

St. Joseph Parish Council
Minutes of meeting May 15, 2016

Chairman John Quallen opened the meeting at 10:18 with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to be with us on this Pentecost Sunday.

Absent were: Joe Bourquard, Tom Daly, Cheryl Furtek, Phil Janchuk, Pat Keegan, Kathleen Maloney, Scott Nugai, Bernadette Scapin, Jason Street, John Arasimowicz, Deacon Pat, Mark Brennan, Jeff Vincent, Fr. Mike

The minutes of the April 17th meeting were approved.

ACTIVITY UPDATES:

Pastoral Ministry—Pat Momnie reported regular Communion calls. She will be having a rosary and Communion service on May 17 at the Adult Day Care and later at Berkshire Town. The statue of Our Lady of Fatima is on pilgrimage, currently at Berkshire Town. A Healing Mass will be held on June 26. Invitations will be sent out on May 26.

St. Anne Society—Peg Dunlop reported that the first meeting of the new season was held on April 20th and was very well attended. Committees were selected for the various functions of the Society. They hosted the reception for Sister Colette and First Communion. First Communion pins were given to the 7 children. They will be baking for the upcoming Blue Mass. St. Anne's currently has about 50 members, usually about half attend meetings.

Maintenance Committee—Jack Laviolette thanked those who participated in the spring cleanup. Goals were accomplished, few things left to do, weather permitting. He has received quotes for painting of the stained glass window frames. Talked to 2, will get 1 more for their perspective.

Convent Disposition Status—Ray Costello said the snail pace went to turtle speed, heading into the sprint. Opened bids in Springfield, invited 3 contractors. 2 submitted bids, one in target range. The Bishop has approved moving forward. All that we need is the preparation of contract and signatures. It is expected to start on July 20 and be finished by September 2. Anything stored has to be out in next few weeks; anything left will be part of demolition. 3 things to be saved are the cross on top, the cornerstone, and a uniquely designed 3 leaf clover. Also, two stained glass windows. Next step is to present bid to the finance council for approval.

Nominating Committee Report—Carolyn Rousseau reported that bios of the candidates have been presented to the parish and voting is being done today. We have 10 strong candidates and only 4 vacated spots on the council. The winners will be announced in the bulletin and introduced at our September meeting.

Election of Officers for 2016-2017 season. A discussion followed as to when to vote for officers for the 2016-2017 season. Joe Tournier felt that the new members should be a part of the vote. It was decided that although we may change it in the future, we would keep it the same way today. Joe proposed to the council a motion that elections be delayed until fall so the new members can vote. The motion was made, not seconded. Joe may bring it up again in the fall.

John Quallen will remain as chairman, Bernie Scapin will serve as Vice-chairman, and Cheryl Furtek will remain as secretary. All votes were unanimous. John thanked the outgoing members, Joe Bourquard, Phil Janchuk, Bill Jennings, and Elaine LaPierre.

OTHER BUSINESS—

Blue Mass—Jack Laviolette announced that the 2nd annual Blue Mass will be held on May 22 at the 11:30 Mass. This mass was started in 1934 by a parish priest in Washington D.C.—1000 officers in uniform attended. All Parish Council members are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Honor guards will be Sheriff Bowler and the Knights of Columbus. A missing person ceremony to honor fallen officers will be held, light refreshments will be served. All Berkshire County and beyond are invited. The honorees will be seated in the front of the church.

Father's Day Breakfast—It will be held from 8 to 11, sponsored by Knights of Columbus to raise money for scholarships and other worthy causes. Jack also mentioned to save the date for the Festival of Sharing Roots, which will be held on September 11.

Anointing Mass—Carolyn Rousseau added to Pat Momnie's report that bulletin notices will be put in the church and that help is needed in setting up, as well as in church that morning.

Volunteer Picnic—Don Rochelo said that it will be held on June 10 and preparations were well in hand.

Next meeting—will be held on September 18, 2016, hopefully not conflicting with the first day of CCD.

Fr. Deeker closed the meeting with a prayer at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine J. LaPierre