

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF MAY 10, 2016

Attendance: Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Dorli and Lou Cloutier, Mary Ann Murphy, Sharon Scorso, Sharon Snuffer, Anna Czercowy, and Patti Cinea.

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm. The minutes of April's meeting were reviewed and accepted. The following was discussed:

1. Two representatives from JD Solar gave a short presentation on the use of solar energy. Benefits identified are that solar is environmentally friendly, reduces dependency on the electric company with its escalating costs, and qualify for State incentives. Since the parish is non-profit, it would not meet the 30% Federal Tax Credit on total installation cost. JD Solar provides a 25 year warranty, and processes all the paperwork, permits, utility agreements and inspections. Purchasing options include buying a system outright or leasing. Since the parish is diocesan owned, a group of interested parishioners would need to form a LLC to purchase and the reimbursement would be over time. That does not seem realistic as parishes in the country are yoking and closing. A leasing option involves a 15 year payment plan. With this plan, JD Solar, after 5.5 years of use, allows the property owner to sell back the solar unit to the company. Solar modules include ground and roof. Ground modules require a built infrastructure, running a conduit and angling the panels to face in a southern direction. This type of system is more costly. There are upgrade ground modules which rotate during the day to gain as much direct sun as possible. Roof modules are the most common, require a good roof base and shingles underneath before attachment. (For commercial and homes, roof modules are exempt from property tax; the parish is overall exempt from property taxes). Over time, solar panels degrade with a decrease of $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1% efficiency. To compensate, extra solar panels are installed so that the overall decrease has a small impact over the lifetime of the panels. The representatives will calculate the cost vs. benefit ratio based on the parish kw/hour electrical usage for the property: Rectory, Church, Parish Center and parking area electric poles. These representatives suggested that the pole lights be converted to LED bulbs for long term savings. These reps will bring the calculation of savings using solar energy as well as a proposal to September's meeting. Members of the Finance Council will be asked to attend.

2. **Youth Faith Formation:** Sharon Snuffer has given written notice that she will provide another year of work as assistant director for this program for the 2016-2017 year. Afterwards, she will step down. She rallied to this position upon the departure of Rella Bernabucci, and assumed this as a volunteer position. The Council thanks her for her years of dedication to this program, which has included her family's participation and support. Another replacement will be sought immediately so that working together, a smooth transition can occur. Confirmation at Sacred Heart Parish this Saturday. Candidates will receive a necklace with a Holy Spirit pendant. First Reconciliation, May, 21st. First Holy Communion will be held Sunday, May 22nd.

3. **Financial Report:** Members of the Finance Committee will be asked to attend September's meeting and provide an update.

4. **Property Management:** A cleaner has been hired for \$60/week summer (as less to clean in Parish Center with Faith Formation on hiatus), and \$100/week rest of year. His duties include bringing and returning the garbage and recycling barrels curbside. Therefore, no parishioners should be performing this duty any longer! The third bidder for replacement for the damaged classrooms windows (Rooms 1 & 2) was too high. Steve Czerwinski Inc. has provided the parish the best estimate with an additional 5% discount coming in at \$9, 975. He has a solid reputation. The Christmas Fair Group will pay the entirety of the cost. Thank you. Recommended is to sign the contract, but await until Lou returns in October to oversee the job. The Boys Scouts again provided Spring grounds clean-up as an exchange for facility usage in holding meetings and other events. Thank you. The carbon monoxide detector was installed with the sensor placed outside the furnace room. Should it detect high concentrations of CO, the sensor will signal the horn and the central station, which in turn will notify the State Police and Bolton Fire Department. The emergency on/off switch to the furnace is mounted upstairs near the stairwell. **(Updated information: the contract for the 2 classroom window replacements has been signed with a deposit given. Work will commence late June with oversight provided by Mike Harney. Remainder of payment due when job completed).**

5. **Jubilee Year of Mercy:** The Diocese has had two events for the Year of Mercy for parish disciples. The second concentrated on what each parish had done thus far with regards to events/activities to celebrate this year of

Jubilee. St. Maurice activities have included: praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy after all weekend Masses; educational pamphlets on how to recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena were distributed to parishioners; in March was the Liturgy of the Hours and the 24 Hours for the Lord (Adoration); the Gospel of Luke's 8 Parables of Mercy bulletin insert encourages the practice of reading and reflecting on each of the mercy themed gospel passages a week before it is read during Mass at specific times throughout the year; the *Ocean of Mercy* DVD was shown to increase understanding of the origin of the Divine Mercy message and image/painting, which Fr. Wojciech brought back from Poland; in March, this parish hosted the BEC Lenten Meal, which included Beth Stafford, Executive Director of MACC, as she discussed the many challenges imposed on the homeless and MACC's response of support (this event collected \$238 for MACC, as well as soup and bread leftovers, which fed 25 individuals and families); and the Sacrament of Reconciliation was offered every Monday evening during Lent. In the works is a joint effort with St. Joseph's, Rockville, in taking a combined bus trip to the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge for September. Sacred Heart will be invited to participate. The Rosary is prayed before the Vigil Mass and after each weekday Mass; however, on the second Tuesday of the month, all 4 Mysteries are being recited and dedicated for our parish and for peace in the world. A summer book reading with mercy theme is to be decided. More to come to finish out the year in November and beyond. Anyone wishing to help, please contact Rich Carpenter or Patti.

6. **Christmas Fair:** This group has been blessed with both monetary and item donations. The attendance for the Wednesday workshops is steady. This group will not formally meet during the summer months, but will complete projects individually at home. Last workshop, June 1st.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm. The next meeting will be held, Tuesday, September 13th.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea