

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of December 20, 2013

Attendance: Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Dorli and Lou Cloutier, Sharon Snuffer, Bonnie Benevides, Jonathan Van Dine, Tom Manning, Ron Massimino, and Patti Cinea.

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:10 p.m. The following was discussed.

1. Minutes of November's meeting were reviewed with addition that St. Maurice met its parish goal of \$10, 217 for the 2013 Annual Catholic Appeal.

2. **Property Management:** Measures to assess the adequacy of preventive heat loss measures in the Parish Center were discussed. As heated water leaves the boiler, runs thru the pipes into the radiator, there is a certain amount of temperature cooling. Using a heat thermometer, surface temps were taken at the boiler and radiator sites to measure temp difference. The difference was not dramatic, but may be improved upon if the pipes were insulated. Replacement of all windows would further prevent heat loss. The cost of such a project would be high, and might be accomplished best over time as parish finances allowed. Isolene foam insulation was added under the roof during the time of reconstruction. This reduced heat loss by sealing up any little open areas. During the Christmas Fair, the Church toilets again became unusable due to back up. Investigation of the septic system identified that the cast iron pipe leading to the distribution box was 75% clogged. This section was replaced with PVC piping. The septic tank site and distribution box access cover risers were likewise elevated to help prevent ground water intrusion during rain storms. The Bolton Superintendent of Schools is looking at sites to provide emergency shelter for students/staff, and Saint Maurice Parish Center is under consideration. Catholic Mutual will be contacted to inquire if there are any prohibitive regulations. If anything on parish property is noted to be broken or damaged, please contact either the Cloutiers or Theresa. An expression of gratitude is extended to Jim and Kurt O'Brien for erecting staging to change the light bulbs in the sanctuary ceiling before Christmas.

2. **Finance:** The Finance Council met last Sunday. Recommended was to pay off \$40,000 of the remaining \$50,000 loan balance to the Diocese borrowed for the church flat roof replacement.

3. **Children's Mass:** Masses oriented to youth occur the 2nd Sunday of each month. Youth are invited to sit in reserved front pews, and participate with the readings and bringing up of offertory gifts.

4. **Children's Faith Formation:** Under consideration is to restart a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the summer of 2014. This will require preparation, volunteers, and a decision whether to create or purchase a program. The Disciples Jr. Youth Group has demonstrated a solid attendance and participation. The Senior Youth Group continues to struggle with attendance.

5. **Bingo:** Bingo workers met and made recommendations to Fr. Wojciech to continue Bingo throughout the winter months despite a decrease in attendance and building heating costs. They believed a moratorium would make Bingo restart challenging.

6. **Christmas Fair:** The Fair continues to grow. The 2013 Fair was the most financially successful. Revenue increased this year by \$1300 with a total intake of \$18, 276. Expenses were less than \$1000, except for the Big Raffle, which cost \$500 to print the tickets, along with State and Town permits costs. The parking lots at the parish and Herrick Park were filled to capacity. To achieve improvement with parking flow, possibly using alternative parking areas in town, with permission, would ease parking constraints. Placing magnetic signs on cars shuttling shoppers might help identify the drivers. The baked booth section was lean again this year. We need more contribution of baked goods for sale. A strong appeal will be made next year. We need more muscle power to help move crafters in/out and for staging. Should there be a raffle of a car? How many tickets, at what price, and how many would need to be sold by parishioners to make that feasible and profitable? The Fair Group would like to use some of the money raised to replace the Rectory kitchen stove and floor, as well as purchase replacement windows for classroom 6 and lower doors in the Parish Center. Thank you to all the Ladies in the Wednesday Fair Group who so generously gave of their time and talent in creating another successful Fair!

7. **The October Count of Mass Attendance** has demonstrated a gradual increase in Mass attendance these past 2 years. Encouraging.

The meeting closed at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea