

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of April 17, 2012**

**Attendance:** Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Sharon Scorso, Sharon Snuffer, Bonnie Benevides, Lou and Dorli Cloutier, Dennis Esliger, Tom Manning, Joel Cohan and Patti Cinea.

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:05 p.m.

The following agenda was discussed:

1. Minutes of the meeting in March were reviewed with two corrections. The first was to note that with respect to the Sanctuary, a carpet installation fee was waived by Jason Smith. The second correction noted that the ceiling tiles in the Sanctuary were replaced with sheetrock. The minutes were then accepted.
2. **Faith Formation:** The new scheduling of classes and activities for the calendar year 2012-2013 is completed. The month of May will include the last session of classes with handing out of registration forms for the following year, the combined youth choir/band presentation on Mother's Day at the 10 a.m. Mass, as well as the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation.
3. **Safe Environments:** All necessary pamphlets have been posted.
4. **Finance:** One or more members of the Finance Council will join the next Parish Council meeting to provide an update of the upcoming Annual Report.
5. **Property Management:** Estimates are currently being reviewed with regards to replacing the worn carpets in the Sanctuary and Vestibules. The energy survey report is pending. Mounted paper towel dispensers were replaced as the manufacturing company no longer provided the same product. The planters will be enhanced thanks to Woodland Garden for providing a design plan at no cost. Plantings will be changed from annuals to perennials, with Cliff Scorso volunteering to plant and maintain them. Energy efficient windows have been installed in the Rectory master bedroom. The phone system in all three buildings still needs remediation. A young adult has been hired at minimum wage for 6-8 hours/day, 2-3 days/week. His job responsibilities have included cleaning, weeding, and painting with mentoring provided by Lou. Any one who holds a key to the Parish Center will have their name provided to Sonitrol in case of misfires during or after activity lock up. A suggestion was made to develop and post a standard of procedure list before setting the alarm, locking and leaving the Parish Center. Items posted will include assuring lights are turned off, garbage is properly disposed, etc. This list will be posted next to the security pad.
6. **Pastoral Restructuring:** Second meeting was held on 4/10/12. St. Maurice will continue to encourage the committee to follow the Bishop's recommendations as outlined in a November 2011 letter to the Vernon Deanery. Specifically, to honor that this parish remain outside of the newly arranged cluster group of St. Bernard, St. Matthew, Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parishes. St. Maurice will continue to work collaboratively with neighboring parishes. This has been demonstrated through collaboration with Sacred Heart with combining of students in the Confirmation Prep program. Father Wojciech and the priests from St. Joseph have collaborated with Lent and Advent Penance Services. Other possible areas of cooperation might be with St. Mary's, Coventry, and Holy Family, Hebron. There was a sense of trepidation among some members of the restructuring committee that it may be risky to think that St. Maurice will continue to be provided with its own assigned priest, given that 14 priests are anticipated to request retirement in the next 3-4 years. A motion was made to allow St. Maurice to follow the Bishop's letter unless further directed by the chancery.
7. **Facility Usage:** Tom submitted two forms for review: Draft Policy on Use of Parish Facilities and Draft Agreement for Use of Parish Facilities. With some changes in policy language, Tom will provide necessary revision.

8. **On-line Donations:** Services fees were reviewed for both on line donations via the parish website, and merchant service for credit card use. Other parishes offer the option of on line donations as opposed to writing a check/placing cash into an offertory envelope. Use of a credit card might be usable during activities such as the Christmas Fair or Bingo to pay for purchases. Both services have either a small transaction fee and/or set up fee. Tom will share this information with the Finance Council.

9. **Bingo:** Last night's attendance was 55 persons; generating only a \$35 profit. Planned is to continue with Bingo and reevaluate progress in December. Promoting this activity by placing more visible and larger signs in and around neighboring towns was discussed. Tom will speak with Jim Rupert from the Town of Bolton regarding recent signage restriction changes. Adequate lighting cemetery side parking lot was suggested. Those who do volunteer for this activity have been optimistic and value the sense of hospitality this activity offers our parish.

10. **Pictorial Directory:** Completed and distributed.

11. **Tag Sale:** Suggested was to take select unused items in good condition and mark for sale during Pancake Breakfast Sundays, starting this Fall. This will increase our needed space for storage.

12. **Memorial Book:** This book will provide a formal documentation of article donated to the parish and their donors. Suggested was to solicit someone with expertise in calligraphy.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea