

**St. John Paul II Parish
Adams, MA
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
on Monday, May 1, 2017**

The Parish Council of St. John Paul II (“SJP II”) Parish met in Kolbe Hall of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Monday, May 1, 2017.

Those present: Fr. Steven Montesanti, Fr. Robert Miskell, Kathleen Luczynski (Chair) and James Loughman (Secretary) (Communications), Janet Rogge and Louise Charron (Family Life), Deborah Wooley (Finance), Christine Milesi (Hospitality), Lawrence Clairmont (Property), Barbara Armata (Spiritual Life) and Steven Melito (CCD Director).

Fr. Montesanti gave an opening prayer, and Kathy called meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Minutes: Jim could not recall whether or not the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting, on January 30, 2017, had been approved since that time via email, so he submitted them for (re)acceptance out of an excess of caution. Barb moved to accept the minutes as presented, Kathy seconded the motion; and it passed.

NOTE: In fact, the January 30, 2017 minutes had already been approved via email.

5th Anniversary: The Hospitality Committee held a spaghetti supper in Kolbe Hall following the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, April 1, 2017 to mark the 5th anniversary of the reopening of St. Stanislaus Kostka church and the reunification of our Parish.

The dinner was delicious and the event was well attended. Moreover, although not designed as a fundraiser, the supper ended up raising over \$500 for our Parish.

Lenten Retreat: Fr. Miskell was pleased with the attendance at the series of Lenten Retreat talks that he presented about Church history (past/present/future) during Passion Week (i.e., April 2-8, 2017), and reported receiving positive feedback.

Pilgrimage to Quebec: Fr. Montesanti announced our Parish’s bus pilgrimage to Quebec during April 24-27, 2017 was a great success, and credited Larry for organizing the trip.

April Cash Calendar: Fr. Montesanti reported that the April Cash Calendar drive raised over \$5,000 for our Parish.

CCD Guest Speakers: Fr. Montesanti and Steve Melito have been very pleased with the results of our having Parish Council members serve (for the second year in a row) as guest speakers (one Sunday apiece) for the CCD program in the Notre Dame School on Sundays during February through May. They believe it has sparked greater engagement on the part of the students participating in the CCD program.

Knights of Columbus: Kathy said the local Knights of Columbus have asked for, and received, permission from our Parish to present awards to three individuals recognizing their contributions to our community during a Mass this coming June (either June 11 or 25).

Parish Picnic: Barb reported that the committee responsible for organizing the Parish picnic, which will be held at the Polanka Pavilion on Sunday, July 30, 2017, recently met.

At that meeting, the Picnic Committee decided to slightly raise the food prices at the event to bring them in line with those at similar events in other parishes.

The food serving lines are being reorganized for greater efficiency: i.e., there will be separate lines (and sections) for Polish platters and hot dogs/hamburgers. To that end, the Picnic Committee is asking parishioners to lend the use of any pop-up canopies they may have.

Larry said that five dead/dying trees at the Polanka grounds have been cut down and removed by Troy's Tree Service, whom Fr. Montesanti credited with doing a very good job at a very favorable price. In addition, the depressions near the entrance of the grounds have been filled in, to avoid a reprise of the large puddles which were a problem last year.

The Picnic Committee's next meeting will be at the Polanka grounds for a walk-through. Finally, posters for the event have already been printed, and will be distributed in June.

September Mission: Our Parish will hold its third annual September Mission this year. Fr. Montesanti announced that the speaker will be Fr. William Garrott, a Dominican, who will come in the 3rd or 4th week of September. A collection will be taken at the end of the mission.

Fr. Garrott will provide our Parish with an informational packet, which will form the centerpiece of our efforts to publicize the event, which will take the same form as last year. (NOTE: unlike our first mission, our Parish will *not* take out billboard ads for this one).

Holy Cross Camp: St. Agnes Parish in Dalton, which runs Holy Cross Camp in Goshen, recently approached our Parish to either sponsor campers for its summer youth camp program in July or otherwise contribute to the program.

Fr. Montesanti would like our Parish to sponsor youths to participate in the program at a cost of \$340 apiece. He proposed the two longest serving altar servers (one boy and one girl) in our Parish be given preference for the sponsorship, and then offer it "down the line" by seniority in the event that the initial candidates choose not to attend the camp.

Larry noted that a number of members of Boy Scout Troop 38 (affiliated with our Parish) have used Holy Cross Camp for years, and done lots of work improving its grounds.

ACS Girls Softball: Fr. Montesanti said our Parish was recently approached by members of the ACS Girls Softball League, who sought permission to use the Polanka grounds for their games this summer fall.

However, Fr. Montesanti denied that request because it was simply not feasible to grant it because the extensive changes to the grounds required, and the lengthy and intensive use of the field that it would entail, were simply not consistent with our Parish's needs and events.

Finance Committee: Deb announced the Parish financial statement for the 3rd quarter of this fiscal year will appear in Parish bulletin later this month, and summarized its contents.

Overall, the financial statement was encouraging. As of March 31st, our Parish had \$411,000 in all accounts (versus \$187,000 at the same time last year), although Deb hastened to add some of this was attributable to special collections which have already been earmarked.

Our Parish is now current on payments to the Diocese for the Notre Dame boiler loan, which has been reduced from \$150,000 to \$70,000. We are also current on our accounts payable and Diocesan assessments.

Our regular Parish collections were down slightly from last year, but that may be due to the fact Easter (when there is a significant “bump” in collections) took place before March 31st in 2016 but did not take place until after that “cut off” date in 2017.

Our regular Parish expenses have declined slightly from last year (from \$326,000 to \$322,000), even though snow removal costs were somewhat greater.

The Finance Committee is soliciting requests from the Parish’s Standing Committees and other organizations for any items they might require for the coming fiscal year by May 30th, so that the proposed budget for FY 2018 can be ready by mid-June.

SSK Cemetery: Kathy noted that there is a separate set of books and accounting system for the St. Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery operated by our Parish. A financial statement for the cemetery will appear in the Parish bulletin during the second week of May.

Kathy explained that, when a plot is purchased at the Cemetery, our Parish retains 70% of that amount, while 30% goes to the Diocese to add to the perpetual care fund, from which only the income (not principal) may be used.

It was noted that the current cost of a plot (which can accommodate 2 burials, whether they take the form of caskets or urns) at our cemetery is just \$450, which considerably less than that in other cemeteries, and has not increased for quite some time. Accordingly, our Parish plans to gradually increase that price over the next three years.

Our Parish has also retained the services of a Diocesan consultant to help organize and keep track of our cemetery records.

Volunteer Fair: Our Parish Volunteer Fair, previously scheduled for May 20-21, 2017, is being put on hold for the time being to give us more time to better organize it and “do it right.”

Dynamic Catholic: Kathy reported learning of a program called Dynamic Catholic, founded by a gentleman named Matt Kelly, which is a website that offers parishes a variety of resources designed to inspire greater participation not only from their members but also from nonpracticing Catholics. She played a portion of an online presentation from the website.

Fr. Montesanti indicated our Parish will make use of the program. It will start by incorporating materials from Dynamic Catholic into our Confirmation program through CCD.

Youth Group: Barb reported Colleen Janz (a new parishioner) has volunteered both to serve as a teacher in our CCD program.

Colleen and her daughter Jennah have also offered to organize a Parish Youth Group.

Furthermore, Jennah has proposed, and Fr. Montesanti is considering, holding a monthly “Rock” (a/k/a “Praise and Worship”) Mass to appeal to younger parishioners. Fr. Miskell suggested it would be best to hold such a Mass on Saturday or Sunday evening.

Fr. Miskell also emphasized the need to not only appeal to youth (i.e., teenagers), but young adults (in their 20’s and 30’s) to ensure they do not become disengaged with our Parish life before starting families of their own.

Next Meeting: After discussion, it was agreed that our next Parish Council meeting in Kolbe Hall (previously scheduled for Monday, June 26, 2017) should be rescheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. to avoid a schedule conflict with the Town Meeting.

Fr. Montesanti offered the closing prayer.

Fr. Miskell moved to adjourn; Larry seconded the motion; and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Loughman (Secretary)