

ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

March 20, 2016

Minutes

1. John Quallen opened the meeting at 10:10 in the North Chapel with Deacon Pat leading prayer.
2. Roll call was taken with 17 members present with 4 guests.
3. The minutes of the February meeting were approved.
4. Pastoral Ministry: Pat Momnie reported that monthly communion was distributed to nursing home clients and folks that are homebound. A special Mass and anointing was held on March 3rd and 10th at Nursing Homes. Plants were brought to many folks on March 13th and were very much appreciated. A friend of one of the recipients was so impressed that she donated the expense of the plants to the church. The RCIA program here at St. Joseph worked with all the candidates and confirmandi from the Pittsfield churches. Our parish has one candidate who will be confirmed at the Easter vigil Liturgy.
5. Religious Education: Msgr. Mike reported in the absence of John A. that attendance at CCD classes is problematic due to the many extracurricular activities of various sport programs that are held on Sunday mornings. In the past, there were no activities allowed on Sunday mornings until noon. He noted that it really is up to the parents to try to speak up and encourage coaches to not schedule these events on Sunday mornings.
6. Msgr. gave thanks to John A. and Betty Kirby for their successful program.
7. First Communion is scheduled for May 7th and Confirmation is on October 30th with Bishop Rozanski presiding.
8. Maintenance: Ray Costello reported for Jack Laviolette that the leak in the rectory roof has been repaired. Estimates for the replacement of the fence and gate along the front of the property are quite costly (estimated at \$90,000 - \$140,000) and will be delayed until after the demolition of the Convent building. April 23, weather permitting, is the scheduled date for our annual Spring Cleaning.

9. Fish Fry: Comments on the Lenten Fish Fry were very positive and 190 meals were sold. Many thanks to Jack Laviolette for his leadership on this project conducted by the K. of C.
10. Convent Disposition: Ray Costello reported that it was a welcome surprise that the Community Development Board approved the demolition plans of the parish Convent building without invoking the 6 month delay recommended by the historical commission. He gave thanks to so many of the folks who helped with the planning and reports that were needed over a long period of time for this outcome to finally happen. He estimated that demolition work probably won't happen until the fall. There is still a lot of preliminary work that needs to take place as well as finding the most convenient time for the parish.
11. Pastor's report: Regarding church properties, Msgr. Reported that there is some positive activity going on at the Holy Family buildings. Although there have been no offers as yet, a buyer has shown a lot of interest toward buying the property. There is still no forward movement on the sale of St. Mary's property.
 - a. Msgr. Thanked Ray and his committee for their work regarding the Convent. There was some discussion regarding the present shed that will be moved to the Cemetery, a new shed for storage needs, the need for a sign for the Parish Center. The outdoor security camera project will also be postponed. These will be addressed after the demolition is completed.
 - b. Msgr. asked if anyone would be willing to open a Facebook page for the parish so that information regarding the parish could be sent out along those lines. The Palm Sunday Bake Sale at the Parish Center was successful with many customers filtering in and out throughout the day. The Lenten services have been well attended with Bishop Tim's bible class on Monday, Soup and Spirituality on Tuesdays, confessions and Mass on Wednesday, Stations on Friday evenings, and Vespers on Sunday. Fr. will gather the Evangelization Committee together after Easter to work on projects for the Year of Mercy. An Anointing Mass is scheduled for June 26 at 11:30. Carolyn Rousseau and Pat Momnie will work together on that project.

12. It was noted that Sr. Colette is leaving the area on May 1, 2016. She is going to present a retreat, "Evening of Mercy," for the parish before she leaves. Following the retreat a reception will be held in her honor in the Parish Center. Date to be determined.
13. A Blue Mass is scheduled for May 22, 2016 at 11:30, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. A reception to follow, in cooperation with the St. Anne ladies.
14. A women's conference is scheduled for April 23rd. A bus for transportation is being arranged.
15. Other Business:
 - a. John Quallen noted that there are 2 meetings left for this term. There will be 4 – 5 openings available on the council.
 - b. A nominating committee made up of Carolyn Rousseau, Nina Mastrangelo, Elaine LaPierre, and Peg Dunlop will gather nomination information for presentation at the May meeting.
 - c. A Mass card will be sent to Francis Spina on behalf of the council in memory of his wife Sally.
 - d. Mike Schirripa is doing well recuperating and is helping at the CCD Breakfast this morning.
 - e. The annual Holy Thursday Lasagna supper is scheduled for March 24th at 5 p.m. in the Parish Center and folks are asked to call the Rectory for a number count.
 - f. Jeff Vincent reported that 20/20 tickets are moving but there are still many more to be sold.
16. Closing prayer was lead by Msgr. Mike
17. Next meeting will be April 17, 2016
18. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gerry Dahrouge