

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of October 11, 2016

Attendance: Fr. Leon Susaimanickam, Kathy Perlitz, Janusz Herasimowicz, Sharon Snuffer, Anna Czercowy, Lisa Anderson, Bonnie Benevides, Tom Manning, Sharon Scorso, Mike Harney, Mary Ann Murphy, Tony Girasoli

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Fr. Leon began the meeting with an opening prayer.

1. Faith formation update was presented by Sherry Snuffer. There are 32 children attending faith formation classes. Confirmation will be held at St. Maurice Church this year and the confirmation class from Sacred Heart Church in Vernon will be joining us. The date for confirmation needs to be confirmed and the necessary paperwork filed with the Diocese. A date for a Youth Mass was discussed and it was suggested that the Mass be held in October or November.
2. The finance report was presented by Mike Harney. The figures for the first quarter of the fiscal year are on target with the budget projections. The offertory collection for the quarter (July – September) was down approximately \$1,400.00 but has shown an increase in October. Expenses were up slightly due to repairs needed on the rectory roof. The financial condition of the Parish is good with approximately \$130,000.00 in cash and liquid assets. Presently the forecast is for the budget to break even or perhaps end with a profit.
3. The property management report was presented by Kathy Perlitz. Repairmen are returning the week of October 9 to complete work on the rectory roof to repair a leak. Fr. Leon noted that there is stagnant water on the flat part of the roof that needs to be addressed also. A contract was signed to replace windows in the Parish Center basement. The cost of the windows is being paid for by the Sleigh Bells Ring fair group. A Boy Scout (Justin Weir) from the troop that meets in the Church basement proposed painting the Church basement floor as his Eagle Scout project. However, it was determined that the project is too difficult for a scout to undertake and Justin was notified that the Council would consider another project if he would like to propose one. Project proposals need to be presented 2-3 months in advance of the start date for the Council to have time to discuss the project and make a decision.
4. Tony Girasoli reported on the activities of the Knights of Columbus (KOC). The next pancake breakfast is scheduled for Oct. 16. Dates for future pancake breakfasts were given to Theresa Ciscon and will be listed in the bulletin calendar. Insets advertising the pancake breakfasts are needed by Fridays so the ushers can insert them in the bulletins prior to the masses. The KOC are discussing ideas for social activities such as a spring fling (last year's attendance was about 20 people) and ice cream socials. The KOC will help with the Sleigh Bells Ring fair and will hold a pancake breakfast on the Sunday of the Mini Fair. Tony invited Fr. Leon to attend future KOC meetings and Fr. Leon accepted.
5. There was an open discussion regarding several items that appeared in Tom Manning's e-mail to the Parish Council dated October 4, 2016:

New parishioners are needed and inactive parishioners need to become involved again. Ideas for evangelization were discussed, such as, introducing Fr. Leon to the Bolton community by posting a welcome notice on our outside sign or holding a public reception; having Fr. Leon attend community functions held by local groups such as the Senior Center, the schools and the library; and reviewing the Parish census and contacting parishioners on a casual basis by personal contact, telephone/e-mail contact or mailings. Fr. Leon noted that the main goal of evangelization should be to contact those Catholics who are not practicing the faith. There is presently no youth group to attract younger families with children. Suggested solutions included contacting youth groups at other parishes in the area to see if they would be willing to let our

children join; hiring a youth group organizer (for a small stipend) to start a youth group at St. Maurice; or organizing some fun activities (sports tournaments) for the children with the goal of eventually introducing prayer and spiritual education.

More volunteers are needed in all the ministries. It was suggested that current altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers and ushers speak at the end of the masses to invite others to volunteer; and that Fr. Leon speak with parishioners on an individual basis and the faith formation classes regarding volunteering. It should be stressed that volunteering does not have to involve rigid guidelines and that cooperation and flexibility will attract more volunteers.

It was proposed that the timing of second collections be changed, so that any second collection would follow the offertory collection, rather than taking place after communion. Fr. Leon suggested that the change can be implemented the first week of Advent. Advance notice of the change can be published in the bulletin, and the lector can remind parishioners of the change at the beginning of mass and again after the pray of the faithful. There is concern that there are too many second collections, between those for the Parish (fuel, maintenance) and those for the Diocese. If the need for the second collection is explained, perhaps by Fr. Leon during the masses, there may be more participation.

Tom Manning volunteered to update his e-mail to reflect these ideas discussed by the Parish Council.

6. There were miscellaneous issues also discussed:

The Bishop is coming October 27 for adoration from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. There will be 3 priests available to hear confessions. Notice will appear in the bulletin and Fr. Leon will make an announcement during the masses.

The coffee socials held after the masses are poorly attended and will no longer be held.

The church basement is dark which makes it difficult for people to locate the bathrooms. It was suggested that motion detector lights and brighter light bulbs be installed, and that a sign be posted in the vestibules indicating where the bathrooms are located. In the meantime, the ushers should be notified to turn on the basement lights prior to each mass.

Attendance at masses is being taken during the month of October. The 12 people who attended the Youth Explosion should be included in the October total.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Anderson, Council Member