

Saint William Parish Council meeting of October 15, 2008

Present: Father Leonard Barbian, Luanne Corcoran, Mike Culhane, Tom Dougherty, Kevin Flood, Mike Hoge, John Kendellen, Ann Kremel, Fr Jason Lavann, Anne Mraz, Rebecca Rohde, Jeff Roubik, Paul Seifert, Sue Sieger, Marcia Slowinski, Mary Thiel

Excused: Rich Chiapete

Guests: Wayne Hoffmann, Peg Pechulis

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

Sue Sieger then welcomed the guests and wished Father Leonard a happy birthday this very day.

The minutes of the September meeting were reviewed. Paul Seifert moved to accept them as printed; Father Jason seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

Sue Sieger then invited Peg Pechulis to speak about the Christian Women at St William. Peg said that they met once a month during the school year. Among activities, they sponsor a craft fair which is their major fund-raiser, netting about \$9,000 each year. The tables for this year's fair have been sold out for some time and there are 34 people on the waiting list. The monies that they raise during the year are largely donated back to the parish. They sponsor Hospitality Sunday, purchase the baptismal garments used for infants, pay for the altar wine and have added a number of pieces to the liturgical furnishings - most recently two vases and plant stands that match the other pieces in the sanctuary like the altar candles. They also donate money to other causes including the Scouts and St William's St Vincent de Paul Society. About 100 women pay dues to the organization. Sue Sieger thanked Peg Pechulis for her report. Tom Dougherty moved that the council send a thank you to the Christian Women for all their work. That motion was accepted unanimously. Peg then left.

Wayne Hoffmann said he had come to gather names and phone numbers because he wants to donate something to the parish and will poll the members about what that should be. He obtained the last of those and then left the meeting.

There were no other parishioner comments.

During committee reports:

- . Prayer and worship: Anne Mraz said they would next meet on October 29.
- . Christian Formation: in Rich Chiapete's absence, Father Jason said they had met, there was nothing major to report and that programs were up and running.
- . Human concerns: Mary Thiel reported that Plowshare, Waukesha, would be hosting a gift shop at St William's the weekend of November 16. The committee heard about becoming a "green" parish from Gabriela Moersfelder. Father Jason added at this point that he has also

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had a conversation with Chris Jurik, a parishioner who has experience in this area. Mary Thiel then spoke about the project that the Waukesha Food Pantry would like to have done off their site to package and deliver bags of food to homebound. Ascension Lutheran has agreed to send volunteers here on the third Saturday of the month both to package and deliver bags along with St William volunteers. Father Leonard asked if we would have enough volunteers. Mary Thiel assured him that those who had been volunteering at the food pantry were willing to be part of this project but that it has not yet been finalized.

Mary Thiel then presented the outreach recommendations that had been distributed to the council members. After review, Jeff Roubik moved that it be accepted as presented; Tom Dougherty seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

. Finance/administrative services: Luanne Corcoran said they had not met since the last council meeting. Marcia Slowinski then presented the August comparative financial report. She said expenses are under control and down from last year. She also said contributions were down against last year at the same time, the first time that has happened in some years. She asked about the stewardship presentation; Father Leonard responded that would be the weekend of November 15/16 at all Masses.

During liaison reports:

- . Youth - Rebecca Rohde said there was nothing new.
- . Waukesha Catholic - Mike Hoge said they had not met since the last council meeting.
- . Archdiocesan Pastoral Council/district level - Mike Culhane said there was nothing new.

Under old business:

. Capital campaign update: Father Leonard said that there was one committee still doing its task - the followup committee. He asked Pat Knuth as chair of that group to report about that work. She said that the committee has recently gotten reports from the Archdiocese which helped to identify those who pledged but have not contributed. These parishioners pledged monthly or quarterly or annually or to give one payment. Some pledged to begin at a time beyond October 2008. The rest will be contacted within the next month about their pledges. There were some questions.

. Church modification update: Father Leonard said that he had some concern about people following through on their pledges because the parish is counting on those funds for the physical changes in church. He said we were committed to that process and that it is moving along. The general contractor is doing as much fabricating outside the space so that disruption will be as minimal as possible. The choir loft will begin being converted into a balcony the week of October 20. The "downstairs" piano is for sale (asking price \$8000) and the upstairs organ console will be removed. The contractor has asked to begin work on the baptismal font before Christmas. There was some discussion by the council, including the placement of handicap seating which, Father said, would remain wherever the handicapped choose to sit.

. Community building event: Ann Kremel said she had received one phone call after the bulletin announcement; that person was willing to be on a committee but had no specific preference for an event.

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Under new business:

- . Christian Women - the report was given at the beginning of the meeting.
- . Dilemmas facing the Church - Father Leonard raised some issues for the council's awareness. He said contributions being down could be tied to Mass attendance also being down (approximately 200 fewer than last October.) He feels that one factor is the emphasis on sports all weekend, which also affects the Christian formation programs at the youth ministry level. There was discussion during which there was agreement that sports and overall busyness do affect commitments to church. Father Leonard also remarked on Mass intentions being down. He and Father Jason both said that a concept of Mass stipends was not common among younger parishioners.

For the pastor's report: Father Leonard continued speaking of signs that the parish was changing: there will be no Christmas concert - only 30 people signed up and Charlotte Villwock needs 50 people for it to be effective; the Faith in Action day had only five people signed up until both priests emphasized it the weekend before - 29 people did attend; the blood drive sponsored by the parish in a few weeks needs 42 donors - he doubted that many people would sign up. He spoke of being very concerned about such lack of involvement in a parish of 6800 people. There was a great deal of discussion. The consensus of the council was that the priests should challenge parishioners at Mass to become more involved in the parish as part of living out of their faith.

Under other business:

Sue Sieger spoke about the parish raffle. Tom Dougherty who has chaired this group for four or five years has now resigned. Both she and Father Leonard expressed appreciation for Tom's hard work. Sue's questions were "what are we going to do about the raffle and who will chair that effort?" This issue will appear on the November agenda.

There being no other business, Jeff Roubik moved to adjourn; Father Jason* seconded and the council agreed. They then prayed the Our Father together.

recorded by Pat Knuth

*Father Jason regrets that he is never quick enough off the mark to make the motion, any motion.