

*St William Parish Council  
meeting of January 21, 2009*

Present: Rick Chiapete, Luanne Corcoran, Mike Culhane, Tom Dougherty, Kevin Flood, Mike Hoge, John Kendellen, Anne Mraz, Rebecca Rohde, Jeff Roubik, Paul Seifert, Sue Sieger, Marcia Slowinski, Mary Thiel

Excused: Father Leonard Barbian, Ann Kremel, Father Jason Lavann

Sue Sieger called the meeting to order. Tom Dougherty led prayer and all said the parish mission statement together.

The minutes of the November 2008 meeting were reviewed. Tom Dougherty moved they be accepted as printed; Marcia Slowinski seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

During parishioner comments, Sue Sieger said that Father Leonard had many people comment that they thought he was leaving as of the first of the year. He addressed that as a postscript to his bulletin column of January 11 ("mid-June.")

During committee reports:

Prayer & worship: Anne Mraz said the group focused on Lent at their January meeting, choosing a theme. They discussed the changes affecting eucharistic ministers with the modification of the church space and heard that the possibility of kneelers for the balcony was being explored. This sparked a discussion by the council. Anne then reported that the committee would not meet again until after the new pastor arrives.

Christian formation: Rick Chiapete said that after they had heard reports about the various ministries, they discussed the displacement of classes especially on Sunday evenings. He said parish staff would work on a resolution.

Human concerns: Mary Thiel said they had met 1/20. The grief support group is going well. The Beattyville trip, again for adults, will be 5/27-5/31. 600 children in Lee County, the site of our sister parish, were helped with the toys and clothing chosen from the reverse collection before Christmas. The Caring Connection served 3 families over the holidays. The respect life sub-committee is in the midst of a collection using baby bottles as containers to help pregnant women. The committee heard from Mike McCarthy, a parishioner, about a program to adopt youth & elderly in a third world country; he wanted to speak at weekend Masses to encourage others to participate. The committee decided not to advocate this particular group. The new delivery program for Waukesha Food Pantry was initiated the third weekend of January and went very well. They heard a report from Jeff Corcoran about a meeting that he attended regarding a Waukesha County Housing Trust Fund. (The council asked questions here and discussed this concept.) Because the project seems somewhat nebulous at the moment, the committee chose not to pursue it. Mary Thiel had distributed a listing of the outreach recommendations for the month to council members. After review, Kevin Flood moved that the recommendations be accepted; Tom Dougherty seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

Finance/administrative services - Luanne Corcoran said their January meeting was cancelled due to weather. Marcia Slowinski distributed the November comparative finance statement,

saying that expenses were under control but the income showed the first drop against the previous year in a long time. There were some comments and questions by the council members, including questions about automatic deposits.

During liaison reports:

Youth ministry - Rebecca Rohde said the Confirmation process was going smoothly and that candidates were especially enthused about Father Leonard's presentation at the last large group gathering.

Waukesha Catholic - Mike Hoge reported on their meeting of 1/20. Father Leonard has resigned as the pastor liaison to the school system, in which position "he has been great for the system," Mike said. Father Jason will take the pastor liaison role. All campuses are preparing for Catholic Schools Week, which begins 1/25, with many activities and an open house at all campuses on Feb. 2. The all-school Mass for that week will be at Catholic Memorial. The annual dinner dance & auction will be Feb. 21. The "now & forever" fund-raising event will be May 14. The board discussed the distribution of raffle tickets since apparently they can no longer be mailed (there was some discussion and suggestions about this.) Then he spoke about the budget process for the system. He said the budgets for at the last three years have had a planned deficit but each year have overcome that anticipated shortfall. This year, it appears the shortfall will not be overcome, although he remarked that has been true in other Januaries as well. Again, for the coming fiscal year, a deficit of \$288,000 is in the budget. The fall back has been the endowment fund (although it has never been needed) but it too has diminished because of the widespread fiscal crisis and currently stands at approximately \$525,000. That means that it could not be tapped for long as a support for the system. The board has a tradition of stabilizing the budget in January but did not do so this year because of those issues. They did determine that the subsidy from parishes would increase 1% and that tuition would be raised 4% over last year. There were questions from the council members including the availability of Faith in Our Future funds. There have been some from both St William and St Mary parishes but they cannot meet the issues. No Faith in Our Future funds are expected from the Archdiocese. A lot of discussion followed. Kevin Flood thanked Mike Hoge for illuminating the fiscal status and needs of the school system and other council members concurred.

Archdiocesan pastoral council - Mike Culhane said he had heard nothing new and is unclear about what the next steps are after Archbishop Dolan approves the final Vision 21<sup>st</sup> Century document.

Under old business:

Raffle update - Marcia Slowinski said the date of the drawing is May 17. There will be more and smaller prizes, giving people better odds of winning. She and Luanne Corcoran were to meet after the council meeting.

Fun event - Sue Sieger said that the date chosen was March 29 and it will be a talent show; there will be bulletin announcements and more information will be available at the February council meeting.

Under new business:

Morning of reflection - Sue Sieger reminded the council that this event is March 7. It will focus on transition and Father Leonard is working on securing a facilitator.

There was no pastor's report - Father Leonard was attending the funeral of a seminary classmate, Father Dan Pakenham.

Sue Sieger spoke about the priest placement board representative(s') meeting with council and staff on 1/27. Some questions arose. Sue will seek the answers and email the council with the answers.

Jeff Roubik said there was some confusion about the 4<sup>th</sup> person whose term is up this spring; Mike Culhane said it was his.

There being no other business, Paul Seifert moved that the meeting be adjourned, Marcia Slowinski seconded and the council approved by voice vote. The council then prayed the Our Father together.

recorded by Pat Knuth