

## **Saint William Parish Council minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting**

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

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

The minutes of the August 15 meeting were reviewed. John Kennedy moved to accept them as printed, Marcia Slowinski seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

During parishioners' comments, several said that both Father Leonard's and Father Jason's homilies were excellent the previous Sunday.

Under committee reports:

. Prayer and worship: Linda Deets said their first meeting would be September 27. On September 26, there will be a liturgical ministry night for all involved in those ministries here at St William.

. Christian formation: Rick Chiapete reported on their recent meeting where they spent considerable time talking about lifelong faith formation (CALL at St William.) The first session will be September 30 with Dr Dan Scholz as presenter. This session is free. After that there will be a \$5 fee for each session. Father Leonard remarked that 85 people had already signed up for the 9/30 presentation. The committee also spent time discussing how to get parents involved and the difficulty of securing catechists. The grade school sessions will focus on the Old Testament this year. There are 92 high school Confirmation candidates. Attendance at Soup with Substance is smaller. There will be a contest to rename this event. Several other processes and programs are on target.

Father Leonard raised the issue of people signing up for food events and then not coming. There was some discussion about this which led to a discussion about adults taking responsibility for commitments made to the parish.

. Human concerns: Mary Thiel reported on the September 18 meeting. Brad Schimel was pleased to complete his term as chairperson. A new person will be chosen for that position at their next meeting. A decision was made to offer service days once a month on a weekday. The Waukesha County Christmas Clearing Council will again be housed at St William's but no organizational details will be handled by the parish since that council now have paid staff. St William

will participate in the Life Chain event, with space on Bluemound Road across from Kopp's Custard. The baby bottle collection will happen again this year after the first of the year. The committee is looking for a chairperson for Caring Connection, which has many volunteer parishioners who are willing to prepare meals for households in difficulty. Deacon Jorge from St Joseph's will speak here on October 25 about immigration.

Mary Thiel then presented the September outreach recommendations to the council. There were some questions about procedures. Father Leonard raised the question about why we were giving money to Salvation Army. This request is specifically for their Waukesha meal program. Linda LaBorde moved to accept the recommendations as presented, John Kennedy seconded and the council concurred by voice vote.

. Finance/administrative services: Paul Trimborn reported on their September 11 meeting. The roof repair in the school between the older construction and newer construction is on hold. The organ transplant is expected to cost between \$125,000 and \$150,000. There also would be additional costs to bring the choir down on the floor of the nave, including moving pews (and putting them in the choir loft for additional seating.) The committee discussed the capital campaign and ideas about how we might spend the money in the parish. The first project would be the organ and refurbishing of the organ side of the nave. The other projects would be placing a baptistry in the same area as the organ, purchasing science texts for the school and audio-visual equipment for both school and Christian formation. All of these are a wish list provided enough monies are raised. Paul reported that there were 110 households as part of automatic withdrawal for envelope contributions. He also! reported that Tom Walters is the new chairperson of the committee. They next meet on November 8.

Father Leonard was asked about the reconfiguration of the space if the choir comes downstairs and responded to that. John Kennedy asked if seed money for the endowment fund would be included and it would not be at this time.

Marcia Slowinski then presented the July comparative financial report. She said the contributions were again up over last year at the same time. Parish operation expenses will be up this year against last because of the addition of Father Jason. There were some questions about finances overall.

During the liaison reports:

Youth: Wes Borden said they had not met.

Waukesha Catholic: Mike Hoge, who is not only the council representative to this board but also its chairperson, said they had met twice since the last parish council meeting. The first of these - the third week of August - was an orientation

meeting where they also chose members for the remaining officer positions. Their first regular meeting was September 18 where they shared the good news that enrollment had exceeded expectations and stands at 752 students. They heard affirmation that their fiscal year had ended without dipping into the endowment fund. Third source funding has been able to meet the gap after tuition and parish support. At that meeting, they chose liaisons to the seven standing committees which are all up and running. The system did well on standardized tests, favorably meeting or exceeding the scores for the Waukesha public school system. They were challenged to keep moving ahead so the system will become a great school.

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, district level: Mike Culhane said there had been no meeting. The representatives have been encouraged to attend the archdiocesan leadership

conference on October 27 at the Cousins Center. No one else in the room was aware of this conference but Mike Culhane encouraged them to attend and will send them information.

During old business:

. Chairperson policy update: Sue Sieger said she now had the listing from the finance/administrative services of its members with addresses and phone numbers and would need the same information from the other standing committees.

. Capital campaign: Father Leonard reported that St William is one of 15 pilot parishes doing the campaign this fall. The announcements from the Archdiocese will not come until November and that presents a problem to those pilot parishes which was discussed at the priests' advisory committee this week. Archbishop Dolan has agreed to send a letter to all registered households in those parishes to encourage participation in the campaign. Father Leonard said that the leadership group was in place here. He said there was lots of misunderstanding and skepticism about doing a capital campaign in this parish. The monies are going into a separate trust fund at the Archdiocesan level so will not be used to settle clergy abuse cases. He told the council he was thinking about doing the initial presentation soon to quell some of the misunderstandings. The council responded affirmatively to that and so his talk will likely be September 29/30. There was extended discussion at this point about the capital campaign.

Pat Knuth had asked to speak about the followup portion of this campaign, which she leads.

Sue Sieger asked her to do that at this point. Pat asked the council to consider serving as the committee members for the followup process which lasts for three years, the same term as pledges by the parishioners.

There was no new business.

During the pastor's report:

- . Father Leonard said that the contract has now been signed to do new landscaping on either side of the canopy and that should be happening soon.
- . He said that the annual parish stewardship presentations will not be done until January. He will talk about parish stewardship the weekend of January 27. It is being pushed back because of the capital campaign,
- . He talked about the committees that he and Father Jason will be on. Father Jason will serve on the Christian formation and respect life committees, Father Leonard will serve on finance/administrative services and human concerns committees and they will both be part of the prayer & worship committee as well as the vocations committee.

There was no other business.

Tom Dougherty moved that the meeting be adjourned, Jeff Roubik seconded and the council agreed by voice vote. The council then prayed the Our Father together.

recorded by Pat Knuth