

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of October 14, 2014**

**Attendance:** Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Sharon Scorso, Ron Massimino, Tom Manning, Bonnie Benevides, Janusz Herasimowicz, Sharon Snuffer, and Patti Cineia.

**Guests:** Mike Harney and Paula Meyers.

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:00 p.m. The following was discussed:

1. Minutes of September were reviewed and accepted.
2. **Finance:** Mike and Paula gave a finance report. Offertory is down by 3.3% for year ending June 30; however, it has stabilized for 2 months of current fiscal year. Identifying projected weekly needs may be a contributor to the increase in contributions. Capital expenses were less than \$10,000 this year. The only parish liability is the loan to the Diocese, which is down to \$10, 400 @ 5% interest. This is down from \$50,400 a year ago. A dual concern is finding a means of increasing revenue and containing ordinary expenses. A major expense last year was oil. Curbing fuel expenses, especially at the Parish Center, needs to be addressed. Lowering the thermostat to 52 degrees at the Center, having the Christmas Fair Group work in the Library during the winter months, and increasing parish activities to the lower level of the Church when possible, are under consideration. The Parish Office has its own heat source. ***Sleigh Bells Ring Christmas Group*** has made a contribution of \$3,300 towards the recent purchase of oil. The ***Knights of Columbus*** historically contributes \$1000 annually towards the fuel fund. The lawn service contract will be reviewed as the parish grounds may not need weekly cutting during the hot summer months when grass growth slows. The Finance Report will be inserted into the bulletin this weekend, with an anticipated parish wide meeting with Finance Council representatives after the Sunday 10 am Mass following.
3. **Bingo:** There is a group of people interested in dedicating themselves for a possible restart of Bingo in the Spring of 2015. If restarted, Bingo would be a seasonal event, shutting down during the winter months to save on utilities.
4. **Youth Faith Formation:** Currently, 50 youth are registered in the program. Enrollment is ongoing. 19 youth attended the Diocesan sponsored Youth Explosion at St. Bernard's High School in September. They shared a bus ride with youth from St. Matthew's and St. Bernard's parishes. The cost of our youth sharing a commercial bus was \$200 –a savings of \$400. Service projects for the parish include having the Confirmation class bake goods for the Fair, and assist with fair set-up and moving crafters items in and out of the buildings before and after the Fair. Recommended is to have an established task list. Service hour sheets will be obtained from BHS. Students from other towns should obtain their own sheets. Credit will be given for actual hours of service worked.
5. **Adult Faith Formation:** A multidimensional program has been set for the year. It began with a Scripture study DVD series on the **Book of Revelation**. Dividing alternate Sunday evenings from September to first weekend in February. During the month of February, a book reading by Dr. Scott Hahn, ***A Father Who Keeps His Promises***, followed by a group discussion. During Lent, the newest DVD series by Fr. Barron, ***Priest, Prophet and King***. Under consideration is developing a "Witnesses of Faith Program" in which invited guest speakers would be asked to share how their Catholic faith influences their professional/daily lives. A premise that one quality of a good new evangelist is some

knowledge of Salvation History. A parish community wide 90 day Bible reading challenge through the resource of Ascension Press is a possibility. Its program covers 14 books from the Bible, 12 from the Old Testament. A brief commentary is provided each day. Could this be uploaded on our parish website?

6. **Liturgical Music:** Youth have been participating musically in the liturgy during the 10 am Mass. Suggested is the use of the guitar. There are youth who may want to participate but lack skill with this instrument. Don will be contacted to ascertain if he can provide weekly instruction.

7. **Property Management:** Repairing the major cracks in the parking lot was done well. Final caps on the new sign in front of the Church is still pending.

The meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Cinea