

Saint William Parish Council
minutes of January 17, 2007 meeting

Present: Father Leonard Barbian, Rick Chiapete, Mike Culhane, Linda Deets, Tom Dougherty, Kevin Flood, Luke Gesior, Mike Hoge, John Kennedy, Jeff Roubik, Sue Sieger, Marcia Slowinski, Mary Thiel and Paul Trimborn

Excused: Linda LaBorde and Ginny Schuldenberg

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

The *minutes* of the November 15 meeting were reviewed and approved with Kevin Flood moving that they be accepted as printed, Tom Dougherty seconding and the council affirming.

Under *parishioner comments*: Mike Culhane commented that more people appear to be in church; there was affirmation of that by Father Leonard. Sue Sieger noted the increase in contributions since Father Leonard's stewardship talk in November. Mike Culhane remarked on the great crowd for Dr Scholz' presentation in January; Father Leonard said more than 130 people were present.

During *committee reports*:

- prayer and worship: Linda Deets reported on the 1-16 meeting where the main topic was the coming Lenten season. They chose a key tag and calendar as handouts. The focus will be "reform your lives and hope in the Lord." All ministries are going well. She reminded the council of the February 11 concert.
- Christian formation: in the absence of Ginny Schuldenberg, there was no report.
- human concerns: Mary Thiel reported on their last meeting where they discussed the Christmas Clearing Council, hosted by St William's. Toys went to Beattyville before the distribution from those donated by St William parishioners and the extra toys after the distribution were given to other agencies. Father Leonard reminded the council that this is not a St William project. He said the staff was too heavily involved this year, doing work of the Clearing Council and that involvement will lessen considerably next year. Mary Thiel then spoke about the Interfaith Caregiving Network's volunteer dinner being at St William's on February 1. The Up Connection baby bottle collection would be the last two weeks in January. The next reverse collection will be in June. St William's has been assigned three days at Repairers of the Breach to bring bag lunches and share Scripture with those at this daytime homeless shelter. And she said that St William's volunteer aspect of the Dismas Ministry, which mails Catholic formational materials to inmates all over the country, is growing with several new and needed volunteers.

She then presented the January outreach recommendations for review and approval to the council. There were some comments and questions. John Kennedy moved to accept the recommendations as presented; Kevin Flood seconded and the council concurred by voice vote.

- finance/administrative services: Paul Trimborn reported on the January 9 meeting. The

pledge card response has been good and contributions are up. Charlotte Villwock came to the meeting to express the need for a new organ; the one in church was secondhand when put in the new church. The Cornerstone Society contributions continue to come in. The 2nd phase of the carpeting was done Christmas week and the 3rd phase will be done in July (two offices, copy room and interior hallways in the parish office.) It was reported that the Waukesha Catholic School Systems assessment will not go up in the next fiscal year. Father Leonard then elaborated on the organ replacement. Both consoles have serious flaws and have reached the point where to put more money in them is fruitless. Charlotte Villwock is in favor of an electronic instrument since they have improved so greatly. This project is not immediate because of the canopy project still underway. The estimated cost for an electronic organ would be \$80,000-\$90,000.

Marcia Slowinski then presented the December comparative financial statements. Revenue is up 10% over last year; expenses are in line even with the carpeting, flood damage work and the gym sound system. Father Leonard pointed out that the parish received insurance payments for much of the flood damage repair and split the cost of the sound system with the school. The comment was made that the pastor's stewardship talk in November seemed to have sparked a noticeable increase in envelope contributions.

During liaison reports:

- youth: Luke Gesior said there had been no meeting.
- Waukesha Catholic: Mike Hoge said they had not met. He spoke of Catholic Schools Week the last week of January when all the campuses will hold open houses. Their major fund raiser will be the dinner dance/auction on February 2. Their next meeting is January 23.

Under old business:

- endowment fund: John Kennedy said they have gotten requested responses from the Archdiocese about some of their concerns. Next the document will be modified to reflect those answers, then it will be sent to the Archdiocese for approval. After that approval, the committee will begin its marketing. He said the document's highlights would come to the council as information at the February meeting. In order to facilitate that, the material will be available to members before that meeting.
- nursery update: Linda Deets said that some new volunteers are in place and that there is coverage for the next couple of months but just at the 9 AM Mass. There was some discussion.
- 50th anniversary update: Marcia said sale of the shirts and wine had gone well with a profit realized from both. 306 of the 500 ornaments were sold; that has not met the break even point but they will continue to be available. The question was asked about a "surprise" for sale; Marcia said it was in the works but was mum about what it was.

Under new business:

- Parents Place: Sue Sieger said various groups in the parish have agreed to host supper at this agency once a month. The council's date is April 26.
- spaghetti dinner: Sue Sieger reminded the group that this event would be January 28. The question was asked about helping. Father Leonard said that it was covered and to "please just come."
- February 11 concert: Father Leonard said this would feature the most talented Michael Hey, the adult choir and a brass ensemble. He encouraged coming for a wonderful afternoon.
- Archdiocesan Pastoral Council: Mike Culhane reported on the district meeting in November

where there are now just three general directives for all parishes - grow in holiness: improving Sunday Mass attendance, strengthening Catholic school education, and upholding our mission of charity and justice. He commented that all of these were working at St William and in the cluster. He also remarked that Father Jim Volkert, the pastor at St Mary, Waukesha, is now the dean of the district.

During the *pastor's report*:

Father Leonard spoke about the archdiocesan meeting for priests which he attended the previous week. Main points were that the Cousins Center will be sold with some offices moving to the seminary buildings and some to the School Sisters of St Francis mother house. The move should be completed by November. There will be a capital campaign for evangelization, Catholic education and lifelong faith formation but no details are yet in place. The Catholic Stewardship Appeal will continue.

He said that the parish's 2006 goal for the Catholic Stewardship Appeal was \$80,000. Parishioners contributed \$94,000. The 2007 parish goal is \$85,000.

He spoke about the anniversary recognition dinner for those who contributed \$1000 or more to the Cornerstone Society on February 14 at Country Springs. He also reminded the council of the Sock Hop on May 4. There will be a raffle in conjunction with that event which has garnered some great prizes. There will be an antique car show on the parking lot for two hours before the sock hop as well.

Sue Sieger asked if there was any *other business*:

- Linda Deets asked about the morning of reflection. It has been scheduled for some time for February 17 in Vercelli House. Father Leonard reported that the speaker would be Noreen Welte from the Archdiocese who will speak about the changing Church in the Milwaukee Archdiocese and the ramifications of those changes. Father said "be there!"
- Mike Culhane asked about the parish afternoon of reflection on the first Sunday of Advent. Father Leonard said it had gone very well and that a number of people had remarked that it should be an annual event.

There being no other business, Sue Sieger entertained a motion to adjourn. John Kennedy so moved, Linda Deets seconded and the council agreed. The group then prayed the Our Father together.

recorded by Pat Knuth