

Parish Council Meeting of February 20, 2011

Attendance: Fr. Wojceich Pelczarski, Sharon Scorso, Rella Bernabucci, Lou and Dorli Cloutier, Tom Manning, Bonnie Benevides, Janusz Herasmowicz, Sharon Snuffer, Joel Cohan, and Patti Cinea.

Fr. Wojceich opened the meeting with prayer at 7:10 pm. The following agenda was discussed:

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of December 21st were reviewed and approved. Also reviewed was responses obtained from parishioners with relation to the questionnaire attached to the February letter from the Parish Council.

2. Tom proposed that St. Maurice Parish return to an independent Faith Formation Program, separate from Sacred Heart, beginning in the Fall of 2011. He questioned the possibility of a combined Confirmation ceremony with Sacred Heart. In addition, he suggested that both parishes' Confirmation prep candidates could attend together the retreat in Garrison, NY, which in the past, proved a positive experience for the students, met the minimum attendance requirement, and allowed the students to experience church outside their own parish borders. He stressed the need to stop the outflow of families from our parish to other church communities. Fr. Wojceich positioned to mail registration forms to families in April, after Divine Mercy Sunday, for the following year. Rella stated she would formulate a letter to parents, along with the registration forms, to provide information as to the upcoming changes for the next calendar year. Tom suggested forming a Youth Group here at St. Maurice. He stated that a Youth Group would have both a religious and social component. Rella added that a Youth Group meet four components: educational (such as Confirmation preparation), spiritual (prayer, devotions), service, and community (social time—an organized activity, pizza, music). A recommendation was to form a subcommittee, explore other catechism and youth group programs at other churches, with focus on areas of success, and contact the Youth Group coordinator at St. Bartholomew for guidance. Other Council members cited how Movie Night, with a family oriented movie and popcorn, provided a camaraderie for both parents and children. This activity ceased due to the year long roof project, and a motion was made to restart this activity.

3. Committee reports:

A) **Finance:** Joel stated that weekly offertory collections have increased slightly. The Finance Council is exploring how to increase monetary inflow and reduce ordinary expenses. There is a need to make cuts. A moratorium on capital expenses is still in effect, except for emergencies. The **St. Maurice Church Annual Income and Expense Report** for the past fiscal year, July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010, will be inserted into an upcoming bulletin. The church building is experiencing multiple areas of water intrusion due to both an aging roof (estimated 25-30 years old), and the severity of snow pile up/ice dam formation this winter. An expression of gratitude goes to the men who shoveled the snow off the flat sections of the roofs to help prevent further damages. The Finance Council is currently working with the Property Management Committee in

reviewing proposed contract estimations for roof replacement on the Church and flat roof sections of the Rectory. Joel stated that Dolores Betti had attended the recent Finance Council meeting to provide a comprehensive update of monies paid to contractors/vendors by St. Maurice, and amount reimbursed by Catholic Mutual Insurance Company, due to damages incurred from water intrusion when the Parish Center roof was replaced. Some of the reimbursement was in full; whereas, some, partial. The Finance Council will seek clarification in areas where the parish has not been reimbursed yet. Some parishioners have commented that the church proper is too cold during weekend Masses. The thermostat was lowered to reduce heat costs, especially as the prices of crude oil continue to spike. A recommendation was made to increase the temperature by 2 degrees.

*Temp increased
to 60°*

Spring
B) **Property Management:** Lou informed that a long task list was submitted to the Finance Council on areas of discrepancies in the parish plant, noted by committee members and the insurance representative, with corrective action prioritized, assigned, and status as to completed/pending. He stated that 50 % of the work has been completed, mostly by volunteers. The intrusion of water from the church roof, leaking into multiple areas in the church proper and sacristy have resulted in the need to place various sizes of buckets and plastic sheeting onto some of the pews, to protect affected areas from damage. Some of the ceiling tiles will need replacement, and interior walls need repainting. The insurance agent has inspected, and will reimburse for damages only to the interior of the building, such as the ceiling tile. The expense of the roof replacement will be incurred by the parish. Five-six roofing contractors submitted estimated costs last Fall, with bids ranging from \$60,000 – 100,000+. This includes full replacement of the church roof and the flat sections of the Rectory. The committee will solicit an update on estimated costs, and break the cost down into roof sections. Prioritized for completion will be sections of the roof that needs immediate attention. The roof over the NW vestibule was replaced last October after active leaking. Some of the classrooms in the Parish Center still require thorough cleaning, especially the chairs and tables. Thus far, only two classrooms have been completed. Volunteers are welcomed. The window frames inside the Parish Center need repainting. Admiral Cleaners have been consulted as to provide a quote for cleaning just the inside of the church proper and sacristy, with the Boy Scouts expected to keep the basement clean and tidy. Lou asked that **NO TAPE** be applied to any painted surfaces, as with its removal causes layers of paint peel off.

C) **Pastoral Planning Process for Strategic Planning for Parish Restructuring:** Joel, Patti, Stephanie and Father had met with parishioners to solicit input on completion of a Parish Evaluation form that was submitted to Sr. Elissa Rinere, and then forwarded to the cluster parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph. This past Deanery meeting included the review of the evaluation tool of the other parishes in the cluster, including a review of finances over the past 5 years of all 3 parishes, what has been done to communicate with the parishes, the final decision of the cluster to remain as is, and what areas where the parishes can begin to collaborate and how would the cluster operate if one parish in the cluster is without a priest. A discussion within the Council ensued on how best to communicate activities of Strategic Planning with the parish. Patti commented that she received positive feedback on including information both in the bulletin and during the Coffee Social. The Diocese reminded how important it is to communicate accurate information to parishioners.

D) **Wednesday Adoration** is from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. If Bolton schools are cancelled due to inclement weather, then there is no Adoration. There will be no Adoration when there are the monthly Wednesday Children's Masses.

4. A schedule for Lent 2011 has been distributed into the bulletin.

5. Parish Census

St. Maurice Parish Constitution & Bylaws both tabled until March meeting

6. Family portraits for the Pictorial Directory will be moved to the Fall. *I have contacted Sybil*

7. The Parish Council will meet monthly starting in March, with the exception of July and August.

*not
June*

8. Joel informed that he introduced an idea to the Knights of Columbus, of possibly sponsoring a social function, tentatively named a "Teen Canteen". The concept is to promote a safe place for teenagers to socialize, in an ecumenical spirit, on a Friday night. Initiatives might include a dance, music activity, food. This concept is in its introductory stages.

9. Marketing for the parish might include placing an add into the Bolton Horizons. Information would include the Mass time changes.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm. The next meeting will be held March 8th.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea

rectory stove

Report on not being an emergency shelter for the town

Safe Environments

Church headcounts