

Saint William Parish Council
meeting of November 19, 2008

Present: Father Leonard Barbian, Rick Chiapete, Luanne Corcoran, Mike Culhane, Tom Dougherty, John Kendellen, Ann Kremel, Father Jason Lavann (after presiding at a CF Mass,) Anne Mraz, Rebecca Rohde, Jeff Roubik, Paul Seifert, Sue Sieger, Marcia Slowinski, Mary Thiel

Excused: Kevin Flood, Mike Hoge

Sue Sieger called the meeting to order. John Kendellen led prayer; all said the parish mission statement together.

The minutes of the October 15 meeting were reviewed. Tom Dougherty moved to accept them as written; Luanne Corcoran seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

During parishioner comments, several had heard sadness and questions after Father Leonard's announcement at the Masses November 15/16 that he would retire in spring. Several had also heard questions about the modifications being done in church including a rumor that a ramp would be needed for handicap access to the choir area. Father Leonard responded to that by saying that there is no need although it had been raised by a building inspector.

During committee reports:

. Prayer and worship: Anne Mraz reported on their 10/29 meeting where they discussed the readings for Advent, decided that an Advent calendar would be distributed in the bulletin and what the environment would be. The ushers were requested to seat people after the procession is in place at each Mass. It was determined that the balcony would have no collection or distribution of Eucharist at the 7:30 Mass once it is available. The committee also was told that there were to be new con-celebration vestments likely in time for Christmas. This committee next meets on 1/7,

. Christian formation: Rick Chiapete reported that they did not have a quorum at their last meeting so it was adjourned. Father Leonard commented that large parishes, with Christian formation professional staffs, seem to have the problem of what CF committee members do as a committee.

. Human concerns: Mary Thiel said they next meet in January.

. Finance/administrative services: Luanne Corcoran reported on their meeting of 11/12 where they heard about the ramp to the choir area and the progress of the modifications in church. They heard a report on the Faith in Our Future followup. Father Leonard gave them a preview of the stewardship presentation. He also spoke at their meeting about early work on the Waukesha Catholic budget. There was some discussion by the council about that budget and its issues. Marcia Slowinski then distributed the September comparative financial statements. She said there is virtually no change against last year at the same time in either income or expenses. Many annual expenses will begin to show up in the reports in October and later. Father Leonard remarked that the November income has been good.

During liaison reports:

- . Youth: Rebecca Rohde said a prayer group has been started among the youth which focuses on the readings. Youth ministry is doing a sock drive again this year for the needy. She also said the second Confirmation retreat would be the weekend of 11/21.
- . Waukesha Catholic: Father Leonard said that at their 11/18 meeting there was nothing major beyond the early start on the budget for the next fiscal year, especially in face of an expected drop of about 30 students next year.
- . Archdiocesan pastoral council: Mike Culhane said they had not met. He brought an example of the archdiocesan Parish Council Newsletter with its focus on Vision 21st Century. He also spoke about the December 1 meetings (one in the afternoon and one in the evening) at St Jude Parish for this district and three others to which all council members are invited.

Under old business:

- . Raffle discussion and formation of a new committee: Sue Sieger said that interest has been flat in the last several years even though the committee, chaired by Tom Dougherty, has tried a wide variety of methods to spark that interest. With Tom's resignation as chair, there is a need for a new chairperson. There was a great deal of discussion which explored the history of the raffle, explored some possibilities and heard from Ann Kremel, who is calling together a group of interested parishioners to plan a "special event." The purpose of that event is not to raise funds but to do community building. She said they were thinking about an event the 2nd Sunday of February.

Sue Sieger again asked for a chairperson. Tom Dougherty, Luanne Corcoran and Marcia Slowinski agreed to be on the committee. After more discussion, Father Leonard asked if no council member was willing to chair, who would council members recommend? The result was that Marcia and Luanne agreed to be co-chairs of the committee. Sue Sieger then summarized Ann Kremel's special event group's direction which Ann affirmed.

Under new business:

- . Sue Sieger noted that the council Christmas party was December 13 in the rectory beginning at 7 PM; she distributed a sign up sheet for that. She also noted the rectory Christmas open house which will be December 21 from 2 to 4 PM.

During the pastor's report:

Father Leonard spoke about the Archbishop's letter to pastors, two aspects of which were that the Archbishop's TV show at 11 AM on Saturdays will resume on 11/29 and that there would be a meeting on January 20 at the Cousins Center for priests, staffs and councils.

He said the modification in church was moving ahead quickly and gave specific examples including the expectation that the balcony will be available for seating by Thanksgiving weekend.

He spoke about the process of transition, noting that some St William parishioners had contacted Father Mark Payne about coming here. Father Mark responded to Father Leonard that he was very happy at St Veronica's and had no interest in being pastor here at this

point. Father Leonard then outlined the process for transition. There was some discussion. He said that the process would be an excellent topic for the March 7th staff/council morning of reflection here at St William's.

There was no other business.

Marcia Slowinski moved to adjourn the meeting; Luanne Corcoran seconded and the motion was approved by voice vote.

The meeting closed with the praying of the Our Father.

recorded by Pat Knuth