

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of February 14, 2017

Attendance: Fr. Leon Susaimanickam, Sharon Scorso, Lisa Anderson, Bonnie Benevides, Tom Manning, Mary Ann Murphy, Janusz Herasimowicz, Dorli Cloutier, Lou Cloutier, Amie Tillman, Sherry Snuffer, 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 Amie Tillman and Sherry Snuffer. At a meeting with the parents of CCD children, it was proposed that First Reconciliation be held on May 27 and First Communion be held on May 28. These dates will be reviewed with Theresa Ciscon to make sure there is no scheduling conflict and to check if the mass is available to be offered for the First Communion the children.

A parent of a pre-kindergarten child has volunteered to run a pre-kindergarten CCD class. She is seeking approval from the Diocese to teach the class. The class will begin as soon as approval is attained. There are presently four (4) children signed up to attend.

The Diocese is sponsoring an event called Youth Pop, which is a leadership training event for middle school aged and older children. Tom Manning attended a meeting on February 11 to get details about the event. There is a meeting scheduled for February 25 which Tom will ask CCD children if they have any interest in attending.

The CCD classes met in the church two (2) weeks ago to learn about the meaning and significance of the different parts of the mass and the items used during mass.

Catholic Kids activity sheets are available for the younger children to use during mass. These sheets provide different types of games and puzzles which would correspond to the readings for that week. They will be available every other week.

2. The property management report was presented by Lou Cloutier. All the new windows in the classrooms in the Parish Center have been installed. We are still waiting for an estimate for new doors at each end of the downstairs hallway in the Parish Center.

The company in charge of snow removal needs the parking lot to be empty of cars so that it can be plowed. Any group holding an event on church grounds needs to confirm that Theresa Ciscon has the event scheduled on the church calendar so she can coordinate a time for snow removal.

The radon suppression system in the basement of the Church will be checked. A parishioner suggested it may be broken or not working properly, but the system has an on/off switch and only runs when turned on. There are no radon suppression systems in the Parish Center or the Rectory.

The water softener system in the Rectory will be checked. Fr. Leon indicated that there is a reddish residue in the sinks and toilets.

St. Margaret Mary Church in South Windsor will be picking up the bingo equipment that they loaned our parish. This includes the numbers board, console and miscellaneous bingo related items. Tony Girasoli will organize some volunteers to remove the numbers board suspended from the ceiling in the Parish Center. Tony and the volunteers will also remove two (2) TVs that are suspended from the ceiling in the Parish Center. One TV will be re-located to the Rectory and the other TV will be re-located to the Library in the Parish Center.

Tom Manning is working with Fast Signs which will provide samples of materials that can be used for the changeable panels on the outside sign. Suggestions for Lenten sayings were discussed and Tom will provide design ideas.

Tom Manning is working on three (3) designs for a first floor bathroom in the Church. This item will be addressed further at the next meeting.

Fr. Leon suggested that the steps leading up to the tabernacle on the altar are too narrow and hazardous. Lou Cloutier will check out whether the table which holds the tabernacle can be modified so that it fits the curved wall of the Church more closely so as to provide another foot of space on the top step. It was also suggested

that the steps be modified so that: there are steps on each side of the tabernacle with railings and no center steps; or the height of the steps is lower.

It was suggested that a railing is needed for the rear outside steps of the Church (sacristy exit on the Rectory side). Lou Cloutier and Tom Manning will follow up.

There have been complaints about the speakers in the right rear of the Church not working properly. Bonnie Benevides will ask her brother-in-law if he would be willing to check the sound system to see if it is properly wired. Fr. Leon will check the in-house controls for the system to make sure they are adjusted properly.

3. A Sleigh Bells Ring report was presented by Dorli Cloutier. A member of the fair group has resigned. Volunteers will be warmly welcomed. The fair should be seen more as a parish function, with participation from all parishioners, rather than just an event put on by the fair group.

4. Miscellaneous issues were also discussed:

The parish does not have an RCIA (program for adults seeking the sacraments) coordinator. Fr. Leon will be the coordinator until a volunteer can be found.

An e-mail inquiring about the parish prayer groups was received. There are five (5) groups: Rosary – ½ hour before Saturday vigil mass; Chaplet of Divine Mercy – after both Sunday masses; Sunday Vespers at 5:30; Pray Line – intercessory prayers for intentions given by callers and candle intentions; and Music Ministry – adult and children's choirs.

The Diocese is sponsoring a March for Mercy. Information can be obtained from Fr. Leon.

Food donations are being collected for Easter distribution. After Easter, any food donated will be distributed to Bolton Center School and Bolton High School for needy students, or the Bolton Senior Center which runs a pantry.

Fr. Leon suggested that there is a need for a coordinator to review miscellaneous e-mails the parish receives and to direct the e-mails to the appropriate person to be handled. Theresa Ciscon will do this until a volunteer can be found.

It was suggested that groups who call or e-mail Theresa Ciscon to place an event on the church calendar also follow-up with her in person to confirm the event.

Tony Girasoli provided a Knights of Columbus update. Another Spring Fling social to be held at the Parish Center will be discussed at the next KOC meeting.

Fr. Leon suggested that the parish hold the Good Friday Stations of the Cross outside on the parish grounds, to be followed by a fish dinner provided by the KOC. Fr. Leon also suggested an outside procession be held on the parish grounds for one of the Palm Sunday masses. Both these events will be discussed further.

The Diocese provides a Volunteer Driver Form & Insurance Statement for volunteers who drive their cars for a church sponsored event. The necessity of completing this form will be discussed further.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Anderson, Council Member