

Saint William Parish Council meeting of May 21, 2008

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

Excused: Kevin Flood and Mike Hoge

Sue Sieger called the meeting to order. In the absence of Kevin Flood, Father Jason led the group in prayer. All then recited the mission statement together.

The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed. Rick Chiapete moved to accept them as written; John Kennedy seconded and the council affirmed by voice vote.

There were no parishioner comments.

During committee reports:

. *Prayer and worship* had not met since the last council meeting.

. *Christian formation* had not met since the last council meeting but did have a party for catechists on May 20.

. *Human concerns*: Mary Thiel reported on the May 20 meeting of that group. They had guests from St John Neumann parish who came to see how the committee functioned here. Marji Kennedy explained to the committee how the outreach committee does its work. (Sue Sieger added that Marji will be invited to do that explanation for the council in August.) Marji also spoke about reverse collections and those agencies served. The committee discussed Parents' Place where parish groups have been taking meals once a month. The program that was served is in hiatus until new funding is found. There were a variety of updates from the various subcommittees. Bereavement ministry is down to 4 volunteers who serve both as hospitality ministers at funerals in the parish and follow up with the family for some time afterwards. That ministry is seeking more ministers; there was some discussion by the council. Mary Thiel distributed the outreach recommendations for May. After a couple of informational questions, John Kennedy moved to accept them as written and Tom Dougherty seconded.

. *Finance/administrative services* had not met since the last council meeting; they next meet on September 10. Marcia Slowinski presented the council with the April comparative financial reports. The income has slowed down slightly with expenses remaining less than income. She pointed out that snow removal this year had been \$34,000 compared to last season's \$11,000 - tripling the cost of that service. Some questions were asked by council members including what percentage of parishioners use envelopes. Marcia was unaware of that statistic.

For liaison reports:

- . *Youth board*: Wes Borden said that group had not met but many on the board were also going on the mission trip - those participants have met three times and also have been selling mission shares after Masses. The shares will be divided among the three mission trips this summer - middle school, youth and adult. He said that awareness of the youth board's work was not high in the parish and asked how that might be improved. There was some discussion.
- . *Waukesha Catholic*: deferred until Father Leonard arrived.
- . *Archdiocesan Pastoral Council*: Mike Culhane said nothing new has happened.

During old business:

- . *Council elections* update: Mary Thiel reported that the nominating committee had contacted 37 people and had eight candidates for 4 positions. Their biographies will be in the bulletin the week of May 31/June 1 and the election will be the following weekend (June 7/8.) (There will also be the election of a trustee.) Mary then circulated a sign-up sheet for the election process (two in the front lobby and two in the glass lobby for each Mass.)
- . *Summer picnic committee* formation: Sue Sieger reported that Cindy Bergland would like such a committee and Sue then asked for volunteers (no one volunteered at this point.) The picnic will be at Minooka Park on 8/24, noon to 4 PM; the parish will be covering the entrance fee. Caterers are being considered to provide food but Father Leonard said that they were very expensive which also brought the question of a fee which he finds difficult to determine because it should not be simply for people who can afford to come. There was some discussion by the council.

The council then returned to the liaison reports. Father Leonard did the *Waukesha Catholic* summation. They have now hired a new director, Carolyn Caruso (Dr Gallagher is retiring.) Mrs. Caruso has been a principal in the system and is currently the advancement director. Father Leonard said that the interviewers felt she was easily the most qualified for the position. The board met on 5/20 and will meet again on June 10. The finance committee of that board wants "to up the ante" for parish contributions, Father Leonard said, and will be present at the June meeting to propose that as well as eliminating the building use contributions that have been made to the three parishes housing campuses. He said two of the four parishes very clearly could not do more.

The council then returned to old business:

- . *Organ replacement update*: Father Leonard reported that he and Charlotte Villwock met with three liturgical design consultants about renovating the area in the nave around the organ for the choir and other musicians and have chose Dennis Horbinski who has done much work in the area. Mr Horbinski believes in educating people before beginning the project. He will be working with a committee at St William. Those on that committee are Sue Nettesheim, Tony

Jurik, Father Jason, Sue Sieger, Mike Kujak, Charlotte Villwock and Father Leonard. Father had asked Mr Horbinski for a drawing of a possible schema. He and Father Jason then showed that drawing to the council and explained the various aspects including walkways, the placement of the baptismal font and space for extra seating. Council members asked a number of questions. Father Leonard stated that the new organ would be installed and voiced in July. This is all possible because the parish has received \$243,032 to date as its 60% portion of the Faith In Our Future capital campaign. Mr Horbinski expects that the renovation could cost as little as \$75,000.

Father Leonard then moved into the pastor's report:

He said that there would be a Christmas choir concert and that the plan is to also host a organ concert. He reported that all the parish staff is returning for the next year and that all the school faculty was also coming back for the next school year.

During new business:

. *Generate ideas for a community building event*: Sue asked the group for some ideas. Sporting possibilities were mentioned such as father/son basketball or volleyball leagues. The possibility of a musical or a variety show was also brought up. After much discussion, the council agreed to pursue this last idea, perhaps with a push in early fall after securing some key people.

. *Potluck sign-up*: The June meeting with present, retiring and new council members is preceded by a potluck supper. A sign-up sheet will come by email.

Other business:

. Sue Sieger gave *Father Jason a gift* from the council which he opened right away. It contained a toy trophy for "#1 pinch hitter" and a gift card to a restaurant in appreciation of his stepping in when Father Leonard was hospitalized, especially during the Easter Vigil.

. Marcia Slowinski asked about the *audit of each parish that the Archdiocese has raised*.

Father Leonard summarized the points in the letter that had come to pastors - a synopsis of the budget to the parish by June 20, a report to the Archdiocese of that budget and financial status with the possibility of an external audit down the road. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is seeking transparency from all parishes as well as the dioceses themselves about finances.

There being no other business, the council *closed the meeting* by praying the Our Father.

recorded by Pat Knuth