

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH
Bloomingburg, New York
Parish Council Meeting – May 21, 2012

Present: Fr. Stephan Huy Tran, Lisa Dyer, Tom Dempsey, Gail Arsenault, Bonnie Sisco, Phil Fayol, Maryann Malamas, Bob Ernst, Thea Woodward

Absent: Joe Fraioli, Tom Virgilio, Richard Hutchings

Guests: Harry Malamas

Call to Order

Opening prayer, next meeting is June 18 – last meeting until September. Bonnie Sisco volunteered for next month's opening prayer.

Review of the April minutes were corrected that Joe Faioli and Bonnie Sisco names were added. The food pantry grant request has been submitted, we will know in July if we will be awarded the grant. The food purchased from the Regional Food Bank in April was funded by a \$1,500 donation from Wakefern and \$80 from the Food Bank. Bob Ernst made a motion that the minutes be accepted as adjusted. It was accepted.

Youth Report – no report

Religious Education Report – Maryann reported we had 218 people in the mass for Confirmation, the First Communion count was not known. Registration for the fall religious education classes is only at 50%. A Religious Education Registration drive will be held June 9 & 10 after all the masses. A suggestion was made at the year end meeting of catechists, to have Religious Education classes held on Sunday to incorporate more parent involvement. Beginning September 2012 all students (all grade levels) will have bulletins signed by Fr. Stephen for Mass attendance record keeping.

Pastoral Assistant's Report – Fr. Stephen read a report prepared by Gary Texter.

Adult Faith Formation – The Discovering Christ Team is building solidarity. We are beginning to discuss and assign leadership roles for the Discovering Christ to be offered at OLA in 2013 beginning Divine Mercy Sunday -the Sunday after Easter- our gift to O.L.A. for our Centennial year.

Interest is building in the **series *Catholicism*** by Fr. Robert Barron. Cardinal Dolan has endorsed it and it has been successful at other churches. One of our parishioners has participated in the program at another church and is willing to pick up the nominal cost of the series. This is a good summer offering without any cost to the church.

Ecumenical Outreach

There was a annual dinner on March 31, to mark the closing of another season. It was well attended by 70 people at St. Pauls' United Methodist Church (our host for the past season). This included clergy, staff, volunteers and overnight guests. Plans are underway for opening again as the cold season approaches around November 15th. To help raise money and awareness for the Warming Station, the Interfaith Council is inviting Houses of Worship in the greater Middletown area as well as service organizations to set up a booth/table at a homemade carnival to take place on Sunday September 30, 2012 from 2pm-6pm. The location will be at Temple Sinai in Middletown. I have spoken with Fr.

Stephan; and have agreed to chair our efforts for Our Lady of the Assumption's booth/table. After talking with those who may wish to help, will decide what will offer. We may even go the route of selling inexpensive donated jewelry or better flea market type items.

Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a pilgrimage to Lourdes for a handicapped, OLA member, Hunter Williams and his family to begin the end of June. Prayers are asked for Hunter Williams and his mother Susan, and father Clinton who will accompany him on this journey with him.

Finance Council – Thea reported that a drop in income occurred from 2010 to 2011 by 10% and another drop from 2011 to 2012 by 6% that is Sunday collections and fundraising results. The expenses are being increased by the Archdiocese including Father Stephen's salary and his health insurance. Bob Ernst asked Tom Dempsey regarding the fuel tank replacement for the Center, if it could be held off for another year or instead of removing it emptying it entirely and filling it with sand and replacing it with two tanks above ground. Tom said he would consider that idea.

Maintenance Report

- The rail fence will be completed shortly with the total investment of approximately \$22.
- The air conditioners – we are in the process of pricing 18,000 BTU air conditioners. We are waiting until we see good sale prices.
- Concrete floor under sacristy – Tetz is willing to waive a delivery fee for the concrete.
- The lighting program that we undertook last year switching out all the ballasts for new ones and using more energy efficient bulbs has generated a 29% reduction in kilowatt hours for the Parish Center and 28% reduction for the Church. Unfortunately, the dollar savings did not follow because of higher energy prices.

New Business -

- A question was raised if Parish Council meetings could be recorded. The board stated that any interested party may attend our meetings, but recording meetings for the sake of recording them would not be allowed.
- **The Parish Council minutes** are now being placed on our website and no longer in the bulletin. The minutes are no longer distributed in the bulletin because it is more economical and accessible on our website.
- **Stewardship Appeal** – Our goal is \$12,000 and as of May 21st we have been notified that they have received \$6,057.00, just over half. In prior years we have usually been at least 2/3 of our way to the goal. No volunteers from our parish have come forward for a PhoneAthon to make phone calls asking parishioners to give to the Stewardship Appeal.
- **Music at Saturday** evening masses – Currently we have a cassette tape to play during Communion. Betty now plays at 2 Sunday masses. How much more will we have to pay for another person to play?
- **Father's Day Breakfast** – Gail mentioned the fire house next door is doing a Father's Day Pancake Breakfast and we may not have much of an attendance because of it. It was decided that OLA will do a Coffee Hour instead of the breakfast for Father's Day.
- **Volunteers for Parish Council** positions are needed. Two council members are reaching the end of their term of office, and we will have two vacancies this September. Please bring names for possible volunteers for our next meeting.

The June meeting will be our last before our summer hiatus. It was asked of the members to bring something to share.

Meeting was closed with a prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Theadora Woodward

Revised: 6/17/12, L. Dyer