

St William Parish Council meeting of January 16, 2008

Present: Father Leonard Barbian, Wes Borden, Rick Chiapete, Mike Culhane, Linda Deets, Tom Dougherty, Mike Hoge, John Kendellen, John Kennedy, Linda LaBorde, Father Jason Lavann, Jeff Roubik, Sue Sieger, Marcia Slowinski, Mary Thiel and Paul Trimborn

Absent: Kevin Flood

Sue Sieger called the meeting to order. Linda Deets led the group in prayer; then all said the parish mission statement together.

The minutes of the November 28 meeting were reviewed. Tom Dougherty moved that they be accepted as printed; John Kennedy seconded and the council affirmed by voice vote.

Parishioner comments: none

During committee reports:

. Prayer and worship: Linda Deets reported on the November meeting. There will be 13 candidates and catechumens for the Easter Vigil this year, including three children. The committee discussed Lent and chose "Create in me a clean heart" as the theme. The fall Mass count was two more than the spring count. Father Leonard inserted that parishioners enjoyed the Christmas liturgies. The next meeting will be in February.

. Human concerns: Mary Thiel gave each council member a brochure about the work of this group. (Father Leonard pointed out that the parish has not worked with the Ethan Allen School for Boys for more than a year.) Mary reported that John Schraufnagel came to the speak about the work of the respect life subcommittee whose scope has widened in the last few years, most recently adding capital punishment and immigration to its issues of concern. Mary said the committee decided that the commitment of St William's to provide one meal a month at Parents' Place, Waukesha, will end in June. She said the committee reached out in the parish's name to service members overseas offering them phone cards. She said the December reverse collection went well and included sending toys to Beattyville which helped serve more than 270 families in that county. She also said that a new grief support group would be starting in the parish.

The parish council then reviewed the recommendations for January from the outreach subcommittee which Mary Thiel had distributed. There were some clarifying questions. John Kennedy moved that the recommendations be accepted as presented; Linda LaBorde seconded and the council approved that motion by voice vote.

Sue Sieger then asked Wes Borden for the youth liaison report. He said that the youth board had met on 1/13 and spent much of the time talking about the "interfaith café" trip that they will be taking to the Islamic Center on 1/27. The youth board may host a similar event at St William's. They will host an "international fair" at the February hospitality weekend with each board member representing a different country.

parish council minutes of the January 16, 2008 meeting, page two

Sue then returned to the committee reports:

. Finance/administrative services: Paul Trimborn said they would next meet on March 27. He then personally asked about the status of the organ. Father Leonard said the parish needs to wait for the money to come in and that a special fund has been set up for this project. He was asked if the full amount was needed before starting and his response was no, but at least half. There were a number of other questions and Father Leonard asked Sue Sieger to ask Charlotte Villwock, director of music and liturgy, to come to the February meeting.

Marcia Slowinski then presented the November comparative financial statement. The envelopes and offertory contributions were up 9.6% against last year at the same time. The expenses were down slightly, partially because the archdiocesan assessment had not yet been paid. There were no questions.

The council then returned to liaison reports:

. Waukesha Catholic: Mike Hoge spoke of the board meeting of 1/15. They took a preliminary look at next year's budget so they could make a determination about tuition for the coming year. They chose to raise it approximately 4%. Mike remarked that the rate of yearly tuition increase has slowed in the last few years. He spoke of a town hall meeting about the system that will be open to all and is tentatively set for March 4. He also spoke about Catholic Schools Week which begins the weekend of 1/26-1/27. Bishop Callahan will preside at the all-campus Mass here at St William's on 2/1. Their major fund raiser, the annual dinner dance/auction, will be February 23 at Merrill Hills. Mike Hoge also said that they will be looking for a new director, a search that Father Leonard will spearhead, because Maureen Gallagher will be retiring.

. APC: Mike Culhane said there was nothing new; they will have a meeting in February.

Under old business:

. Parental Involvement in Parish Activities: Questions had been sent by Linda LaBorde to council members and there were some clarifying questions about the focus. One of the primary triggers was the unwillingness of parents to be involved in sacramental preparation. Father Leonard also read some statistics that Barb Gawlik, youth minister, had provided about the very low percentage of involvement of parents who have students in youth ministry programs. The discussion was wide-ranging and covered these aspects as well as many others. Sue Sieger summarized the discussion by saying that there seemed to be no solution, that St William's was making "best" attempts, that some parents will be committed and others will be apathetic. She thanked the council for the spirited discussion and asked them to spread the word to get involved because it is rewarding.

Under new business:

. Reminder of the morning of reflection: the date printed on the agenda was wrong; the morning is February 23.
. The date of next parish council meeting on the agenda was also incorrect; it is 2/20.

During the pastor's report:

. Cell tower - Father Leonard said that T-Mobile had not responded to letters or phone calls

parish council minutes of the January 16, 2008 meeting, page three

so the process is on hold.

. He said that the New Year's Eve 4 PM Mass was well attended and it sparked the question from some parishioners if the Saturday evening Mass could be changed to 4:30 PM. He had asked the staff and they preferred that time. He asked the council and there were a variety of questions but no common opinion. It was decided that council members who regularly attend that Mass would "poll" people about their preference.

. He also asked the council about having the parish picnic on August 24 at Minooka Park. A fee would need to be charged because there is a fee to get into the facility, a fee for renting a couple of pavilions and the food would be catered because there are no cooking facilities there for handling a crowd. The council liked the idea a great deal.

There was no other business.

Tom Dougherty moved to adjourn; Jeff Roubik seconded and the council agreed by voice vote.

The meeting closed with the praying of the Our Father.

recorded by Pat Knuth