

St Joseph Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 in the Parish Center. Attendance was lower than usual but quite good in spite of the wintry weather.
2. The opening prayer was provided by Deacon Pat.
3. Roll Call – Absent Joe Borquard, Tom Daly, Josephine Daviau, Phil Janchuk, Pat Keegan, Betty Kirby, Kathleen Maloney, Nina Mastrangelo, Maureen Petruzella, Donald Rochelo, Joe Ryan, Francis Spina, Jason Street, Peggy Taylor, Lou Ann Walter, Andy Wells, Mark Brennan, Peggy Dunlop, Michele Madden, Pat Momnie, Jeff Vincent, Fr. Mike.
4. Minutes from January 18, 2015 were approved.
5. Religious Education Report – John Arasimowicz
Everything is going smoothly; Commitment Sunday was attended by all 15 candidates and families, and First Penance was also a success.
Souper Bowl Sunday was a great success with a significant donation going to the food pantry; Jim Armstrong expressed the gratitude of the Food Pantry for the donation, which was around \$700.
6. Activity Updates
 - a. Pastoral Ministry –
Rescheduled the May 17 - Anointing mass a new date is yet to be determined
 - b. St Anne's Society - Elaine LaPierre
Funeral receptions were performed
Trip to Canada is still being planned
Next meeting is scheduled for April
 - c. Please remember the Lafayette and Brennan families in your prayers. Peter recently lost his son and Mark just lost his father.
 - d. Maintenance – Jack Laviolette
The pews have been tightened up.
Removal of a short section of pews behind the pillars will take place to improve accessibility; Father Mike gave the okay.
Drain sump to be cleaned out.
Overall list of to do items will take place during the spring cleanup, as soon as possible.

Removal of covers over heating pipes will be done in the near term, which will cause some of the pews to be roped off – Climate will be making some adjustments to the pipes, which should help to reduce the clanging of the pipes during heating season.

e. Convent Disposition – Ray Costello

After numerous meetings the final recommendation is to proceed with tearing down the convent.

A meeting took place with Russ Sprague from the diocese, who went through the building and came up with estimate for the environmental consideration and the actual demolition (30 to 40 thousand for asbestos removal, and 80 – 105 thousand for demolition). From the previous fund raising for the Parish Center there is about 100 to 110 already allocated in the funds for this expense.

The next step is to put together a package to present to the diocese; this will involve getting in touch with Russ and putting the documentation together for diocese and then showing we have the funds and then a letter to the historical commission. The historical commission will tie things up for about 6 months during which time the building will need to be offered for sale. The whole process may take a year to a year and a half. The Parish Council took a vote and is recommending that Fr. Mike proceed in starting the process for the demolition.

Jack Laviolette is getting people in to look at the mill work such as architectural salvage companies; one company has made an offer and Jack is waiting for 2 others to come in with an offer. The stained glass windows are not Tiffany's. Jack will present when the other offers come in. It is a hopeful that the money will help to offset the demolition costs.

7. Pastor's Report – Ray Costello reported that there is no new activity on the closed parishes. Carfua has a purchase and sale agreement in effect on St. Mary's.
8. New Business –
 - a. Jim Armstrong – Pink Mass for cancer on March 15 at St Joseph at the 11:30 mass for Berkshire County, similar to those that occur in Springfield. There will be light refreshments afterwards in the Parish Center. The Mass will be open to anyone affected by cancer.
 - b. Jack Laviolette - Fish Fry Feb 27 sponsored by the Knights. Ticket sales are good but he could use help selling tickets; all proceeds will benefit our parish. On March 21 ham and bean dinner sponsored by the Knight of Columbus and on May 17 at the 5:30 mass a Blue Mass for all emergency service providers.
 - c. Anointing mass was scheduled for May 17 and it was found 2 other functions were scheduled so the Mass date had to be changed. Michele has the calendar to

schedule events so make sure she knows about any event to ensure you have the parish center when you need it, also you can check online to see the calendar on the website.

- d. International Station of the Cross Friday Feb 20 at 6:30; reception and discussion following in the North Chapel.

- 9. Closing prayer was offered by Deacon Pat.