

St. Joseph Parish Council Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 in the North Chapel.
2. Father Mike provided the opening prayer.
3. Roll Call – Absent were Joe Bourquard, Matt Collins, Josephine Daviau (confirmation), Phil Janchuk, Bill Jennings, Maureen Petruzella, Carolyn Rousseau, LouAnn Walter (confirmation), John Arasimowicz (confirmation) Mark Brennan, Ray Costello, Peggy Dunlop (confirmation) Jeff Vincent
4. Minutes from Sept 21, 2014 were approved
5. Religious Education Report - Betty Kirby provided the report. Currently there are 132 students registered for CCD, a bit larger than 2013. All teachers have returned except for one due to job commitments; all teachers and workers have been CORI checked

Confirmation is taking place today Oct 19, with St Anne's from Lenox joining the Sacrament; 14 students to be confirmed

New books were purchased for grade 3 and the confirmation class.

Upcoming events: Rosary in the church Oct 26; Nov 2 celebration of All Saints; Nov 9 Holy Name Society to present gift to second grade students; Dec 21 Christmas Pageant

6. Jack Laviolette –
 - Jack expressed a thank you for display of icon of the Immaculate Mary
 - Fall clean up will be done Oct 25; a sign-up sheet was passed around
 - Oct 26 Knights of Columbus Breakfast – help is greatly appreciated
 - Oct 29 at 6:30 maintenance committee meeting – will be developing a maintenance list and prioritizing with Father Mike; the patching of potholes is TBD.
7. Activity Updates
 - a. Pastoral Ministry – Pat Momnie
 - 3 to 4 Eucharistic Ministers are needed to help with Communion calls once a month at one of the nursing homes
 - RCIA starts Thursday at 6:30 with Sacred Heart joining. There are 3-4 candidates.
 - b. St Anne's Society – Gerry Dahrouge (for Peggy Dunlop)
 - They hosted a Funeral Reception
 - 130 meals were served at the Italian Dinner Oct 18
 - Bishop was to speak at the October meeting but was unable to make it so he will be coming in November to speak

c. Website Committee Report - Mike Wheeler

- It was a successful move to the new platform
- A small group is to meet next week to go over a few administrative procedures (Ray Costello, Michele Madden, and Wendy Dattavio)

d. Food Pantry Report – Jim Armstrong

- A volunteer organization open every Wed from 9 to 10 a.m. and serves on average over 125 people (a record high of 150 has been reached)
- Each client registers and states the various assistance they may receive. A monthly report is prepared for the Western MA Food Bank summarizing the number of new clients, the pounds of food distributed, how many people came each month, etc.
- A client receives a hard bag of 5 – 6 items of canned products and a soft bag.
- The staff is about 30 people who help deliver, bag items, and do weekly chores.

8. Pastor's Report

- The Annual Report is being done and for the first time in many years we are in the red. People are not leaving monies to the church on their deaths and the church has had to deal with the water main break repairs and vandalism in the church, rectory and the parish center.
- The downspouts have been replaced on the church and the parish center but not with copper.
- The security of the church is being upgraded with Lee Audio involved in the process.
- The maintenance committee will be looking at having security cameras placed around the church; 2 quotes have come in to date.
- Work is going on at the rectory for Bishop's apartment. This is not costing us anything and things are being upgraded as this is done with new bathrooms being installed and a handicapped ramp being installed for entry into the rectory
- Father Mike expressed a BIG thank you for his 40th anniversary celebration
- Church Closings -
 - St Francis was sold to an African group and will be used as a church
 - St Mary's – we are no longer involved with what happens
 - Holy Family no one looking at it
- Bishop Maguire's health is tenuous and Fr Mike asked us to keep him in our prayers..
- Fr Mark to come to rededicate a cross and cornerstone from St Teresa.

9. Other Business

- St Anne's Society has donated \$100 to the turkey fund.
- 50/50 winner from the Italian Dinner has also donated his winnings to the pantry
- Parking – Michele has said that signs have been ordered and some of the handicapped spaces will be eliminated to allow for spaces for Deacon Pat, Bishop McDonnell, Fr David and the rectory staff. It must be verified that there will still be sufficient handicapped.
- St Joe High School art department repainted the crèche figures, make sure to thank them.
- Next meeting Nov 16

10. Deacon Pat provided our Closing Prayer.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 10:42.