

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of March 8, 2016

Attendance: Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Sharon Scorso, Ron Massimino, Dorli and Lou Cloutier, Anna Czercowy, Bonnie Benevides, Mary Ann Murphy, Sharon Snuffer and Patti Cinea.

The meeting opened with prayer. The minutes of February's meeting were reviewed and approved.

The following was discussed:

1. **Christmas Fair:** The Wednesday workshop commenced with 6-10 workers on average in attendance.
2. **Property Management:** With respect to potential replacement of the Parish Center classroom windows, a 3rd contractor has been obtained for bidding. Requested is to get 2 costs: the first for simultaneous replacement of all 6 classroom windows; the second, for each individual classroom. The latter will allow a decision as to whether to replace just the windows in greatest need at present. The Parish Center chimney has been cleaned. Identified is the possibility that the draft to support the air inlet to the boiler may have caused the backfire last winter. M & M Oil Co. will assess. Those who use the Center kitchen area for food prep and service, please ensure that no remnants of food are left. This will help prevent attracting mice. The Rectory security alarm is in process of upgrade. By May/June, there will be a need for a new cleaner/service for the Parish Center and Church buildings. A listing of duties will be written into a contract.
3. **Missalettes:** Parishioners are requested to offer feedback to Fr. Wojciech or Council members as to whether to continue to purchase missalettes. Options: to eliminate the usual amount ordered for a cost of \$700; to order less; or to continue to order the same amount yearly.
4. **American Flag:** A sample study of 90 parishes indicate that most display the U.S.A. flag with 60 parishes placing the flag in the front of the church in the worship area and 14 placing in the rear. The flag is displayed in our diocesan Cathedral. Most of these parishes have both the American and Papal flag on view. The flag is a symbol of solidarity and patriotism. Suggested is to bring the flag located in the Parish Center and to display in the back of the Church in the choir area. Has anyone noticed?
5. **Solar Panels:** Contact companies with request for a representative to attend a Council meeting. Identify cost of product, installation, replacement, warranty, and potential savings on electricity.
6. The second collection on Christmas is earmarked for the Poor and Needy. Next year, the collection will be divided between MACC and the Bolton Fuel Fund. The town will be contacted. For those identified in need of fuel assistance, the contribution for fill-up will be paid directly to the Town, not the recipient.
7. John Anderson will obtain parts costs for final upgrades to the new sign in front of the Church. He will provide free installation.
8. How can the parish benefit from suggestions posed by author Matthew Kelly in his book, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*? How can parishioners become more engaged Catholics and in their faith? How does this get implemented? Recommended is to establish a subcommittee of interested parishioners to discuss. This will be addressed further at the next Council meeting.
9. Tony presented an update on the Knights of Columbus **Spring Fling** mixer on April 2nd. Babysitting will be provided for children ages 4-12 in the lower level of the church. These youth will be entertained with a movie and pizza. For adults, in the Parish Center there will be finger foods from D & D Market and an assortment of other appetizers. Bring your own wine/beer. Tickets \$20 per person and will be sold by a KOC after all Masses in the back of the church.
10. The new **Tiny Pocket Prayer Shawls**, knitted by parishioners, are 6 X 4 cm with a visibly stitched cross. Included in its packaging is a reminder that it has been knitted with prayers for the recipient. They are intended for the sick or those who are facing health or life challenges and may be on the Prayer Line or homebound. Contact Mary Ann for more information.
11. Do Catholic devotions such as the recitation of the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the wearing of the Brown Scapular matter? Do they somehow enhance our faith, our relationship with God and our neighbor? For the past 5 years, the Rosary is recited before the Saturday Vigil Mass and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy following the 7:30 am Mass. For the **Jubilee Year of Mercy**, the Chaplet was added following the Vigil and 10 am Masses. Participation has been highest for the early morning Mass group. How can greater participation be achieved? (Of note, the Brown Scapular is two small pieces of brown wool on a fabric cord worn around the neck. Generally one piece has a picture of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and the other, St. Simon Stock, or the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary. It is a simple, petite version of the Carmelite habit. The Blessed Virgin Mary promised to St. Simon Stock that whoever wears it shall receive her aid and protection both in this life and upon death.)
12. **Easter Food Distribution:** Ask for volunteers among the Confirmation Candidates to speak about the needs for collection of both perishable and nonperishable food for this Eastertime. The benefits are that the youth are exposed in a leadership role and engage adults in working towards the common goal of helping our community neighbors in need.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea

