

Saint William Parish Council
meeting of August 20, 2008

Present: Father Leonard Barbian, Rick Chiapete, Luanne Corcoran, Mike Culhane, Tom Dougherty, Kevin Flood, Mike Hoge, John Kendellen, Ann Kremel, Fr Jason Lavann, Anne Mraz, Rebecca Rohde, Jeff Roubik, Paul Seifert, Sue Sieger, Marcia Slowinski and Mary Thiel

Guests: Dennis Horbinski, liturgical architect, and Mike Kujak, parish committee member; Rich and Joan Gronquist, Barb Kopaczewski, Nancy Schmidt and Todd Sheetz

Sue Sieger, chairperson, called the meeting to order. Father Leonard led a commissioning prayer for the council members and then all read the parish mission statement together.

The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed. Paul Seifert moved that they be accepted as written, Fr Jason seconded and approval was by voice vote. There was a question about access to these minutes; they are posted on the parish website but a parishioner present said she did not have a computer. Father Leonard said they could be posted again as they once were, on a bulletin board.

Church renovation project

Sue Sieger introduced Dennis Horbinski and Mike Kujak. She asked the parishioners to introduce themselves and they did. Mr Horbinski distributed a schema for the renovation of the west side of the north transept to accommodate the choir and for the installation of a baptismal font. He expressed appreciation for the parish committee that worked with him on this proposal. He felt his first task was to find out more about St William Parish and the reasons for the suggested changes. He helped the committee to look at the theology and symbolism of the major elements in these changes - the choir on the floor of the nave and the baptismal font as a permanent fixture. He told them of a number of different configurations of the font that were possible; the committee chose the cross shape in keeping with the architecture of the church.

Mr Horbinski then told the council and guests about the elements of the reconfiguration including the seating capacity and distributed a sheet detailing these. There is no loss in seating because there would now be seating in the balcony and moveable seating in front of the choir/ musician space (that could be seating for baptisms outside of Mass as well.) He spoke about the liturgical benefit of bringing the choir to the nave floor thus having the whole worshipping community together. He also spoke of the storage space that will be created behind the choir risers, hidden from view by a 9 foot high wall that will also serve to resonate the sound. He spoke more of the baptismal font which would have an upper bowl made of cast bronze. Water would quietly flow from that bowl down three granite pillars into a lower font (to be used for baptisms of adults and older children.) There would be three steps into the lower font. He distributed a sample of the material for the bowl, the granite for the pillars and ledge of the lower font, the porcelain tile that would line the lower font as well as the possible material for a cross that would be set in the lower font. The outside of the font would have the same tile as the nave floor. The whole will be set into the current sanctuary

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(which has a wood floor thus not requiring any major structural change.) The water would be purified by a circulating pump and can be heated. While considering placement, it became evident that a handicap ramp could also be placed against the wall on that side of the sanctuary and so it is part of the plan as well. The current reconciliation room will be absorbed by the project and a second room, now used for storage, will become the new reconciliation room. Mr Horbinski distributed a sheet listing the scope specifications of the plan. He also responded to questions from the group.

Mr Horbinski then distributed a scope budget; the project has not been bid as yet but the same construction manager that worked on the canopy supplied the estimated figures. The total dollars are higher than originally planned for four reasons - the modification of the balcony rail for sight lines, the supplemental sound system for the choir area, carpet runners for the balcony stairs and a contingency fund for a total of \$132,600.

He would look for the project to begin in October but the font may not be started before Christmas. He then responded to questions from the group.

Mike Kujak, a parishioner and member of the parish committee who worked with Dennis Horbinski, then spoke. He is also the head of Metro Sound & Video whose primary work is in churches. He distributed a sheet with the sound system modifications and spoke about the need for more microphones for the choir/instrumental area as well as recording equipment. The supporting equipment for this supplemental system would be in the storage area. He also responded to questions from the group.

Sue Sieger thanked both men for coming to speak to the council as did council members themselves. She then asked for a motion to approve the monies for the project. Father Leonard reminded the group that the funds are coming from the Faith in Our Future capital campaign but that there would probably be a loan from a current parish fund until contributions to the capital fund reach this level. He said that the parish had already purchased science books for Waukesha Catholic and totally paid for the organ. The council discussed various details of the project. Jeff Roubik then moved that the monies for the project be approved, Paul Seifert seconded and the voice vote was unanimous.

Sue Sieger introduced Rebecca Rohde as the new youth liaison. Rebecca said she is an incoming junior at Catholic Memorial.

Under parishioner comments: Nancy Schmidt, guest, asked about the promotion of SCRIP. Luanne Corcoran, who heads this project, responded to her questions. There was discussion by both council and guests.

During committee reports: Sue Sieger stated that no committees had met since spring. She then introduced the council liaisons: Anne Mraz - prayer & worship, Rick Chiapete - Christian formation, Mary Thiel - human concerns, and Luanne Corcoran - finance/administrative services.

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Marcia Slowinski then presented the comparative fiscal statement for the 2007-2008 year. Income was up by 6.6%, expenses increased at a lesser rate (4.4%) and the year ended with a \$107,000 surplus.

During liaison reports:

- Youth - no report
- Waukesha Catholic: Mike Hoge reported on their first meeting (8/19) where they welcomed four new members and the new director of the system, Carolyn Caruso. They elected a secretary and a treasurer for the year and made liaison assignments to their sub-committees. The current enrollment in the system is 729; the budget is for 738 students.
- Archdiocesan Pastoral Council - Mike Culhane said he would delay his report to new business.

Under old business:

- prayer themes: Father Leonard said he had discussed having prayer themes for each month with the council officers where the council member who had volunteered for that month would develop a short prayer service with that theme. He had a list of those themes and hoped the council members did too. Sue Sieger said she would assure that the members got a list.

Under new business:

- Sue Sieger reminded the council of dates to remember that were also listed on the agenda: Christmas party - December 13 and morning of reflection - March 7.
- She also reminded the council of the parish picnic on August 24 at Minooka Park.
- Future Staffing of Waukesha parishes: Mike Culhane gave some background for new council members and guests on district and cluster configuration of the Archdiocese. The Waukesha parishes met as a cluster on August 11. At the suggestion of Father Leonard, each parish would be represented by its priest(s), a council representative, a staff representative and an "at-large" parishioner. Fr Leonard, Fr Jason, Mike Culhane, Kay Hokans and John Kennedy were St William's representatives. The group met to talk about the planning document from the Archdiocese which is still in the draft stage. The cluster spent some time speaking about collaboration and how the four parishes are currently meeting the planning goals. Their focus will be on how the parishes can work best together. No date has been set as yet for further meetings. There were some questions and discussion.

During the pastor's report:

Father Leonard said there would be a meeting of the staff on 8/21, beginning the new year with a presentation by Jean Marie Weber of Cardinal Stritch University on spirituality in the workplace.

He said there have been 15 more funerals to date this year than all of last year.

He reported that all the facilities were ready including the completion of the roof work.

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Under other business:

- Before the meeting Jeff Roubik, secretary, had distributed copies of the council meeting dates and of the council members' addresses, phones and email addresses. He asked for corrections and some were given.

There being no other business for this meeting, Father Jason moved that the meeting be adjourned, Mike Culhane seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

The meeting closed with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

recorded by Pat Knuth