

Saint William Parish Council

Minutes of the October 17, 2007 meeting

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

Excused: John Kendellen, Father Jason Lavann

Sue Sieger called the meeting to order. Jeff Roubik led the group in prayer; then all said the mission statement together.

The minutes of the September council meeting were reviewed. Rick Chiapete moved that they be accepted as written, John Kennedy seconded and the council approved them by voice vote.

During parishioner comments, some council members spoke about what they were hearing about the capital campaign both within the parish and from people who are not members here. Father Leonard said all parishes would hear a tape from the Archbishop the weekend of October 20/21. There was an extended discussion.

Father Leonard also remarked that he was hearing lots of positive comments about the canopy.

During committee reports:

- Prayer and worship: Linda Deets said that at its 9/27 meeting, the committee discussed the successful liturgical ministers' night on 9/26, chose the theme for Advent ("Welcome the Word Made Flesh") and chose the items that would be available to parishioners at the beginning of that season. They chose a new chairperson as well.

- Christian formation: Rick Chiapete said they had not met since the last council meeting. Their next meeting is November 14. The council secretary does not have a list of who is on that committee; Sue Sieger asked Rick to obtain that.

- Human concerns: Mary Thiel reported on the meeting of 10/16. Jeff Corcoran was chosen as chairperson; Luanne Corcoran will be secretary. Leslie Jaeger came to speak to the committee about the Waukesha Food Pantry and the St William volunteers involved there. Participation is excellent from the parish. The committee spoke about the 10/25 presentation on immigration which currently has very low registration. Human concerns will again seek groups within the parish to provide a meal once a month at Parents' Place. The next reverse collection will be the first weekend in December with much of it

going to the Waukesha County Christmas Clearing Council. The Dismas Ministry is now serving 900 inmates throughout the country; part of this work will begin to be done by Lumen Christi Parish in Mequon. The bereavement ministry's Mass of Remembrance will be 11/7. The next human concerns meeting will be in January. The list of the October outreach recommendations to council members has been distributed to the council and Mary Thiel asked for them to be approved. The council reviewed them; Linda LaBorde moved they be approved as written, John Kennedy seconded and the council approved the recommendations by voice vote.

- Finance/administrative services: Paul Trimborn said the committee had not met since the last council meeting. Its next meeting is November 8. Marcia Slowinski presented the comparative financial statements for the period through August 31. Revenue is up overall nearly 10% and the average envelope contribution per household has increased about 13% over the same period last year. She remarked that some major obligations like the support of Waukesha Catholic and the archdiocesan assessment were not reflected in this statement. There was some discussion of financial information being in the bulletin.

During liaison reports:

- Youth ministry: Wes Borden said the youth board has not met but that at least 9 youth from the parish are attending an November event at the House of Peace in Milwaukee on "isms." Every parish involved will plan a youth peace project because of this event.

- Waukesha Catholic School System: Mike Hoge said the board had not met since the last council meeting; their next meeting is 11/22. He said the system is thriving to the point where two archdiocesan officials toured the system on 10/16 to see why that success is happening. There was some council discussion.

- Archdiocesan Pastoral Council: Mike Culhane reminded the council of the archdiocesan leadership event on 10/27 and went over the agenda for that day.

During old business:

- Endowment update: John Kennedy reported that the kickoff of this fund would be next fall so as not to compete for attention with the capital campaign. He said that as a result of the meeting between Father Leonard, the followup leader for the capital campaign and himself, there was agreement that many of the suggestions for followup in the capital campaign would not be used so that seeking monies for the endowment fund would be more effective.

- Capital campaign: Sue Sieger, who with Marcia Slowinski, is leader of the Pace Setter portion of the campaign spoke of events for potential advance givers - two on 10/23 and one on 10/28, which the Archbishop will attend. Invitations have gone out to more than 250 households for these special events. She also remarked on the large number of volunteers involved in the campaign. Father

Leonard said it was in excess of 100 people.

Father Leonard then said that Commitment Sunday was the weekend of 11/10-11 and there would be a special event after all the Masses along the lines of a "religious festival." Pledge cards will be in the pews and parishioners will be encouraged to fill them out on the spot.

He said about half of the informational packets were picked up by parishioners last weekend and the rest mailed.

Father Leonard read a letter from Archbishop Dolan thanking him and the parish for being willing to be a pilot parish for the capital campaign.

He also read the section of the Archbishop's 10/17 "Seeds" message to pastoral staffs where the Archbishop comments on the \$23 million settlement given to an elderly man who suffered injuries because of being hit by the car of a Legion of Mary member delivering a statue of Mary. The implication in a 10/14 Journal Sentinel article was that this would be a challenge for the Capital Campaign. Archbishop Dolan said all this settlement would be paid by Catholic Mutual, the archdiocesan insurer. There was some discussion by the council of this settlement.

Father Leonard said that at all Masses this weekend, the Archbishop's tape about the campaign would be played, then Father Leonard will speak about the specifics here and Phil Dougherty, as co-chair of the St William campaign, will give personal witness.

The goal for the parish is \$1,153,000 over three years.

Father Leonard then asked the council about the use of the monies raised that will stay at St William's. After discussion, he asked for consensus on each item and the council did consent to a) the organ transplant, b) a Waukesha Catholic textbook series, c) audio-visual equipment for Christian formation, d) seed money for the endowment fund and e) a baptistry in the nave. During this discussion, Father spoke about the many meetings he and Charlotte Villwock have had with organ companies. Fabry Organ, considered the best pipe organ people in the area, quoted \$256,000 for a "Cadillac" instrument and \$150,000 to \$175,000 to refurbish the current instrument which was piecemeal at its installation. A variety of electronic instruments have also been reviewed with Allen being the preference. That instrument would run \$120,000 - \$130,000. There was council discussion specifically about the organ.

Father Leonard agreed that he would delineate the five council choices for using St William's portion of the capital campaign in his presentation at all the Masses 10/20-21.

During new business:

- Committee chair report - prayer & worship chair: Sue Sieger asked for this report but apologized for not forewarning the new chairperson of that committee. Sue asked for a brief description of what the committee did and Pat Knuth responded as committee chairperson.

- Parental involvement in parish activities: Sue Sieger and Linda LaBorde asked that this discussion be delayed until the November meeting. The issue arose at the September council meeting and the discussion will seek to find ways to increase involvement, especially of parents, in child issues, needs and parish activities. The question is how to motivate people to pass on the faith. Some discussion followed and it will be an agenda item next month again.

- Council Christmas party - Sue Sieger reminded the council of this December 8 event at the rectory.

During the pastor's report:

Father Leonard asked for help in working with a parishioner who wants to share his faith widely with the parish. After he explained the situation and what had been done, including an invitation in the bulletin for parishioners to gather (to which only one person responded,) there was some discussion. Father asked if the council would be willing to be the first hearers of this parishioner and they agreed. He will be invited to the January council meeting since the November agenda is already quite full. It was suggested by a council member that he be given a time limit, perhaps 15 minutes.

There was no other business so a motion to adjourn was made by Tom Dougherty. John Kennedy seconded and the council approved by voice vote. The council then prayed the Our Father together.

recorded by Pat Knuth