

**St. John Paul II Parish
Adams, MA
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
on Monday, April 25, 2016**

The Parish Council of St. John Paul II (“SJP II”) Parish met in Kolbe Hall of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Monday, April 25, 2016.

Those present: Kathleen Luczynski (chair) and James Loughman (Secretary) (Communications), Janet Rogge and Louise Charron (Family Life), Christine Milesi and Barbara Wisniowski (Hospitality), Lawrence Clairmont (Property), Barbara Armata and Mary Whitman (Spiritual Life), Diane Wyman (At Large), Elizabeth Wyman (Youth), Timothy Rougeau (Music Director) and Steven Melito (CCD Director).

In addition, five other individuals also attended the meeting.

Fr. Steve opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:03 p.m. and then Kathy called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Jim submitted minutes of the Parish Council’s meeting on March 28, 2016. Barb moved to accept them as submitted; Mary seconded the motion; and it passed.

Pennsylvania Pilgrimage: Fr. Steve stated that our Parish’s bus pilgrimage to Pennsylvania during April 11-13, 2016 was fantastic. The trip went smoothly, and everyone who attended had an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Local Pilgrimage: Mary announced that our Parish still plans to hold a bus pilgrimage to two local shrines on Saturday, August 27, 2016, but the details have changed.

Initially, the plan was to visit Lourdes at Litchfield in CT and the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, MA. However, it turns out that the Divine Mercy Shrine is already “booked” for another event that day. Consequently, the alternatives which Mary is currently looking into are:

- (a) A trip to Lourdes at Litchfield and then St. Anne’s Shrine in Waterbury, CT; or
- (b) A trip to Our Lady of Loreto Shrine in Worcester, MA followed by a visit to St. Joseph’s Abby in Spencer, MA.

The latter alternative would be slightly longer and more expensive. Mary hopes to have more details and a final decision by our next Parish Council meeting.

Year of Mercy: Fr. Steve reported the Mercy Masses on the first Wednesday evening of each month have been well attended, as have the Divine Mercy Chaplets held after Mass on Wednesday mornings.

After a slow start, Fr. Steve has been receiving a fairly steady stream of “Act of Mercy” cards from our parishioners, and has been selecting those which he intends to mention from the pulpit (obviously in anonymized form). Furthermore, although many of them are private in nature, and therefore not necessarily appropriate to share with others, he believes the campaign has succeeded in making us more “mercy minded.”

So far, Fr. Steve has received 27 responses to our Parish’s Mercy Outreach, and is following up on them appropriately.

2016 Fundraising Initiatives: With regard to our current Parish fundraising initiatives:

(1) Tim announced that a 16 or 17 person Committee has been formed to help organize the Parish Picnic, featuring the Rymanowski Brothers polka band, which is going to be held at the Polanka Pavilion on Mill Street on Sunday, July 31, 2016, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Prior to the Picnic, a Mass will be held at the Polanka grounds at 11:00 a.m. in lieu of the 10:15 a.m. Mass which would ordinarily take place at Notre Dame. Contrary to a statement at our last Parish Council meeting, however, that Mass will not be a Polka Mass, because the Band does not “do” Polka Masses. Instead, our Music Director will play customary liturgical music.

As previously announced, there will be a modest entrance fee for the picnic although (obviously) none for the Mass.

Furthermore, it has also been decided that, this year, our Parish will be handling the food concession for the Picnic “in house.”

(2) Diane said our Parish’s sale of cash calendars has “cleared” over \$6,700 in revenue. .

(3) Diane mentioned that our Parish Tag Sale will start collecting donations of items for sale on May 8, 2016. The Tag Sale itself will take place during August 12-13, 2016.

Financial Update: Kathy shared the financial report through March of FY 2016 as compared to March of FY 2015. It shows that considerable progress has been made in correcting our Parish’s finances - - i.e., income and cash reserves are up and ordinary expenses and liabilities are down considerably as compared to the same time last year.

The Finance Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis, but, now that the financial situation has improved somewhat, may be able to “skip” a month here or there.

The Finance Committee is currently preparing a budget for FY 2017.

Our Parish’s Standing Committees and other similar organizations are accordingly asked to submit their funding requests to Kathy Luczynski (kluczynski@adamscommunity.com) or Deborah Wooley (dwooley@mountainone.com) by May 23, 2016 so that the Finance Committee may consider them when preparing that budget.

Boy Scouts: Jim asked about the status of Boy Scout Troop 38’s request that our Parish recharter Cub Scout Pack 38 and make room for the Pack to hold meetings and store some of its supplies at Kolbe Hall. Fr. Steve said that request is under review, and noted that the issues are complicated and that there are lots of variables.

CCD Program: Steve Melito said that the CCD teachers met on April 24, 2016 and had a highly productive meeting. During the meeting, Heidi Lennon offered to set up a Youth Group, while Molly Meczywor offered to review and revise the CCD curriculum. Fr. Steve gratefully accepted both of those offers.

Parish Social: Chris stated that the Hospitality Committee will be holding a Parish social outside Notre Dame church after the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

Spaghetti Dinner: The local Knights of Columbus will be holding a spaghetti supper fundraiser at the Bountifare Restaurant on Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

Relay for Life: Chris mentioned that the Family Life Committee's Caring Hands Knitting Group will be having a designated table at the Relay for Life fundraiser at Noel Field in North Adams on May 20-21, 2016.

Next Meeting: Our Parish Council's next meeting will take place in Kolbe Hall on Monday, May 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Steve offered the closing prayer.

Barb moved to adjourn the meeting; Steve Melito seconded the motion, and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Loughman (Secretary)