

Minutes of the St. Maurice Advisory Board Meeting of April, 9th 2019

Attendance: Fr. Leon Susaimanickam, Kathy Perlitz, Dorli Cloutier, Lou Cloutier, Janusz Herasimowicz, Bonnie Benevides, Amie Tillmann, Patty Cinea, Richard Carpenter, Bill Hebert Anna Czerowy, Mike Harney, Anthony Girasoli, Sharon Scorso, Wendy Burke

Excused: Tom Manning, Maryann Murphy, Jeff Monroe

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm & Fr. Leon opened with a prayer.
2. Kathy Perlitz started the meeting with wanting to get reports from the various commissions to comment on their progress and keeping us informed of their affairs.
3. Biblical Commission Patty Cinea reported that they have 2 new members. She said that the Biblical Commission was thinking of having a speaker at Masses. They wanted someone that was out of the ordinary. She spoke that Fr. Leon had knowledge of someone of interest & was working to get this in the works.
4. Pastoral Commission Maryann Murphy was not in attendance, but Kathy Perlitz did speak with her & reported that the pray line continues to be active & Ministries of the sick forges ahead.
5. Social Activities Dorli Cloutier reported that the "Sleigh Bells Ring" Fair Group continues to get together to work on this years fair. She mentioned that fair money is being used for windows on the North & South side of the Parish Center. She also asked advisory board members that were present of suggestions of where the money raised could be used.
6. Opportunities to Serve "Caring of the Flowers" Dorli Cloutier reported that we received \$600.00, but was given a budget of \$300.00 on the flowers and was hoping to spend \$400.00, due to the larger amount collected. Fr. Leon spoke and said that due to being \$20,000.00 behind in Sunday Collections that this additional money should be saved. Mike Harney was concerned that collections for specific Charitable Donations, such as, Clothes, Food & Fuel need to be used for that purpose. A brief discussion of last months meeting came up among the Advisory Board of changing the Flower Envelopes to read Flower & Seasonal Donation, so that the Parishioners are aware that some of the money will be used for not just flowers, but for the needs of the Parish.
8. Liturgical Commissions Jeff Monroe was not in attendance & Kathy Perlitz did not hear from Jeff so was unable to comment on it's progress.
9. Catechetical Commissions Amie Tillmann reported:
 - A) Confirmation class will be confirmed on April, 13th, 2019 in Norwich.
 - B) First Reconciliation & First Communion is scheduled for May 4th & May 5th, 2019.
 - C) Food for Easter Donations will be delivered next Sunday April 14th, 2019.
 - D) Faith Formation Classes last class is the last Sunday in April. Amie wanted to do something special for the children. Last year they gave each child a flower & she was hoping to do something similar.
 - E) There will be an Easter egg hunt after the Easter 10:00 am Mass, donations are welcomed for supplies & candy needed.
10. Fellowship Commission Maryann Murphy was not present but Kathy Perlitz reported that the St. Patrick Day Pot Luck was a huge success & there was nothing upcoming.
11. Knight of Columbus Anthony Girasoli had nothing to report.
12. Maintenance Lou Cloutier reported:
 - A) South side upper windows in the Parish Center have been replaced. The North side still needed to be done and due to fewer windows on that side it will be less expensive.
 - B) Leak in the Roof above the stove in the Parish Center is done & that the Knights of Columbus paid for this work.
 - C) Water softener issue in the Rectory that needs a designated dry well for discharge, work should be starting in 2 weeks.

D) He also mentioned that people using both the Parish & Parish Center need to turn down the temperature & turn off lights, by keeping heat running & lights on it is costing us dollars that we do not have.

13. Financial report was given by Mike Harney, he said we have \$70,000.00 in an investment account that is in funds that are considered moderate to conservative. We have had to pull from it twice, \$10,000.00 in the last calendar year, due to not having enough from collections for parish expenses. He noted that this money was from a memorial that was original at \$120,000.00, but is slowly ticking down. We are \$22,000.00 in the hole this year, which is slightly worse from last year. Due to pulling out \$10,000.00 for expenses we have only \$60,000.00 left in the investment account. If our parish continues to run at a loss we will only be able to meet expenses for approximately 2 more years, based on the deficit we have been running at each year. This lead into a conversation of Mass Attendance, which Patty Cinea reported that from 2013-2017 we went from 241 count, down to 180 count, which is a 25% drop. From 2017-2018 we dropped to 158, which is another 13%. All parishes in the Catholic Churches are experiencing this, but due to being a smaller parish it is hitting us harder.

Mike Harney mentioned that there is still money from collections for the Poor & Needy that is at \$1,600.00 and that we have not spent it towards any cause yet. He remarked if anyone knows of a good cause we could use it towards & asked for suggestions. Dorli Cloutier recommended possibly giving it to Social Services Director of Bolton, which would help a local cause.

Mike noted that we still owe \$10,000.00 to the Diocese for a loan we received for the Parish Roof and that we are still paying interest on this to the Diocese.

14. Open Discussion: Anthony Girasoli suggested, since the parish is at such a deficit could we possibly ask parishioners to consider St. Maurice Church in their wills, since many charities do this. He discussed with the group if we could possibly think of renting out the Parish Center for events, which had been a consideration in the past. A few of the advisory board members said that there was a procedure that they put in place a few years ago, but it never really took off & might be worth re-visiting. This lead into a discussion of having Mike & Kathy work with a small group to look at the parishes' financial issues.

15. Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm the next meeting will be held on May 14th, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by,
Wendy Burke
Secretary of the Liturgical Commission