

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of February 9, 2016

Attendance: Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Sharon Scorso, Dorli and Lou Cloutier, Lisa Anderson, Mary Ann Murphy, Joel Cohan, Anna Czercowy, Janusz Herasimowicz, Bonnie Benevides, Sharon Snuffer, and Patti Cinea.

Guest: Anthony Girasoli

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:04 pm. Minutes of December's meeting were approved. The following was discussed:

1. **Christmas Fair:** Wednesday workshop will resume March 2nd. Overflow parking for Fair 2016 has been reserved again at Herrick Park. There will be an ongoing appeal for need for more volunteers to assist at the Wednesday workshop-no sewing/craft experience is necessary-plus the week and day of the Fair. A strong volunteer base is critical to the success of the Fair.

2. **Property Management:** There was a recent backfiring of the Parish Center furnace which caused a build-up of carbon monoxide. The smoke detector alarmed sending a signal to Alarm New England, who then contacted the Bolton Fire Department. Currently, the emergency shut off to the furnace is located inside the furnace room. Suggested is to mount the shut off switch at the upper level of this building. Of ongoing concern is the safety and welfare for our parish secretary, whose office is located without direct visibility to outside the building. Different security systems include: visual recognition through an electronic camera, an exterior doorbell, a video push button. They vary in expense and practicality. The Rectory alarm will be upgraded with monitoring by the call center. The Parish Center chimney is in need of cleaning and inspection. The classroom windows, original to the building, are single paned with caulking in a state of deterioration. Several are broken and covered with plywood. Discussed is whether to replace just the windows that are broken and in worst shape or to replace them all simultaneously. Replacement windows would be made of thermal paned tempered glass and thus, more energy efficient. Estimates are currently being sought. The Fair Group has offered financial support. Once again, possible benefits of solar panels were discussed. Suggested is to contact JD Solar with a request for owner to attend a Parish Council meeting to inform about the cost of material, installation and maintenance.

3. **Parish Website:** An expression of gratitude to Tom Manning for creating and weekly maintaining a website for our parish. A suggestion was made to place information about nearby parishes and their Mass times to a side link, and replace that section with St. Maurice information. Proposed is to place pictures of our interior church renovations, including the Tabernacle and the painted image of Divine Mercy when it arrives.

4. A Council member requested placing a flag of the United States within the Church. According to the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) there are no regulations concerning the display of flags in Catholic Churches. The Conference defers judgment to each diocesan bishop. The Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy has encouraged pastors not to place the flag within the sanctuary. The sanctuary itself is reserved for the altar, ambo, and tabernacle. This Committee suggests to place an American flag outside the sanctuary or in a vestibule, commonly with a book of remembrance. This book often lists loved ones who serve/served in the military. Pricing for floor model flags will be sought and this issue readdressed at the next parish council meeting.

5. Tom emailed all council members and encouraged to actively review Matthew Kelly's book, *The Dynamic Catholic*, which was distributed freely during the Christmas season. The book identifies 4 signs of a dynamic Catholic: a commitment to daily prayer, is continuous learner of the faith, is filled with a spirit of generosity and is an evangelizer, inviting other to grow spiritually and awareness of the faith. Tom suggests to identify ways of building parishioner base, creating an inviting and encouraging environment, have youth and adult faith formation programs teach on the prayer process. The music ministry and homilies are two critical areas of retaining and obtaining parishioners. This will be readdressed next meeting. Please read the book for review next month.

6. To foster more active listening to the Liturgy of the Word, suggested is to eliminate the Missalettes. It would save on costs also. A book of worship songs would still need to be placed permanently in the pews. Please share your thoughts on this subject with any member of the Parish Council.

7. To increase awareness of the origin of the Divine Mercy image before the painted image arrives to our parish, the DVD, *Oceans of Mercy*, will be shown on Saturday, Feb. 27th following the Vigil Mass in the Church, and again on Sunday, Feb. 28th, 6 pm, in the Parish Center.

8. Tony expressed thanks for allowing the Cub Scouts to meet at the parish. He spoke about planning a KOC mixer, open to all parishioners and friends. The goal is bringing adults together in a relaxed social setting. Babysitting service will be provided on premises. The serving of beer and wine is desired. Tickets will be sold. A Certificate of Insurance with a Rider policy for serving alcoholic beverages may be needed. Recommended is to BYOB. Tentative date is April 3rd. Tony is working with Tom in terms of facility usage and guidelines. The Council gave overwhelming support for this endeavor.

9. **Pictorial Directory:** ? 2017. A coordinator will be needed. Any parishioner interested in facilitating should talk with Fr. Wojciech.

10. On Wednesday, March 2nd, the Bolton Ecumenical Council will offer a simple soup and bread supper here at St. Maurice at 6:30 pm. Guest speaker, Beth Stafford, executive director of MACC, will discuss the plight of homelessness in the area, as well as the current activities of the Manchester Soup Kitchen and outreach programs. Its shelter closed last summer. Ron Massimino will coordinate the food; advertisement will be done by the BEC.

11. The newer parish sign in front of the Church needs completion with finial attachments. John Anderson will be asked for direction.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 pm. Next meeting, March 8th. Respectfully submitted, Patti Cinea