

# Saint William Parish Council

## minutes of the February 28, 2007 meeting

Present: Father Leonard Barbian, Mike Culhane, Linda Deets, Tom Dougherty, Luke Gesior, Mike Hoge, John Kennedy, Linda LaBorde, Ginny Schuldenberg, Sue Sieger, Mary Thiel and Paul Trimborn

Excused: Rick Chiapete, Kevin Flood, Jeff Roubik and Marcia Slowinski

Sue Sieger called the meeting to order. Mary Thiel led the group in prayer and the council read the mission statement together.

The *minutes* of the January meeting were reviewed. Linda Deets moved that they be accepted as printed, Tom Dougherty seconded and the council affirmed the motion.

Because she was also supervising youth ministry classes, Barb Glawik's time on the agenda was moved up to this point. She is the staff person who puts material on the *parish website* with the help of Jeff Roubik. She said that uploading documents could be done with little difficulty and quickly. She also said it was possible to create new pages and that she consults with Jeff Roubik when doing this. There were some questions from the council about the website.

She then shared with the council that there would be a focus group on March 18 of high school students, with two drawn from each class meeting that evening. The primary question will be what activities they would come to the parish to attend outside of class. Father Leonard spoke about the comment he had heard that St William's should be offering more social activities for youth. He and Barb Gawlik concurred that students do not come to the parish for social events; she had tried several in the first two years she was here and they did not draw kids. Some will come for service events. The issue of having a youth Mass, which was raised at the council/staff morning of reflection was also discussed. Father Leonard said that teens belong at regular liturgies of the parish and Barb Gawlik added that colleges are finding that those who attended youth specific Masses in high school do not adapt to regular liturgies. The council thanked Barb Gawlik for coming.

Sue Sieger asked if there were any *parishioner comments*. Linda Deets remarked that people like the bobble heads of Father Leonard (they were sold out the first weekend.) Father said more were on order, probably arriving in early May. Mike Culhane said he missed the Ash Wednesday evening Mass here because he thought it went by the holy day schedule; Father remarked that it is not a holy day although attendance is usually higher than a holy day.

During committee reports:

*Prayer and worship*: Linda Deets said they had not met since the last council meeting.

*Christian Formation*: Ginny Schuldenberg reported on two meetings:

January 11: grade school catechists are meeting by grade level. The Christmas play went well. Youth ministry is volunteering at CorpCare, an agency that processes clothing to be distributed to the needy through non-profit groups. The cluster youth food fast is to be

minutes of the 2-28-07 parish council meeting, page two

held March 3. (It has since been cancelled because of only one registration outside of 8 St William's teen.) At this meeting, they also discussed the archdiocesan high school curriculum standards. Dr Scholz' presentation on Scripture was very well attended. There are two Scripture study series going on. RCIA is going well. There is a March women's retreat planned. There is strong interest in the Beattyville trip this summer.

February 15: There is consideration of a mission trip to the archdiocesan sister parish in the Dominican Republic. The Lenten projects are in place. There will be Soup with Substance twice in March. The grade, youth and adult ministries are going well. Their next meeting is March 1.

*Human Concerns:* Mary Thiel reported on the February 20 meeting, saying that Father Leonard was able to be at part of this meeting. A decision was made to charge outside groups who use the parish facilities \$100 for a maintenance fee. The UP Connection baby bottle collection brought \$5700 to date. The Beattyville volunteers will be going by bus this year; 47 people have signed up and 8 are on a waiting list. The Caring Connection, which is a group of parish volunteers willing to provide meals, is working on making that outreach more well known and more proactive. Mary Thiel then presented the outreach recommendations for March. After some questions, John Kennedy moved the recommendations be accepted as presented; Linda LaBorde seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

*Finance/administrative services:* Paul Trimborn said the next meeting is March 27. Sue Sieger, in Marcia Slowinski's absence, then presented Marcia's January comparative financial report. Marcia had remarked that this was the highest annual average per household since she began doing these reports and that the parish was in good financial shape.

Under liaison reports:

Luke Gesior, *youth representative*, said the youth were considering a variety of mission trips for the summer, that the planning for Box City was going well as was the planning for Living Stations on Good Friday.

Mike Hoge, reporting about the *Waukesha Catholic School Board's* meeting of January 23, said they had reviewed the preliminary budget for next year, raised the tuition based on that budget by 4.5% (which is less than the previous two years and accounts for 53% of the system's income) and kept the parish subsidies flat. He said that Catholic School Week was successful with lots of people touring the facilities and many fun events. The dinner/dance that culminated the week raised \$85,000 again this year. They will spend the majority of the next meeting (3/20) on approving the budget. They will also be holding a town hall meeting on March 5.

Mike Culhane, speaking about the *district APC* meeting on February 22, remarked that 10 of the 16 parishes in the district were represented at this meeting. They discussed an archdiocesan goal of increasing Mass attendance by 20% in 2007, the support of Catholic schools by parishes that do not have schools and the status of social justice advocacy in district parishes. There was council comment on the goal of increased Mass attendance.

minutes of the 2-28-07 parish council meeting, page three

Under old business:

*Endowment fund update:* John Kennedy said that the document governing this fund has been revised, based on archdiocesan input, and that it is now in the hands of the advisors at the Archdiocese for review. There should be one more round of modification before the final document is in place. When it is finished, the document will be brought to the council as information.

Under new business:

*Day of reflection feedback:* Sue Sieger asked for council comments. It was interesting and kept moving were primary comments.

*Nominating committee:* Sue Sieger stated that it was time to seek candidates for parish council. Four councilors' terms are up as is one trustee's term. She asked for volunteers but first was asked to explain the duties of this group. She did. John Kennedy volunteered to be chair. Linda Deets and Linda LaBorde volunteered to be members. Father Leonard is also a member of this group.

The pastor's report:

Father Leonard spoke about the archdiocesan capital campaign for education. He agreed to be a member of the pastors' policy committee and has attended one meeting. Parishes will benefit greatly with 60% of the monies raised staying in the parish for their educational needs. The group is considering a goal of \$100 million, done in three groups (or phases) of parishes. There will be focus group sessions throughout the Archdiocese with councils, finance committees and parishioners as primary participants.

He remarked on the canopy project, saying that the company building it hopes to start the superstructure in mid-March, depending on weather, with a completion date of early May.

He said the Cornerstone Society dinner on Valentine's Day went very well. The Golden Anniversary committee will be meeting again in late March to plan the final weekend of events.

He was asked about the response to direct deposit. So far about 15-18 people have signed up and a letter will go to every household soon.

Father also commented on the previous weekend's weather and its effect on Mass attendance (5 PM looked like Christmas, 7:30 had 34 people, the 9 AM and 10:15 AM a bit more than 100 each.)

minutes of the 2-28-07 council meeting, page four

Other business:

Linda Deets asked about volunteering for the Parents' Place meal which the council hosts the end of April. Sue Sieger said the council would discuss that at the March meeting.

Sue Sieger spoke about an advocacy/social justice conference on April 28 sponsored by the Archdiocese in the hopes that some council members could attend.

There being no other business, Linda LaBorde moved that the meeting be adjourned, John Kennedy seconded and the council agreed.

The meeting closed with the council praying the Our Father.

recorded by Pat Knuth