

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of April 8, 2014

**Attendance:** Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Dorli and Lou Cloutier, Tom Manning, Jonathan Van Dine, and Patti Cinea.

**Guest:** Mike Harney, Chairperson, Finance Council

The meeting opened with prayer at 7: 04 p.m. The following was discussed:

1. The minutes of March's meeting were reviewed and accepted. Patti will meet with Boy Scouts leaders. A request for an appointment of a liaison from Scouting will be requested. This person will be asked to report to Parish Council on a per diem basis. This will enhance communication.

2. **Youth Faith Formation:** the schedule for calendar year 2014-15 is completed.

3. **Finance:** Mike reported that ordinary expenses have increased 23% this fiscal year. This is all operating expenses before major repairs. Fuel costs this year markedly increased. Due to higher number of snow storms this year, an added expense was for snow removal. Electricity increased by \$600 compared to last year. Added expense was \$5000 given as per Diocese appeal to help support the Vernon deanery school—St. Edward's. (Each parish in the deanery has been authorized to contribute a set amount related to its size to this school. This is an effort to lessen the financial burden of school support on its home parish. The Diocese believes it is the responsibility of all Catholics to promote Catholic education.) St. Maurice's ability to continue financial support needs ongoing review. A goal is to at least give \$2500. Ordinary revenue is down by 7.3%. Recommended is to assess the projected amount needed in offertory collection to cover parish expenses, and break it down into a weekly goal. This number will be reflected into the bulletin. Another recommendation includes reducing the thermostat in the Church. The cleaning company has been decreased to twice monthly instead of weekly duties. This saves \$200/month. Ministry groups utilizing the parish facilities are requested to be mindful and thoroughly clean up after usage. Assure that the lights are turned off, thermostats reset, exterior doors closed properly, and keep interior doors shut in Ryba Hall when the heat is on. The Share and Care Ministry has received a recent donation of \$300 to help cover its operating expenses. The Eagle Scout Projects have a shortfall. Raising donations from Memorial Bricks sale will continue to be promoted in the bulletin. Both the Parish and Fair Group will help with any deficits. Tom provided the list of Special Collections and Observances 2014. These collections are spread out to avoid being back to back. Few parishioners utilize EFT (electronic fund transfers). At a nearby parish, 1/3 of offertory is through electronic giving. He has developed an **"I GIVE ELECTRONICALLY"** offertory card that is reusable. This would enable parishioners who utilize this form of giving to drop something into the collection basket.

4. **Evangelization:** A Spring Post Card has been developed. Highlights include weekly worship and fellowship events, the Easter Triduum, and colored photos of parish activities. Cost of \$1270 for 4,000 mailings. To reduce parish expenses it was recommended wait and send out mailings at the end of summer. However, the Spring Post Card will be included in the Palm Sunday and Easter bulletins, in which attendance is increased. Other avenues of giving St. Maurice more presence in the community might be to work with the Bolton Land Trust, sponsor a summer concert at the Town Gazebo, set up a booth at Memorial Day/Family Day, establish a St. Joseph's Table—a scoop supper to help raise money for MACC or WAIM, and formalize a Booklet of Ministries to give to new parishioners.

5. St. Maurice has been identified as a town of Bolton Emergency Shelter.

6. **Property Management:** Catholic Mutual Insurance performed its annual inspection. Report to follow. The Department of Public Health requests that underground wells, oil tanks and septic be located and charted. The Parish Center lower level hallway exterior doors need replacement. This has been put off for years. Estimated cost is \$12,000. Recommended was to review alternative doors. A storage cabinet to store altar linens is being built by parishioner Jim O'Brien. The expense of \$500 will be paid by the Fair Group.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Cinea