

## Parish Council October Minutes

In the absence of John Quallen and Cheryl Furtek, Elaine LaPierre presided at the meeting and Gerry Dahrouge took the minutes. The meeting opened promptly at 10 a.m. with prayer by Gerry Dahrouge. There were 21 members present with 4 guests.

New members were announced and welcomed.

The June minutes were accepted as presented.

Elizabeth Kirby reported for CCD that 16 students would be confirmed at today's 11:30 Mass. There are 144 students in the CCD program which is up from 135 last year. On October 18<sup>th</sup>, all middle school children will have a workshop on bullying, and high school students will attend on November 8<sup>th</sup>. On October 25<sup>th</sup> all students will pray the rosary in the church with parents and family members welcome to attend. On November 1st, children in grades K through 5 will participate in the All Saints procession into the 9 a.m. Mass with singing and a litany of Saints.

Pat Momnie reported that 119 Communion calls were made last month. 29 individual homes visits were made along with 21 to assisted living facilities, 18 to senior complexes and 51 to local nursing homes.

Josie Daveau reported for the St. Anne Society that the members enjoyed a covered dish supper at their September meeting and are planning a Christmas Tea on December 12<sup>th</sup> which will end their meeting nights until April 2016.

Reports on the Polish Picnic indicated that profits were down. The poor weather factored into keeping some folks away, but the unsold food products were saved and sold at the Sharing Roots Festival so that there was no loss on products produced by the volunteers.

Jack Laviolette reported through Email and Ray Costello that the Sharing Roots Festival was a success. Again the weather was questionable and kept some folks away but those that came enjoyed great food, entertainment and fun. Next year's Sharing Roots will be on September 11, 2016.

Also regarding Maintenance, volunteers removed weeds from the parking lot fence and along N. Pearl St. The Maintenance Committee developed a list of projects to accomplish as the budget allows, Allegrone Masonry completed repair work, and Wooliver patched holes along the S. Chapel roof lines. The next meeting is 10/21/2015.

Ray Costello reported that the Convent demolition planning has completed its first phase and will take at least a year to complete all the planning phases before actual demolition can take place.

Msgr. Mike reported that St. Joseph is designated as the Shrine Church in the Berkshires. There is still much discussion regarding the St. Mary's campus sale among the buyers,

the diocese and local folks who are still upset over the sale. There are no offers at this time regarding the Holy Family property.

Msgr. had Ray Costello report on the Church finances. Ray explained that for the first time in many years, St. Joe has experienced a deficit of \$40,000 this past fiscal year. If things continue at this rate, he expects a deficit of \$60,000 next year. Collections are down and maintenance is up. There are 1104 active church members and 1315 inactive. (Members are defined as those using envelopes) 28 new folks requested envelopes and 4 declined.

Msgr. had Gerry Dahrouge report on the diocesan committee for Evangelization. The next meeting of the Berkshire contingent of this group will take place at the St. Joseph Parish Center on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Each church in the Diocese has a group of folks that have volunteered to participate in the formation of an ongoing plan to bring back to the local churches folks who profess to be Catholic but do not attend Sunday worship. Michele Madden is the contact person for our group.

Msgr. also mentioned that head counts will be taken at all Masses during the next two weekends.

Regarding other business, the Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Gerry Dahrouge reported that the annual Italian dinner is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>, from 5 to 6:30. Tickets are available at the Rectory or from Mary Paquette at 445-5587 and remain at \$12 for adults, \$6 for kids 6-12, and free for little ones. Only unsold tickets will be available at the door. Cash bar for beer, wine and soda will be available. Joe Dahrouge proposed that we establish a set up group for the Third Thursday events. This led to discussion regarding the fact that the present overall (citywide) layout of the Events Map does not bring a great deal of foot traffic to our end of the street. If the present situation continues, we may need to consider canceling our involvement in the project. The profits have declined appreciatively over the years.

Msgr. Mike closed the meeting with prayer at 10:50 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2015 in the Parish Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Dahrouge