persons attended; however, the inclement weather, particularly the tornado watch for the State till 5 pm, may have affected turnout. Despite its decrease in income generated in comparison to last year, Bingo is still a fundraiser for the parish. In an effort to conserve heat and electricity in the Parish Center during the winter months, a suggestion was made to consider halting Bingo for the months of January and February. No decision has been reached.
3. **Faith Formation:** Student registration has increased to 57, with 6 new families participating in the Children's program. Lee Snuffer will purchase wall mountings for the flat screen TVs designated for select classrooms. The Junior Youth Group has 17 children participating. 19 students attended the annual diocesan sponsored Youth Explosion event at St. Bernard's in September. It was felt that this year's program was even more dynamic and inspirational. An expression of gratitude goes to the Knights of Columbus, who sponsored the bus transportation to this event. Chris Doucet from *The Hartford Catholic Worker* will meet with the Confirmation class on Oct. 27th. A donation will be given to support the settlement house in Hartford's North End. The adult program will resume with a EWTN video bible study presentation on the Gospel of John. Three consecutive weekly sessions will be held starting Sunday evening, October 27th.
4. **Property Management:** Annual inspection of the church property was made by the agent from Catholic Mutual last week. No report is yet available. The cracks in the parking lot asphalt still need remediation. Lou is expected to return from hiatus shortly. We will await his recommendation. Two of the 4 church doors have been replaced due to warpage, allowing heat loss. Doors to the lower level of the Parish Center will have weather-stripping added to promote energy conservation.
5. **Christmas Fair:** Dorli has communication reminding that we need a strong volunteer base from able parishioners for a successful fair. There will be an activities sign up list posted 2 weeks before this event. Confirmation candidates can obtain required community service hours for volunteering their time helping out with fair activities, with adult direction needed.
6. **Re-energizing Ministries:** There is a sense to review parish life in its entirety. There is a need to be both mindful of financial expenses, as well as promote a feeling of hospitality and spirituality within the parish. This will help keep the parish vibrant and encourage present and future membership. The goal is to create an environment within ministries that encourages revitalization, but how is this accomplished? There are "new faces" in the pews, particularly the 10 am Mass. Recommended is to ask Linda Wiley to attend a Parish Council meeting to provide an update on the Welcoming Committee. Several ministries were promoted in the bulletin this year, providing both awareness and seeking membership. Also brought back into the bulletin were new parishioner registrants, newly baptized and those teens confirmed this year. How has the recent post card mailings advertising the parish affected response from the local community at large? The October Mass count will provide information on trends in attendance. Jonathan shared information about *The Hartford Project*, which initiates a spirit of God's love by bringing youth from the suburbs and city together. Some areas of collaboration between the teens are in forms of worship and service. He will obtain a schedule of events and share with our youth groups. The initiation of a Children's Liturgy for our parish will be held once monthly during the 10 am Sunday Mass. The Boy Scouts meet weekly in the lower level of the church. A consideration for their property usage is a directive that they keep the area tidy and participate in service back to the parish. The scouts do assist with tasks in preparation for the Fair. Many Eagle Scout projects have benefitted this parish. Some ministries have shown a decrease in participation. Parish Nursing has experienced a drop from 14 to 4.5 parish nurses. Other ministries, such as the Wednesday Workshop, have shown an increase.
7. The annual Bolton Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 pm at St. George's Episcopal Church.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea