

Saint William Parish Council Minutes of the September 17, 2009 meeting

Present: Luanne Corcoran, Tom Dougherty, Fr. Curt Frederick, Tina Hannaman, Mike Hoge, John Kendellen, John Kennedy, Ann Kremel, Fr. Jason Lavann, Anne Mraz, Joyce Pindel, Jeff Roubik, Paul Seifert, Sue Sieger, Marcia Slowinski and Mary Thiel

Mike Hoge called the meeting to order. Ann Kremel led the council in prayer and then all said the mission statement together.

The minutes of the August 20 meeting were reviewed. Paul Seifert moved that they be accepted as printed, Tom Dougherty seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

Under parishioner comments, John Kennedy brought the concern of a parishioner that, if one sat in the back rows of the nave under the balcony, sound echoed back from the balcony including the sound of restless children. This led to more discussion of the issue brought by the Paulsons at the August council meeting about sound. Anne Mraz spoke about a couple in the last row of the south transept who said they had difficulty hearing, were unwilling to move and were unaware that the parish had hearing assists for their use. Fr. Curt said that he had talked with Karen Nelson, a parishioner who is an audiologist, and she will assess the devices we have. She believes they are likely FM receivers. Father said he had not yet contacted the Paulsons. Mike Hoge agreed to call them about what is in process. There was some discussion by the council about this issue.

Under committee reports:

Prayer and worship: Anne Mraz reported on their August meeting where they too talked about the hearing issue. They resolved that there should be a note in the bulletin about the availability of the hearing assists and that signs for locating those devices should be posted in church. Pat Knuth was again selected as chair. They discussed their mission to foster the formation of ministers and the assembly about prayer and worship. They addressed other details like the announcements of funerals at weekend liturgies and offering the possibility of Baptism at the 7:30 Mass one Sunday a month.

Christian formation: John Kendellen said their first meeting would be October 5.

Human concerns: Mary Thiel said the committee spent some time at its September meeting discerning leaders with Sue Sieger chosen as co-chair; this discernment will continue next month. They are looking for new members since their active membership has dropped. The committee spoke about the fire in downtown Beattyville and how St William's could help; that will await the return of Beattyville's pastoral associate from sabbatical. The committee will sponsor a trade fair November 21/22 in the parish hall. There was some discussion by the council about the size of the committee at this point. Mary then presented the outreach recommendations. Sue Sieger moved they be accepted, John Kennedy seconded and the council agreed by voice vote.

Finance/administrative services: Luanne Corcoran said the committee is being re-formed with specific expertise sought among new members. A core group met on 9/14 to work on who would be invited. Once there are acceptances, a meeting date will be set. Marcia Slowinski distributed the July comparative financial report. Contributions are up this year over last year for the same month. Council members had some comments and questions.

Under *liaison reports*:

Youth: Mike Hoge said that no youth representative had yet been found; he is in contact with Barb Gawlik, youth minister, about filling that position.

Waukesha Catholic: Jeff Roubik reported on the 9/15 meeting of the school board. A change in the dress policy raised concerns among the 8th graders who have written a letter to ask that some aspects remain as they were last year. (There were some council comments at this point.) Mr Ruggeri, a parent and chef, will do an Italian dinner as a fundraiser for tuition assistance October 11 which will be held in the St Joseph campus gym. \$77,550 will be taken from the school endowment fund to cover the short fall in the 2008-2009 budget. Fr. Jason said that there was cause for concern fiscally; an example he used was that tuition assistance used to be granted based on money in hand and that is not currently true. Jeff added that the system was coming close to reaching its limit for assistance, set at \$125,000. Fr. Jason said that a leadership group in the system was also addressing the possibility of raising the parish assessments, although aware that two of parishes could not raise their contribution. Jeff also reported that there was discussion at the board meeting about the change in eligibility status for athletics. Discussion by the council about funding and interaction with the parishes followed.

Under *old business*:

Sound system update: This item was addressed under parishioner comments.

Roof update: Fr. Curt said that the current work to repair the roof is nearly complete and that the roofer says that four elements of the church roof need addressing to prevent buildup of ice dams; water damage to the roof has also caused some damage to the electrical components below the roof. The current repairs will get the building through the winter but quotes will be acquired to redo the roof; Fr. Curt is expecting that to run to six figures.

Under *new business*:

Parish council constitution & bylaws: Mike Hoge stated it was time to review these and asked from volunteers. John Kendellen, Ann Kremel and Luanne Corcoran did volunteer to serve on a sub-committee and report to the next council meeting. Jeff Roubik agreed to get the current template for these documents from the Archdiocese.

Vision 21: Fr. Curt presented the archdiocesan recommendations to the council and spoke particularly about the cluster recommendations. The Waukesha priests will begin a discussion once Fr. Jim Volkert, pastor at St Mary's, is back from sabbatical. Fr. Curt recommended musing on the documents at the council level, even while waiting for the appointment of a new Archbishop.

Council committees: Mike Hoge said that 20+ names had been gathered as possibilities to serve on committees. The executive committee decided to work on those committees in this order: finance/administrative services, human resources, buildings & grounds and internet technology. That group also spoke about creating a strategic planning committee after those four were in place.

During the *pastor's report*:

Fr. Curt said he had looked at the demographics of the parish; 18 new households have registered since July 1 so the net number has increased. He said he would give the stewardship presentation at all Masses on October 17/18. He spoke about the steps the parish would take because of the H1N1 virus which would include sanitizer dispensers at each entrance and cleansing of hands by Eucharistic ministers before distribution. He is

resisting any changes in the liturgy itself because of the concern over the virus' spread. He will issue a letter to the parish the first week in October and is also working on one to the Eucharistic ministers. There was some discussion by the council at this point. He spoke about the expansion and revitalization of the bereavement ministry. And he asked the council to mark January 8 in their calendar for a holiday gathering that would include the parish staff as well.

Under *other business*:

Sue Sieger raised the question of re-forming the Eucharistic ministers. Fr. Jason, Fr. Curt and Joyce Pindel said that this was being worked on, coming out of a discussion at the prayer & worship committee meeting.

Joyce Pindel had been approached by parishioners about changing the name of the Weakland room in Vercelli House to honor Fr. Barbian. Tom Dougherty said he had heard similar comments. It was agreed that this would not be acceptable to Fr. Barbian and would make him uncomfortable. Joyce said she would get back to those who spoke to her.

John Kennedy moved that the meeting be adjourned; Sue Sieger seconded and the council approved by voice vote. The council then said the Lord's Prayer together.

recorded by Pat Knuth