

**St. John Paul II Parish
Adams, MA
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
on Monday, September 18, 2017**

The Parish Council of St. John Paul II (“SJP II”) Parish met in Kolbe Hall of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Monday, September 18, 2017.

Those present: Fr. Steven Montesanti, Kathleen Luczynski (Chair) (Finance) and James Loughman (Secretary) (Communications), Jan Rogge and Louise Charron (Family Life), Christine Milesi and Barbara Wisniowski (Hospitality), Lawrence Clairmont (Property), Barbara Armata and Mary Whitman (Spiritual Life), and Timothy Rougeau (Music Director).

One other individual was also present.

Fr. Steve gave an opening prayer, and then Kathy called meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Fundraising: Kathy announced that:

- (1) The Polka Picnic on July 30, 2017 raised over \$12,000 for our Parish.
- (2) The Parish Tag Sale on August 11-12, 2017 raised over \$8,000 for our Parish.
- (3) Fall Fest will be held at Notre Dame School on October 7-8, 2017. Volunteers are still needed. Those willing to help should call Diane Wyman at (413) 207-1417.
- (4) There will be a Holiday Wreath sale after Masses closer to Christmas.

September Mission: Our Parish will hold its third annual September Mission this year. The speaker will be Fr. William Garrott, a Dominican, who will give presentations from Sunday, September 24th through Tuesday, September 26th. A collection will be held at the mission’s end. Mission envelopes will also be left in the pews.

The Spiritual Life Committee has successfully made arrangements for the Mission itself, and the Communications Committee has successfully publicized the event.

The Hospitality Committee will be holding a Parish social at Notre Dame Church immediately after the last night of the Mission.

CCD Program: Fr. Steve reported that the new CCD Director, Molly Meczywor, has “hit the ground running” and has enthusiastically begun the new year for our CCD program, which launched this past Sunday with a good turnout.

Finance Committee: Kathy reported the closing financial report for FY 2017 was released and, overall, it reflects encouraging progress with respect to our Parish’s finances.

However, Kathy stressed it is important that we not become complacent. There has been a modest but worrisome dip in weekly offerings during this past summer, and Fr. Steve observed that 2% of our parishioners are carrying a disproportionate share of our Parish’s financial burden.

It was noted that some parishioners have asked when we would have a Town Hall meeting (which was previously discussed) to keep parishioners informed about Parish finances.

Fr Steve responded that such information is regularly provided via presentations at Masses, Parish bulletin inserts and Standing/Finance Committee and Parish Council minutes on the Parish website. Moreover, parishioners have been encouraged to attend and participate at Parish Council meetings for over three years. Under these circumstances, holding a Town Hall meeting would serve no purpose: i.e., it would merely repeat the information that is already made available through these other means.

Kathy also noted the Parish budget for FY 2018 was finalized this past August, and calls for our Parish to raise \$540,000 over the course of the fiscal year (which started July 1, 2017), of which 70% needs to come from weekly offerings.

The two principal “capital projects” which our Parish is currently dealing with are repairs to the Notre Dame church steeple and replacement of the St. Stanislaus Kostka church boiler.

Jim passed along a suggestion from the Communications Committee that the Parish both (a) put Memorial Fund envelopes (which allow parishioners to “ earmark” donations for repairs or improvements to each of our Parish’s two churches) at the back of both of our churches and (b) distribute them to local funeral homes. The general consensus was that this was a good idea, although Fr. Steve and Tim recalled that some of the local funeral homes had expressed some concern about the “presentation” of the issue, and promised to look into it.

By-Law Review: The consensus was that the Parish Council’s current By-Laws were satisfactory “as is,” and so no amendments to them were required at this time.

Contact Info: Jim reported that (a) Kathy had just stepped down as co-chair of the Communications Committee (although she would continue to serve both as a Finance Committee co-chair and as chair of the Parish Council, (b) Aaron Dean had agreed to replace her as the new co-chair of the Communications Committee and (c) Molly Meczywor has become the new CCD director. These appear to be the only changes to our Parish Council since this past June. Kathy will prepare a new contact information list for our Parish organizations.

Ministry Fair: Fr. Steve said that our Parish will be holding a “Ministry Fair” in the spring of 2018 to solicit great volunteer participation in our Parish organizations and programs.

Parish Social: Chris noted that our Parish will be holding a coffee social in Kolbe Hall following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Stanislaus Kostka church on Sunday, October 15, 2017.

Miscellaneous: Jim circulated the proposed Parish calendar for October 2017, and asked that any Parish organization which wishes to include a listing in it to contact Mary Jette.

Jan reported that she and her husband had recently attended a Diocesan program upon “Protecting God’s Children,” which was geared toward ensuring parish’s like our own properly implement policies and procedures designed to combat child abuse.

Next Meetings: Our next Parish Council meeting will take place in Kolbe Hall on Monday, October 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. to (*inter alia*) review the financial report for the first quarter of FY 2018. Following that, the dates of the rest of the meetings scheduled for the year are (a) January 22, 2018, (b) April 23, 2018 and (c) June 25, 2018.

Fr. Montesanti offered the closing prayer.

The meeting then adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Loughman (Secretary)