

Saint William Parish Council
meeting of September 17, 2008

Present: Father Leonard Barbian, Rich Chiapete (later,) Luanne Corcoran, Mike Culhane (later,) Tom Dougherty, Kevin Flood, Mike Hoge, John Kendellen, Ann Kremel, Fr Jason Lavann, Anne Mraz, Rebecca Rohde, Jeff Roubik, Paul Seifert, Mary Thiel

Excused: Sue Sieger, Marcia Slowinski

Guests: Marji and Josie Kennedy

In Sue Sieger's absence, John Kendellen called the meeting to order. Ann Kremel led prayer and all prayed the mission statement together.

John Kendellen introduced Marji Kennedy who came at the invitation of the council to explain the work of the outreach committee. St William Parish encourages nonprofit agencies to apply for funding from the budgeted outreach fund. Requests, with financial statements, are received from many of those agencies. Each member takes one to four agency requests each month from September through May. Each member of the committee then does research, based on the information provided, the agency's website if there is one, and personal contact either by email or phone. That member reports to the whole group which also includes Cindy Bergland and Mary Sheetz, the AFM staff. The group then has a discussion which evaluates that agency's request. A monetary amount is approved, denied or sent back for more information (the amount requested by the agency is not necessarily the amount approved.) Four core agencies are always funded - Cooperating Churches of Waukesha County, the Waukesha Food Pantry, Hebron House and Interfaith Senior Programs. There were both questions and comments from the council members. Marji Kennedy (and Josie) were thanked for coming.

The minutes of the August 20 meeting were reviewed. Kevin Flood moved that they be approved as printed; Fr Jason seconded and the group agreed by voice vote.

There were no parishioner comments.

During committee reports:

. *Prayer and worship*: Anne Mraz said the committee discussed a new eucharistic ministers' procedure for the time when there will be seating in the balcony. They also saw materials about the renovation of the north transept and discussed that as well. They next meet the end of October.

. *Christian formation*: had not had a meeting.

. *Human concerns*: Mary Thiel said that committee had been asked to expand its horizons by participating in formation. The area suggested was the parish "going green" environmentally. The committee had expressed confusion about this request at their meeting; Mary Thiel and Luanne Corcoran who was also at the meeting expressed that confusion to the council. This sparked a discussion among Fr Leonard, Luanne Corcoran and Mary Thiel (with the council listening) about what had happened at that meeting because it was quite different than the report that Fr Leonard had heard about the meeting. Then there was a wider discussion by the council.

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Mary Thiel reported that Cindy Bergland and Fr Jason would be setting the agenda for the Respect Life subcommittee. She spoke about the Waukesha Food Pantry having difficulty finding people to deliver food to the homebound. That agency has approached Ascension Lutheran, St Luke's Lutheran and St William's about finding people to pack bags and deliver the food to approximately two dozen households each. The committee is willing to explore the possibility but there are many unanswered questions. The council then discussed this request.

Mary Thiel continued her report by saying that the committee had sponsored a blue jeans project through Corp Care to serve clients at Repairers of the Breach. She said the Soup with Substance session on 11/5 would feature the choir from that daytime homeless shelter. She also reported that the Life Chain event was 10/5 and St William's would again take a section of Bluemound Road as witnesses. The bereavement group is thriving (Father Leonard said we are now 20 funerals - to date - ahead of last year.) This has also affected the Caring Connection which provides meals to those in crisis. She reported that the group which was to go to Beattyville in early summer has been rescheduled to leave on 10/22.

The outreach recommendations had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting. After a brief discussion, Fr Jason moved that they be accepted as printed, Tom Dougherty seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

. *Finance/administrative services*: Luanne Corcoran reported on their meeting of 9/11. The retaining wall is still not complete although Father Leonard has urged the company to do so; the blacktop and stripping project went well and the organ is in. The committee also talked about the renovation of the north transept of church.

The financial report prepared by Marcia Slowinski was then presented by Father Leonard in her absence. The July comparative numbers for this year and last show that weekly contributions are up more than 8% and that expenses are stable.

During liaison reports:

. *Youth ministry*: Rebecca Rohde said that Confirmation prep started on 9/14 and that the candidates could relate to Fr Jason's talk that day. There are sufficient catechists for the students registered in youth ministry but if more come, at least two more catechists will be needed. Love and Logic will be offered to parents during class time and in November a prayer group will also be offered for parents during class time. There will be no advisory board this year but the planning has begun for mission trips next summer.

. *Waukesha Catholic School System*: Mike Hoge reported on the board's 9/16 meeting. They reviewed the final numbers for the last fiscal year; the income and expenses were balanced. The student count remains at 728 which is short of budget. There will be 7 exchange students from Korea, who will stay a minimum of three months and come in late fall. Carolyn Caruso, director, talked of the study among Waukesha County's Catholic schools to find ways to collaborate. She and Father Leonard are spearheading that group. Mike Hoge said the board also gave direction to its subcommittees for the year.

. *Archdiocesan Pastoral Council*: Mike Culhane said there had been no activity other than the

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Archbishop's conference call on 9/8 which was open to all parish staff members as well. The Archbishop touched on stewardship including the Faith in Our Future campaign, the pending sale of the Cousins Center to Cardinal Stritch University, more lawsuits related to clergy sexual abuse (but not new cases,) the "Living Our Faith" project, the Vision 21st Century planning report, Safeguarding All God's People & its annual audit by an outside group and parish fiscal reviews.

During old business:

. *Parish picnic* - Father Leonard asked for reaction and comments. Those included that it was a good time, that the sound system for Mass was a little weak, it was in a good location, there were good games for the kids as well as bingo for adults (kids came too,) and lots of food. Father Leonard said he had heard much positive feedback and that it went very well.

During new business:

. *Parish outreach* - done at the beginning of the meeting

. *Parish community-building event* - John Kendellen said that the council had spoken about this in spring but no conclusion was reached. Father Leonard added that a parish variety show was one idea but that whatever it was should involve lots of people and be fun. The need is for someone to be in charge. There was a wide-ranging discussion by the council and among other ideas suggested were a sock hop, a play, a themed party, a one night talent show. The council will consider this again next month. In the meantime, Father Leonard will put a piece in the bulletin looking for leaders; Ann Kremel is willing to take the phone calls.

During the pastor's report:

Father Leonard told the council that he would be speaking at all the Masses the weekend of 9/20-9/21 about the "modification" of the church space. The word "renovation" seems to be negative to some parishioners. He will do a question and answer format (based on what he has heard as comments or questions,) will involve Charlotte Villwock in that process and will quote from documents from the US Bishops. He said the construction would begin mid-October and be finished by December 1. The baptismal font will be constructed after the Christmas season and be done before Easter. There was some discussion by the council.

There was no other business so the meeting adjourned with the praying of the Our Father.

recorded by Pat Knuth

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