

## ST JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, 3/15/15

### PRESENT WERE:

Jim Armstrong, Deacon Pat Baldasaro, Joe Bourquard, Andy Canata, Ray Costello, Tom Daley, Tom Hamilton, Bill Jennings, Elaine LaPierre, Pat Momnie, John Quallen, Don Rochelo, Bernie Scapin, Fr. Mike Shershanovich, Fran Spina, and Mike Wheeler. There were also four guests in attendance.

Many who were absent were involved with the flower distribution, and Phil and Lena Janchuk had a death in the family

President John Quallen opened the meeting at 10:04. Monsignor Mike led us with a prayer, asking for God's blessing on our mission and life of the parish.

The minutes of last month's meeting were approved.

### CCD:

Jim Armstrong reported for Betty Kirby that the students have participated in Stations of the Cross, (one group last week and one group this week) the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades are practicing for the Palm Sunday pageant, and students in the 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade will be distributing flowers to our shut-ins today. Confession will be offered to all students except the 10<sup>th</sup> graders who will go to confession in the fall before Confirmation takes place, late October or early November. The CCD year is coming to an end, and all has been going well.

### PASTORAL MINISTRY:

Pat Momnie announced that we would be having an Anointing Mass on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the 11:30 mass for St. Joseph parishioners confined to home or Nursing Homes. She and Father Mike would be going to Berkshiretown on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March for mass and anointing, and to Providence Court on the following Wednesday. We have six people in the RCIA program, five to receive Communion and Confirmation, and one Catechumen. One of the five is a member of Sacred Heart and will receive the sacraments there.

### ST. ANNE'S:

The Saint Anne's Society does not meet in the winter, but has hosted funeral receptions and will take responsibility for the upcoming bake sale, to be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, the Saturday before Palm Sunday. They are looking for bakers.

### FOOD PANTRY:

Jim Armstrong gave a report on the Food Pantry. Due to winter weather, numbers have dropped to about 100 per week. This past week there were 117 clients. Donations of food were received from Sacred Heart Parish, and a generous donation of \$500 was received from

Berkshire Bank. Jim noted in a firm request that articles, plates, etc. were not to be left in the Food Pantry area of the Parish Center. It is not for storage, and on Wednesday morning with 10 to 12 people working in that space it is very inconvenient to have to clean up and clear out first. Our cooperation is appreciated. The coffee maker has been repaired, and instructions are as follows. The switch in the back must be in the up position for 10 minutes before making the first pot of coffee. If it hasn't been used for a while, run one pot through without coffee to clean the system. Then proceed to brew coffee. When through, return the switch in back to the down position to conserve energy.

Jim also reported that 20/20 tickets were available and the proceeds from sales are used for CCD and fuel costs.

#### MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Ray Costello reported for Jack Laviolette that Climate Heating was looking into and repairing the problem of sagging brackets on the South side of the church which blocked the steam and caused the pounding noise. They will manufacture new brackets. There is a possibility of them doing the front of the church, also the South side. It will be cordoned off and they will work until March 20<sup>th</sup> and then continue after Easter. Joe Bourquard mentioned that blocks will be put under pipes in case bracket problems reoccur.

Ron Rousseau hooked up a new sump pump in the basement.

#### MISC:

Ham and Bean dinner tickets still available.

#### PASTOR'S REPORT:

Monsignor Mike spoke to Fr. LaPointe who told him to write a letter to Bishop Mitchell for permission to demolish the convent building. The letter was recently sent, and we are now awaiting reply. There was a little action at St. Mary's, somebody looking at 2 of the buildings, and an extension of time for the purchase and sale agreement was requested by Carfua. Renovation of the rectory is almost complete, with one last bathroom to finish. The total cost was fairly high, and we are grateful that the diocese picked up the tab. Michele Madden and Fr. Mike met with a representative of the Mayor's office regarding Streetscape and it was agreed that benches would not be placed in front of the church as part of the project.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Don Rochelo said that the date for the Parish Volunteer Picnic would be on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Parish Center. More information will follow as we get closer to the date..

The second term for five people is expiring (Peggy Taylor, Lou Ann Walter, Fran Spina, John Quallen, and Jim Armstrong) and the first term for four people is ending. (Tom Daly, Tom

Hamilton, Nina Mastrangelo, and Maureen Petruzella.) Those completing a first term will be asked if they are willing to serve a second term, as is customary, on a voluntary basis. Nominations for replacements will be taking place. Elaine LaPierre and Bernie Scapin have volunteered to serve as a nominating committee to find new candidates for the council.

Bill Jennings passed out an excerpt from Pope Francis's "The Joy of the Gospel" and read it to the members, stressing that he noticed from being an EM at the hospital that many people feel out of touch with the church, have no feeling of community, and seem to be fading away. We need to focus on getting them back, and that has to come from the top, he stressed.

In conjunction with the Marian Fathers and Mercy Week, there will be a production of a one person play based on the life of Sister Faustina. One of the productions will be held at St. Joseph's. Admission will be a voluntary offering at the door, and the Marian Fathers have said that all proceeds will stay with us for the use of the church. The play has gotten great reviews all over the country. It is one and a half hours long.

Deacon Pat closed the meeting with a prayer at 10:36

Our next meeting will be on April 19, 2015

Respectfully submitted in the absence of Cheryl Furtek,

Elaine J. LaPierre