

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of April 11, 2017

Attendance: Fr. Leon Susaimanickam, Sharon Scorso, Lisa Anderson, Tom Manning, Dorli Cloutier, Lou Cloutier, Amie Tillman, Michael Harney, Kathy Perlitz

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. There are two (2) weeks of CCD classes left for this school year. There are six (6) children receiving first communion and three (3) children receiving confirmation. Confirmation will also include children from Sacred Heart.

Registration forms for next year's CCD classes will be made available soon.

The Diocese is sponsoring an event called Youth Pop, which is a leadership training event for middle school aged and older children. Tom Manning indicated that the final planning meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2017. The event will take place May 6, 2017 and Tom is encouraging the children in CCD to attend.

2. The property management report was presented by Lou Cloutier. The new windows project for the Parish Center has been completed. The project was paid for by proceeds from the Sleigh Bells Ring fair. We are still waiting for an estimate for new doors at each end of the downstairs hallway in the Parish Center.

Tests were conducted on the radon suppression system and the radon level in the basement of the Church.

The results were given to Banner Water, which indicated the level is radon is very low and the system can be turned off.

The water softener system in the Rectory was checked by Banner Water and is in good working condition.

Any reddish residue in the sinks and toilets can be cleaned by hand.

St. Margaret Mary Church in South Windsor picked up the bingo equipment that they loaned our parish. The two (2) TVs that were suspended from the ceiling in the Parish Center have been relocated to the Rectory.

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.

The table which holds the tabernacle has been 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.

A railing has been installed on the rear outside steps of the Church (sacristy exit on the Rectory side). It is primed and needs to be painted.

A down spout on the Church blew off and is being repaired at no cost to the Parish.

Erosion is occurring in front of the Parish Center. Plans are being worked on to re-direct the water flow in order to curb the erosion.

Some ceiling tiles in the Church are damaged and need to be replaced now that the leak in the ceiling has been repaired. Tom Manning will order the tiles.

3. The Sleigh Bells Ring report was presented by Dorli Cloutier. New volunteers, including some non-parishioners, have joined and preparations for this year's fair are moving along. New items and price changes are being discussed. Volunteers will work independently on items over the summer when the fair group does not meet.

4. The finance report was presented by Mike Harney. The results as of the end of the 3rd quarter are as follows: The Parish is showing approximately \$128,000 in assets. The offertory has increased

approximately \$1,000.00 from this time last year. The special collections for Christmas and New Year's Day were down approximately \$4,000.00 from last year's collections due to the fact that the holidays fell on Sundays. The special collection for fuel is down approximately \$4,000.00 but there are still ample funds in the fuel account.

There is approximately \$2,200.00 in the special collection for the needy account. The Council approved the opening of a Pastor Discretionary Fund account and that \$1,000.00 be transferred into it to be used by Fr. Leon as he sees fit to help needy members of the Parish. Distributions from the account will be recorded but kept in the strictest confidence. The balance of \$1,200.00 is being given to the Bolton Fuel Fund, which uses the donations it receives to buy fuel and other household items for Bolton families in need.

Expenses are up approximately \$13,000.00 from this time last year.

4. Miscellaneous issues were also discussed:

A list of improvements, expenses and contributions that the Sleigh Bell Fair proceeds have paid for over the last five (5) is being compiled by Dorli Cloutier and Janusz Herasimowicz for publication in the bulletin.

The Knights of Columbus is planning a Spring Fling for May 19, 2017. The event has been approved by the Council.

There have been inquiries as to whether, at communion during Mass, the host can be dipped into the wine, rather than drinking the wine from the chalice. Fr. Leon will check with the Diocese for approval.

After Easter, Fr. Leon will begin establishing the various Commissions previously discussed.

Fr. Leon has contacted the Pray Line to add prays for new members who have joined the Parish.

Tom Manning is working on a new website for the Parish which will appear on desk tops/laptops and will automatically download as a phone app. Fr. Leon would like the current and future website to list the Pastor's name only once and any other references to the Pastor throughout the website should just refer to "Pastor".

There is a need for more lectors, ushers, Eucharistic ministers and altar servers. Fr. Leon will be asking for volunteers.

The Diocese provides a Volunteer Driver Form & Insurance Statement for volunteers who drive their cars for a church sponsored event. Tom Manning will download the form. It will be available at the Parish Office. The form should be completed prior to participating in an event.

Tom Manning and Fr. Leon will meet to discuss redesigning the bulletin to make it more useful and informative.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Anderson, Council Member