OLM Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 20, 2025 **Time**: 6:30 PM **Place:** St. Colman Church

**Attendees:** 19

* Fr. Jan Swiderski
* Sal Merenda
* Bobbie Sicignano
* Debbie Spitzmacher
* Dave Larson
* Cheryl Pizzo
* Carol Banack
* Diana Cathcart
* Silvana Pandolfe
* Mario Pereira
* Lucy Petrella
* Ray Arrigoni
* Tom Capega
* Nadine Ernst
* Alda Fernandes
* Carrie Reny
* Sue Ingraham
* Gail Mullaney
* Tim Murphy

1. Call to Order: Sal Merenda called the meeting to order at 6:35
2. Opening Prayer: Offered by Fr. Jan
3. Approval of Minutes: No corrections, omissions or additions reported
4. Reports:

* **Finance Committee**:
  + - Dave Larson reported the next Finance meeting is scheduled for July. Reports will be available for the annual reports for the Parish. He anticipates we will be on course.
    - Dave also reported that he will attend a meeting in Norwich along with our trustees, Cheryl Pizzo and Carol Banack to discuss details on expectations for our parish in terms of money we will owe for the Bankruptcy case. The court case has now been approved by all parties. (see below excerpt from Diocese Article in the Diocese of Norwich Newsletter).

“The confirmed Joint Plan was proposed by the Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation; the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, representing the interests of survivors, The Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America, and the Association of Parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut.

The Joint Plan establishes a settlement fund of approximately $31 million. This includes contributions from Diocesan assets and sale proceeds from Diocesan properties, non-debtor assets and properties, insurance contributions, and other contributions. Estate professionals in the bankruptcy case, along with Hon. Joan N. Feeney (Ret.) also agreed to a 10% reduction in allowed fees as a contribution to the settlement fund. The settlement fund provides equitable compensation to survivors of sexual abuse, acknowledging their profound pain and suffering and offers a path toward healing. The Joint Plan received near unanimous support from voting creditors and survivors, with virtually all voting survivors having executed releases.”

* **Fundraisers**:
  + **Tag Sales**: Carol reported the 1st Tag sale of this year was well attended. She estimated it profited about $5,000.
  + **Durham Fair**: Debbie reported all required applications have been filled out. Food orders have been placed
* **Social Events**:
  + Silvana reported the monthly Pancake breakfasts have ended for the year and there is still money to start again in October.
* **Faith Formation**:
  + Diana reported that the First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and May Crowning events were held and were very beautiful.
  + She is now in process of working on new Registrations for the Fall.
* **St, John Paul School**:
  + Sue Ingraham reported the school has 98% enrollment and they are hopeful they will break even financially this year. Their Grant writer has left and the principal is filling in that position. There have been many applications for financial aid. Tuition rates are tiered into 3 categories. They have no guidance counselor. Biggest issue is needed space.
* **Property Management**:
  + Ray Arrigoni reported that gutters at ND will be addressed. Two projects will be caulking church windows and using spray sealer on the bricks of both churches.
  + On June 13th a dumpster has been ordered from Cahill to deliver to SC Church for clutter clean out.
  + Tom Capega reported that Frontier has completed service at SC for internet, cameras and security.
  + Interior Painting of SC has been completed
  + Fr. Jan reported the inspector said the roof at SC needs replacement. Ray will secure 3 bids for cost as required. Question was asked if project will be covered by our reserves or from a proposed Capital Fund Campaign.
* **Care & Share:** 
  + Lucy Petrella: There have been no receptions thus far. A request for one will be held on June 7th at SC Church.
* **Ladies Guild**:
  + The group is hosting an afternoon Tea in SC church Hall on Saturday, May 31st 12:00 noon. Tickets are $ 25.00/pp
* **Knights of Columbus**:
  + Ray reported a new Prayer Group is forming. People may submit names for people needing or requesting prayers.
* **Youth Group**:
  + Carrie Reny reported the group volunteered at the Tag sale which Carol B. said was greatly appreciated. They will provide games at the Parish picnic.
  + Their next meeting will be on June 6th and they will attend Old Home Day event.
* **Flower Angels:**
  + Cheryl said the gardens around SC need to have more planting and mulching and wondered if some of the money donated for flowers could be used.
  + Tom said the deer in the area feast on some of the plants.

1. **Old Business:** 
   * Photo Boards: all pictures are done. The arrangement of photos and bulletin boards need to be organized. Debbie was asking for volunteers.
   * Purging of unwanted items at SC: Volunteers needed between 10 am - 6 PM to bring stuff from church to dumpster.
2. **New Business:**
   * OLM Parish received a Thank you note from our new Bishop Richard Reidy for their donation and warm welcome.
   * Debbie said she and Karen Whalen discussed **Our Parish App** and ways possibly to make it a more useful tool for our Ministries and Parishioners. Give some thought as to what groups or ministries would like to be represented and choose from several options how each group would want to set it up.
   * Michele Burford has offered to start a ***Prayer Shawl Group*** in our Parish. She will connect with Cassie Gorton to discuss starting one.
   * PARISH PICNIC: June 29th at Peckham Park: Bobbie provided an outline of Tasks which need to have volunteers as Point People to see all the line items get covered.

(***See attached with volunteer’s names who took on a responsibility****.)*

Respectfully submitted, *Bobbie Sicignano, Co-Chair PC*

**Our Lady of Mercy Annual Parish Summer Picnic**

Date of Picnic: June\_29, 2025\_\_\_\_

1. At April Parish Council Meeting”. **Choose Chairperso**n of this event \_\_Debbie S.

* Point Person to obtaining PECKHAM FIELD rental agreement
* Point Person responsible for **Pre-Event Sales**: Posters, Sign-Up Sheets, cash boxes, (2 per church), tickets, and make available for 3 Weekends prior to picnic.
* Bulletin insert include reminder to bring lawn chairs, sunscreen, beverage (no alcohol) and sign up to bring side dishes and desserts.

1. Point person responsible for **PURCHASE OF FOOD SUPPLIES***: Gail Mullaney\_\_\_\_\_*

*Amounts determined by sign-up sheets and tix purchases*

* Hamburgers
* Hot Dogs
* Rolls
* Cheese
* Condiments
* Lettuce & Tomatoes
* Salt & Pepper
* Coffee (Regular Ground) + Some Individual Decaf bags (like Tea bags)
* Tea Bags
* Sugar, Sweeteners & Creamers & Milk
* Paper Plates: **Sturdy** (dinner and dessert size)
* Disposable Flat Wear (forks, knives, spoons)
* Water. (**Marie**)

1. Point person for **KITCHEN EQUIPMENT PROVISIONS**: \_\_\_\_Bobbie Sicignano\_\_
   * + - Coffee Pot & Filters
       - Tea Pot or Hot Pot for boiling water
       - Spatulas, serving spoons, sharp knives
       - Paper towels
       - Sponge & Dishwashing Liquid
       - Aprons
       - First Aid Kit
       - Trash Bags and Recycling Receptacle
2. Point person for **Pavilion SET UP** (**Day prior to Picnic**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   * + - Check and ensure cleanliness of Picnic Tables, Floor (**should be power washed**)
       - Check and clean Kitchen
       - Check and Clean Restrooms
3. Point person for **Set up Pavilion (Day of Picnic by 11:00 am**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   * + - 8 Tables from SC and chairs for food and desserts. Tom and John Landers
       - Coolers and Ice. 2 large coolers from ND Everyone bring ice as possible
       - Table Covers (24 Tables)
       - Banners and Signs
4. Point Person for **Event Set Up Equipment Items:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   * + - 2 Pop Up Tents for Tix Sales Ray Arrigoni
       - Tables & Chairs
       - Signage for Ticket Sales (Price)
       - 50/50 tickets, Raffle Tix, Admittance Tix
       - Jar for Tix Stubs
       - Cash for making change
       - Pens
5. Point person(s) for **Cooking Crew**: \_\_\_\_**Ray Arrigoni**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   * + - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Point person(s) for Entertainment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   * + - Youth Group Games: \_\_\_Marie Greco & Carrie Reny\_\_\_\_\_
       - Music \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       - Microphone & Speaker, extension cords: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_