

## Minutes

### St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Parish Council Meeting

September 12, 2017

#### In attendance:

Msgr. Colacicco	Ann St. Germain	Michael Delahanty
Laura Warning	Carol Wood	Perry Hartswick
Mary Schaller	Robert Mahar	Nancy Raymond
Judy Yarohowicz	John Cina	Mickey Prisco

Msgr. Colacicco began the meeting with a prayer and welcome. He asked everyone to keep the sick and dying members of the parish in their prayers. We have quite a number, some very close to going home to the Lord.

The minutes of the May 9, 2017, Parish Council meeting were accepted.

#### Agenda

##### 1. Reclassification of Little St. Joseph and Immaculate Conception Properties

The two churches have been declared profane but not for sordid use. This declaration makes it possible for us to demolish the church in Bangall and to sell the Clinton Corners property.

An article concerning this declaration published in the Poughkeepsie Journal in July caused some confusion among parishioners. Msgr. published a letter in the August 13<sup>th</sup> Bulletin to help clarify the meaning and effect of terminology and to explain the process. We are now awaiting permission from the Archdiocese to proceed with plans.

The plan is to demolish the church building in Bangall and construct a new road leading into the cemetery there. Then we can sell a portion of the property and remaining structures. We are in the process of getting bids on the work to be done. Msgr. is hopeful that the work will be well along

before winter. He particularly wants to save the beautiful stained glass windows that can be used by other churches.

The Clinton Corners building is not as urgent, although it needs a lot of work. It has not been condemned; it just needs work. This project is on the back burner for now.

Mickey asked if a storage shed will be needed on the Bangall site. Msgr. said that because we contract out for landscape services no shed is needed. He also mentioned that he has heard rumors about our having sold the school. We have not. He does not know where the rumors originated.

Judy asked what happened to the statues in the church in Clinton Corners. Msgr. said they are still there. He is considering moving them to a closet in the school since they are a part of our patrimony. He said the Sisters of Life are expanding and need chapels in three other cities. They wanted the statues, but the Archdiocese denied permission to dispose of them in that way at this point.

Judy also wanted to know if we are saving the veterans' plaque. Msgr. wants to do something with that plaque as well as the donor plaque from Bangall. He added that we can get rid of the pews and will offer them to parishioners first, then put them up for sale.

Perry wanted an update on the status of the \$200,000 that had been designated for the new building fund in Bangall. Msgr. told the council that we needed to publish a notice in the bulletin twice in an effort to find the original donors to that fund. After the prescribed time the money could then be transferred to a different account and used for other purposes. On the last day of the required time frame someone came forward with a letter indicating that a donation of \$25,000 had been made. Although the language in the letter was not very specific the judge awarded the reimbursement to the claimant. So, now we have \$175,000 left of the money. Msgr. is planning to use these funds for the demolition and new road project at the Bangall site.

## 2. Religious Education Program

Laura Warning, Coordinator of Religious Education, gave a report on our program as we begin the new year. Classes began on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. There are 150 students enrolled, 29 in the First Holy Communion Class, and 28 in the Confirmation Class. There is also a class for children who are behind their age group in their religious studies.

Laura reminded the council members that the Confirmation Candidates are required to perform 20 hours in services that help promote the family, parish, and community. Any individual or group having a possible project to help the students fulfil this service requirement is asked to contact Laura.

Laura acknowledged the wonderful group of volunteers who make the program possible, 80% of whom have been with the program 10 years or more.

## 3. Parish Picnic

Msgr. reported that the attendance was good, the same number as attended last year. The amount of food needed was well judged, leftovers being minimal. He commented that fewer tables and chairs should be ordered next year. Mary added that the cooks, servers, and other helpers did a wonderful job making everything go smoothly with no hitches.

## 4. Coffee Hour

Msgr. said that we have decided to try having a social gathering in the Hall after the 8am and 10:15am Masses. We have selected two dates, September 24<sup>th</sup> and October 22<sup>nd</sup>, to do trial runs. If attendance is good and we have enough people interested in serving we will establish a regularly scheduled Coffee Hour, perhaps the second Sunday of each month beginning in January.

Msgr. suggested that this would be a good opportunity for Confirmation candidates to earn service hours.

## 5. Church Steps

On September 18, we will begin the work of repairing and replacing the steps at, first, the sacristy entrance and, then, the front entrance to the church. To increase safety and ease of passage in and out of the front door the top landing will be extended about one foot, and, consequently the bottom step will end one foot further out from the church than it does now.

Eventually, the steps that lead down to the road will be torn out and rebuilt along a more convenient path. The present steps have been compromised by tree roots and the lighting for them is poor. We will install new lighting and, while we are at it, a new sign for the name of the church and Mass times. Finally, the exterior will be repainted.

At some point in time we will add an awning on the front of the building to protect the doors from the elements, one similar to the one that was there many years ago. Msgr. passed around a picture of the church taken when the front still had its somewhat ornate protected entry.

## 6. Programs for the Fall

Someone at the Parish Town Meeting suggested that we have a Bible Study. Seeing that the idea had some support Msgr. suggested that we consider Bishop Barron's new series David the King, a commentary on 2 Samuel, David's relation to Christ the "New David". This series is a little different from Bishop Barron's previous ones in that there are seven 90-minute sessions, each with a lecture, workbook, and small group discussion. Msgr. invited comments from the members.

Mickey said it was a good idea. Bible Studies are common things in most churches.

Judy remembered that the Bible Studies that Daisy Abruzzo led were well attended. She said she had been looking forward to more like it.

Msgr. thought that we could have day and evening sessions, both, if people wanted that.

Mary commented that smaller groups make participation easier.

Msgr. said the response from the group seemed positive and he would try to get a schedule made up.

Perry suggested that we also consider having a Movie Night, maybe *The Passion of the Christ* or *Risen*. Msgr. said we have *Risen* and that there are a number of other good movies that we could show. Nancy added that it is

good to watch the movies with others in the parish even though we can watch most of them at home on cable TV or Netflix. Msgr. suggested that we do the Bible Study in the fall and, in the spring, have a regular Movie Night.

#### 7. Upcoming Events

- Public Rosary, Saturday, October 14, 11am on the front lawn of Whalen's Insurance
- Pastor's Study Week, October 16-20. This is an annual retreat for Msgr. Fr. LaMorte will cover the parish as he did last year.
- Parish Fall Dinner, Saturday, October 21, sponsored by the Women's Guild
- Blood Drive Monday, October 30, 2:30 to 8:30, in the Parish Hall, sponsored by the Women's Guild
- Senior Luncheon, Saturday, November 11, 12pm, sponsored by the Women's Guild

#### 8. New Business

Mickey asked how much was donated for the hurricane victims in the second collection. Msgr. replied that we collected \$6,000. The money is sent via check to the archdiocese. The archdiocese in turn sends a check to Catholic Charities. Msgr. added that two little girls from the parish decided to have a lemonade stand to benefit the victims and collected \$73 which they donated to the cause.

Mickey then asked what Msgr. meant by the term "expand" in regard to the parking lot. In response Msgr. said that part of the front and side lawns of the rectory would be used for parking. Mickey wondered if the new steps would affect the number of parking spaces. The answer was they would not.

Perry asked if a decision had been made about the tree commenting that it does not look healthy. Msgr. agreed that its health seemed to have declined since the whole tree discussion began. It is not good for it to be surrounded by asphalt. The decision has yet to be made.

Robert questioned the status of the wall for cremains. Msgr. answered that we asked a company to submit drawings and propose a price to erect a wall on each side of the Holy Family statue. We are waiting for the proposal.

Laura asked for an update on the issue of the shed. Msgr. said that when the work comes to that area the shed will be torn down. Msgr. added that we will designate an entrance and exits to the new parking lot and put up one-way signs. Nancy suggested that the signs could go up now because people are causing unsafe situations currently by driving against the flow of traffic.

Judy commented that before she became a member she thought the Parish Council was a big secret. Msgr. assured her that it was not a secret and the members are free to discuss the items covered in the meetings with others as they see fit. Judy expressed the opinion that the names of the members should be published and that the minutes be put on the parish website. Msgr. agreed that the information could be put on the website and added that members could refer people who inquire to that resource.

Msgr. said that he would gather a list of movies to offer for Movie Night and work on information for the website. Perry offered to put clips of selected movies on the website also.

Msgr. thanked everyone for their input and then ended the meeting with a prayer.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2017, at 7pm in the Parish Hall. A reminder will be sent.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Schaller