

Minutes

St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Parish Council Meeting

November 14, 2017

In attendance:

Msgr. Colacicco	Ann St. Germain	Michael Delahanty
Daisy Abruzzo	Carol Wood	Perry Hartswick
Mary Schaller	Robert Mahar	John Parisi
Judy Yarohowicz	Gene Canevari	Mickey Prisco

Msgr. Colacicco began the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the September 12, 2017, Parish Council meeting were accepted.

Agenda

1. Current Projects

The church steps turned out well. Everyone agreed that they are beautiful. Msgr. reports that the railings will be installed soon, and the doors are being repaired because some were not working properly. New hinges are being applied to insure smooth opening and secure closing.

In the spring we will start on the new parking lot and walkways. It is too cold now to begin this project. The shed will be demolished at the same time. Msgr. also wants to widen the walkway along the left side of the church as a part of the new plan because it is too narrow to be used comfortably. Two people have approached Msgr. offering money to help with the work, some this year and some next year.

On November 27th and 28th Kennedy Tree Service will take down the big tree near the rectory. After much consideration this course of action seems the most prudent.

In Bangall asbestos was found in the church during the course of the tests required by the archdiocese. The testing cost \$500 and the first estimate for the cost of the asbestos removal was \$5000. A second estimate has been requested. The demolition of the church will be more expensive than anticipated because of the asbestos problem. We have the money to cover it, but whatever money is used for the demolition takes away from the funds available for the new road to the cemetery. The church demolition project is moving along, but very slowly.

The road to the cemetery must run along the existing easement even though it would seem more efficient to follow a more direct path. Unfortunately, there are two other lots belonging to others that adjoin the church/cemetery property that we cannot use.

2. Discussion of Various Parish Activities

We have started a social gathering after two of the Sunday Masses on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We will skip December and have the next one in January and then one each month after that. The first two of these coffee socials were attended by the parishioners who always show up for everything. There were few new faces. Daisy commented that maybe more people will participate as a routine is established. She suggested that regular attendees invite someone who might not otherwise attend. In this way we might encourage broader participation.

Our Blood Drive held in October yielded 19 pints. Msgr. thought that was a small amount. Still, it is an activity to repeat if people want it.

We have a Festival Parish Choir with 12 members that has been rehearsing for the Christmas season. Mary Grosskopf who is choir director in Hyde Park will be directing, and Bernadette Syverson will play the organ.

We are in need of volunteers to assist with our Religious Ed program as hall monitors, classroom aides, and substitute teachers on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings. It was suggested that confirmation students might earn service credit by assisting the program in a capacity appropriate to their abilities.

Msgr. thanked Perry Hartswick for putting the Parish Council on the parish website. Perry reported that there have been 1000 hits on the site since June, and 20 to 30 people have signed up for Flocknotes from the website. Included on the site are readings of the day, forms, overview, bulletins, etc. Ann asked if Perry had put the Coffee Hour up. Perry said that he thought so. He also included Uncle Al's, Religious Ed., CYO, and the Women's Guild. Gene asked if Perry could include a video of the month such as material from Bishop Barron, Fr. Mike Schmidt, Fr. John Riccardo, or Scott Hahn. Perry said that could be done. There was further discussion of ways to make the website current and different each month.

3. Additions to the Bulletin

Msgr. gave the members copies of the subscriptions, "Growing in Faith" and "Partners in Faith", to evaluate for possible inclusion in our Sunday bulletin. The cost of a subscription to "Growing in Faith" is \$185 and to "Partners in Faith" is \$165. The articles in each issue are short, easy to read and educational. Other parishes have found them useful. He wants to know what we think of the idea. Members seemed to agree that this might be a good educational tool.

4. The Film: Il Villaggio di Millbrook

This 35-minute film is an outgrowth of the Museum of the Streets Project featuring interviews of some of the older Italians in Millbrook, many of whom are parishioners of St. Joseph. It will be shown on November 18, at 2pm in the Millbrook High School auditorium. There will be a reception afterward featuring Italian cookies. Msgr. hopes to show the DVD in the parish at some future date for those who will not be attending on Saturday.

5. Thanksgiving Baskets

We have 11 families who will be receiving baskets of food for the Thanksgiving feast this year. This number is two more than last year. Preparations will be made Sunday, November 20, in the parish hall.

6. Thanksgiving Day Mass

Mass on Thanksgiving Day will be at 9am.

7. Upcoming Ecumenical Services

There will be advent Vespers on Sunday, December 17 at 4pm at St. Peter's in Lithgow.

Prayer for Christian Unity Week will begin on Sunday, January 14, 2018 with a service at St. Joseph's at 3pm. As hosts we will serve refreshments in the hall following the service.

8. Christmas Preparations

The artist who worked on the interior decoration of the church found a Nativity set in the basement that may well date from the beginnings of the parish. He asked if he might restore the figures and, as a result, we have a beautiful Creche to use for this year's Christmas celebrations. The scene will be installed to the left of the altar. The statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be moved temporarily to the other side. There will be lighted trees as a backdrop for the scene.

Reconciliation Monday will be December 18 with Confessions from 3 to 5pm and at 7pm.

On Christmas Eve we will have the full Sunday schedule followed by Masses at 4pm, 5:30pm, and midnight. Christmas Day Masses will be at 9am and 12noon.

New Years Day is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year because it falls on Monday. On New Year's Eve there will be the full Sunday schedule, no evening Mass. Mass on New Year's Day will be at 9am and 12noon.

9. New Business

Msgr. reported the number of Baptisms to be on the increase. Between September 2016 and August 2017 there were 15 Baptisms. Since then we have already had 15 and have more scheduled into January 2018. This is a wonderful sign for our parish.

Msgr. regretfully informed the council that Wanda, our parish secretary, will be leaving to take a full-time position at the Millbrook Middle School. He has interviewed candidates and selected someone who now is being trained to take Wanda's position.

Mickey began a discussion of church security in light of the recent incidents of violence against church congregations. He asked whether or not the

diocese had made any statement about church security. Msgr. told the group about security measures and the large barricades that have been installed at St. Patrick's Cathedral. But, he said, small churches are just as vulnerable. We have cameras aimed toward the vigil lights as a response to the robbery and vandalism committed there. However, we have no specific measures which address terrorism.

Perry mentioned the devastating fire at the Rip Van Winkle apartments in Poughkeepsie. Msgr. said that he would touch base with Mary Marshall of Catholic Charities to find out if there are ways that we can help.

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

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2018, at 7pm in the Parish Hall. A reminder will be sent.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Schaller