

**St. John Paul II Parish
Adams, MA
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
on Monday, June 27, 2016**

The Parish Council of St. John Paul II (“SJP II”) Parish met in Kolbe Hall of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Monday, June 27, 2016.

Those present: Fr. Steven Montesanti, Deacon Gregory LaFreniere, Kathleen Luczynski (Chair) (Finance) and James Loughman (Secretary) (Communications), Janet Rogge (Family Life), Christine Milesi and Barbara Wisniowski (Hospitality), Lawrence Clairmont (Property), Barbara Armata (Spiritual Life), Timothy Rougeau (Music Director) and Steven Melito (CCD Director). In addition, Sr. Eunice Tassone and five other individuals also attended the meeting.

Fr. Montesanti opened the meeting with a prayer and then Kathy called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes: Jim submitted the minutes of the Parish Council’s meeting on May 23, 2016. Larry moved to accept them as submitted; Barb seconded the motion; and it passed.

Renewed RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (“RCIA”) program is designed to offer a step-by-step introduction to the Church for adults who are converts to Catholicism or uncatechized.

For the past several years, our Parish has not had an RCIA program of its own, but has instead referred potential participants to the one in North Adams.

Recently, Fr. Montesanti appointed Sr. Eunice Tassone to form and lead an RCIA program for our Parish.

Sr. Eunice (who joined our Parish relatively recently) explained what our Parish’s RCIA program will entail. She stated that so far she has assembled a team of five other individuals to help her administer it, and added that she is hoping to recruit seven more.

Mercy Outreach Card: Fr. Montesanti reported receiving a total of 35 Mercy Outreach cards, asking parishioners to identify those who have left the Church but would welcome his personally reaching out to them.

Of the 35 individuals referred to in the cards, Fr. Montesanti has met with all but four of them. (Of those four, three requested to be contacted by letter, but when Fr. Montesanti did so, they did not respond. As for the fourth, that individual requested to be contacted by telephone, but when Fr. Montesanti called, the person did not answer).

Of the 35 individuals that Fr. Montesanti has met with, the responses were along a continuum, but overall he was highly encouraged by the feedback. Some of those that he contacted indicated they either already had or were in the process of making their way back to the Church. As for the rest, they stated that, although not yet ready to return to the Church, they still valued the presence of God in their lives.

Parish Picnic: Our Parish will hold Mass (at 11:00 a.m.) followed by a picnic with music by the Rymanowski Brothers band (from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.) at the Polanka grounds on Mill Street on Sunday, July 31, 2016.

Jim said the Communications Committee has completed its efforts to publicize the event in a variety of media (e.g., posters, flyers, letters to other parishes, online and via radio/TV).

Tim reported that the Parish Picnic Committee has assembled numerous volunteers, although he cautioned that more are required, especially to work the kitchen for the event. In particular, someone with a “safe serve” certificate must oversee the kitchen operations, and someone (who may or may not be the same person) is needed to actually supervise them.

Local Pilgrimage: The Spiritual Life Committee has arranged for our Parish to hold a bus pilgrimage to Lourdes at Litchfield and the Shrine of St. Anne in Waterbury (both in Connecticut) on Saturday, August 27, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The bus holds 56 people. The cost per person (which includes a meal, donations to the shrines and a tip for the bus driver) will depend on the number of people who participate - - e.g., if only 35 people go, it will be \$92/person, but if 47 or more people do, it will be \$72/person.

A minimum of 30 participants are required for the pilgrimage to take place. So far, however, despite two weeks of publicity in the Parish bulletin, only 2 have registered to do so. Tim will include one last announcement in the bulletin to recruit participants from our own Parish, before attempting to publicize the event in other parishes.

Tim said that he would investigate to determine whether the bus company has any posters or flyers available (beyond the fact sheet it has already provided) to publicize the event.

Jim said that Communications Committee was prepared to print and distribute posters and flyers (combining the bus company’s fact sheet with the pricing information above) to publicize the event, but noted that effort might have to wait until Eugene Michalenko’s return from vacation in mid-July.

September Mission: The Spiritual Life Committee has made arrangements for our Parish’s second annual fall spiritual mission this September 24-28, 2016.

The speaker will be Williams College chaplain Fr. Gary Castor, whose topic will be “Mary, Mother, Model of Mercy.”

Tim provided the additional information that he has been able to gather about the format for the Mission since the last Parish Council meeting.

Fr. Caster will speak at all the weekend Masses on September 24-25, plus hold Confession on September 24. On the weekdays (September 26-28), he will give a talk at the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Stanislaus Kostka church, and speak at Notre Dame church at 7:00 p.m. He has suggested a reception be held after his closing talk on the morning of September 28.

Fr. Caster will speak about the same theme for all of his talks, although the precise topic will be different at each one.

Accordingly, Tim will try to obtain a topical breakdown for each of Fr. Caster’s proposed talks. Once Tim has done so, the Communications Committee will use this information to finalize its efforts to publicize the Mission.

Finance Committee: Kathy reported our Parish's FY 2017 budget is nearly finalized. The Finance Committee will be meeting in July to review that budget, whereupon it is expected to be adopted in early August and appear in the Parish bulletin by late August.

Meanwhile, our Parish's closing financial report for FY 2016 will be distributed to the Parish Council (via email) in July, and will appear in the Parish bulletin in early August.

FY 2016/2017 Successes: Kathy outlined the considerable progress our Parish has made during FY 2016/2017:

(1) Our September 2015 Mission with Fr. Hugh Burns met such a favorable response that we are planning to reprise it with Fr. Gary Caster this coming September.

(2) A relic of St. John Paul II was installed at Notre Dame church in October 2015.

(3) Members of our Parish Council have witnessed to their faith in an outreach to our CCD program.

(4) Our Parish has held and will be holding a variety of spiritual events to celebrate the Year of Mercy during 2015/2016, including first Wednesday Masses, Mercy Outreach cards, pilgrimages to Pennsylvania and Connecticut, and a Lenten Retreat with Fr. Matt Alcombright.

(5) Our Parish has shown its commitment to community service through its Meals Ministry, Charity Center and Caring Hands programs.

(6) Our Parish website has been redesigned due to work by Aaron Dean Tim Rougeau.

(7) Our Parish has completed its first census in a number of years.

(8) Our Family Life Committee has distributed a total of 142 cards to parishioners experiencing significant life events (e.g., births, baptisms, weddings and deaths) and over 27 new members have joined our Parish.

(9) Our Parish has held a number of socials, and will hold a Parish Picnic on July 31st.

(10) The financial stability of our Parish has greatly improved due to:

- (a) Fundraising events like Fall Fest as well as Tag, Wreath and Calendar Sales;
- (b) The rental of the Manor (a/k/a former St. Thomas Aquinas rectory);
- (c) The adoption and publicizing of a formal Parish Memorial Funds policy; and
- (d) A monthly debt reduction collection.

Kathy closed her remarks by noting all of this progress was made possible by the outstanding hard work not only of our pastor and the members of our Parish's various committees and other organizations, but also our rank and file parishioners.

Next Meeting: Our Parish Council's next meeting will take place at Kolbe Hall this coming September, at a date and time to be determined. (Our usual fourth Monday of the month schedule will not work this September because it would conflict with the Parish Mission).

The date and time of that meeting will be publicized in advance of the event via email as well as in the monthly Parish calendar.

Fr. Montesanti offered the closing prayer.

Chris moved to adjourn the meeting; Barb seconded the motion, and it passed.
The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Loughman (Secretary)