

St. William Parish Council
September 12, 2017

- **Opening Prayer:** The meeting opened with the prayer entitled, “*Prayer for A Parish Meeting.*”

- **Welcome and Introduction of New Members and Guests:**
 - Fr. Balash welcomed the members of the Council to the first meeting of the year. New members include: Bob Hardman, Finance Committee Representative; Chase Kuchak, Youth Representative; and Patricia Scanlon, Women’s Guild Representative. Also in attendance were: Karen Bogen, Bob Kane and Nancy Hart who expressed interest for the open At-Large Member position. A discernment prayer service for the At-Large Member will be held at the conclusion of the meeting. Tina McCue was also in attendance to speak to the members about the formation of a Welcoming Committee. (see below)
 - The meeting minutes of the May 9, 2017, meeting were approved as submitted.
 - Fr. Balash distributed copies of the 2017-2018 Parish Calendar to all present.
 - A brief review of the Council By-Laws and role of Parish Council was held for new members and guests.

- **Pastoral Plan Update – Welcoming Committee:** Fr. Balash briefly summarized the work the Council had done in reviewing the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Over the last year, the members reviewed each section of the plan highlighting the strengths and areas of improvement the parish could work on to fulfill the goals of the plan. After each section was reviewed, suggestions were collated and discussed. One of the strongest suggestions was to better welcome new parish members into the life and activity of the parish. Tina McCue informed the members about the formation of a “Welcoming Committee” to begin addressing this suggestion. A meeting will be held in October to form this committee. The members briefly discussed the scope, vision, and task of this committee and were asked to suggest possible members to Tina McCue.

- **Ministry/Organization Reports:**
 - **Parish Life -- Penny Hudak:** The Parish Life Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, September 14, 2017, to begin planning their annual events. Over the summer 65 people attended the Cleveland Indians baseball game.
 - **Liturgy Committee -- Donna Runtas:** The Liturgy Committee met on May 9, 2017, to review the Easter Season. The committee also discussed summer liturgical events including the summer mass schedule and feast days. The Diocesan Ministry Conference will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017, at Saint Thomas Aquinas High School in Louisville. Members are encouraged to attend. The theme of the day is “Embracing Our Call,” and ValLimar Jansen will deliver the keynote address. Friar Johnpaul Cafiero will return to St. William Parish for the 2018 Lenten Mission entitled, “Our Spiritual Journey – Reflections on the Wizard of Oz.” The annual Evening of Reconciliation entitled “The Light is On For You” will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. Saint William will join the other parishes in Warren and celebrate a joint Communal Reconciliation Service in Advent and Lent. Dates will be determined. Finally, beginning in December, Saint William and Blessed Sacrament will share Holy Day Masses. There will be one mass in each parish and members can attend either mass to fulfill their obligation. Envelopes will be sent to

- the corresponding parish. More information will be provided. The committee met prior to the Parish Council meeting and began planning the upcoming Advent season.
- **Women's Guild** -- **Patricia Scanlon**: The Women's Guild held an organizational meeting in June to schedule meeting dates and activities. The Guild sponsored a Family Fun Day at the Warren Olympic Club in place of the traditional parish picnic due to the construction project. Approximately 50 attended the event. The annual Rummage Sale was held on August 3-5, 2017, and netted a profit of \$6,332.72. The Holiday Tour of Homes event was canceled due to a lack of homes and in its place the Guild will hold a Christmas tree and wreath raffle. The annual TNT night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2017. The September Guild meeting was held on September 6, 2017. At this meeting the members voted to donate \$15,000.00 for new kitchen equipment. The October meeting will be held on October 4, 2017, and will feature a K-9 presentation.
 - **Finance** -- **Bob Hardman**: No formal report. The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 19, 2017. See Fr. Balash's report about the Construction Project.
 - **Religious Education** -- **Jennifer Kusmierek**: PSR began on Sunday, September 10, 2017, with the annual Family Meeting. Carole Baniak was welcomed as the new 2-3 grade teacher. September 17, 2017, is Catechetical Sunday and all catechists will be recognized at weekend masses. The National Catechetical theme for the year is "*Living as Missionary Disciples.*" Confirmation Preparation program will begin on September 24, 2017, and will be celebrated on March 10, 2018, at Saint Columba Cathedral. The first Family Faith Celebration will be on Sunday, October 22, 2017, and PSR will participate in Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 28, 2017.
 - **Youth Ministry** -- **Chase Kufchak**: Family Movie Night was held on June 30, 2017. The movie "Letters from God" was shown. The iPlunge Retreat was held in Cincinnati from June 26-29, 2017, with other Warren Area Catholic Teens. Four from Saint William attended. The first Youth Ministry session will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2017. Youth Ministry will again provide kitchen service and food for the Women's Guild Craft Show. Youth Ministry will meet on the first Sunday of the month from 9:30-10:45 a.m. and on the third Sunday of the month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Ministry will participate in the Senior Pasta Dinner on November 18, 2017, at Saint Mary Church; the March for Life in Washington D.C. on January 19, 2018; and the Catholic Relief Service Helping Hands on March 11, 2018, at JFK.
 - **Knights of Columbus**: -- **Dan Gelet**: The Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Corporate Communion Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, September 24, 2017. They will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass and provide breakfast afterwards. A Cornhole Tournament and social will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2017. On October 7, 2017, they will sponsor the Soccer Challenge and on Friday, October 13, 2017, hold a spaghetti dinner in the Social Hall.
- **Pastor's Report:**
 - **Building Project Update:** Fr. Balash provided members with a Building Project update stating that the project is moving along. Work continues in the Kitchen/Storage area; Office Building; Bell tower and front walkway. The estimated completion date for the project is October 31, 2017.
 - **Building Project Financial Update:** Fr. Balash distributed a financial summary report for the building project. \$724,535.01 is available through pledges and other donations. \$562,693.98 has already been disbursed leaving a balance of \$172,789.18.

- \$333,545.66 remains owed for the project. The current loan liability is \$160,756.48. Fr. Balash estimated that the total loan liability would be between \$220-230,000.00 to include the additional garage, internet, phone and security accommodations and moving and furnishing expenses.
- Old Office Building: Fr. Balash informed members that he met with Chief Hickey of the Champion Fire Department about the destruction of the current house. Chief Hickey seemed to think that it would not be a problem to use the house as a training exercise and eventually burn it down for the parish. Further details will be worked out as the time gets closer to act on the building.
 - Pot-of-Gold: Fr. Balash updated the members on the Pot-of-Gold program. It has started off successfully.
 - On-Line Giving Update: Fr. Balash looked into on-line giving as an alternative to using the weekly envelopes. The fee's for on-line giving would include a weekly transaction fee of \$.30/transaction and as much as an additional 3% of the contribution amount. It was decided that this would not be beneficial to the parish at this time.
 - Holy Day Mass Schedule Change: Fr. Balash referred members to the Liturgy Committee report regarding exploring the possibility of collaborating with Blessed Sacrament Parish to offer a combined Holy Day Mass schedule for New Year's Day; Feast of the Assumption; All Saints Day and Immaculate Conception. Parishioners would be invited to attend either St. William or Blessed Sacrament Parish on these days to fulfill their obligation depending on their availability. The Liturgy Committee's from both parishes met throughout the summer and recommended to move forward with this initiative. Beginning on December 8, 2017 one mass will be held at St. William and Blessed Sacrament for holy days. Mass times will 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and will alternate between parishes to accommodate the Lower Campus JFK students at Blessed Sacrament. A letter from both pastors will be sent in November about this change along with bulletin, newsletter and pulpit announcements.
 - First Step for Change: Saint William Parish will participate in the First Step for Change program sponsored by Catholic Charities as part of the Respect Life month in October. First Step for Change provides necessary items for newborns and mothers at risk. Plastic baby bottles will be distributed in October for members to fill with spare change. They will be returned at the end of the month.
 - Deacon at Saint William: Fr. Balash informed members that the diocese is exploring assigning deacons to parishes that would be open to having one. He told members that he responded favorably to a letter sent to pastors about this possibility
 - Mass Schedules: In October all parishes will be asked to conduct counts for the number attending weekend masses in order to determine possible changes in mass schedules for parishes in close proximity to each other. Fr. Balash will inform members on any further developments .
- **Old Business**: None
 - **New Business**:
 - Member Discernment Prayer Service: The meeting concluded in church with a discernment prayer service for the new At-Large member. Nancy Hart was discerned for the position and she accepted.

- Meeting Dates: Meeting dates for the year were scheduled. The Parish Council will meet on November 14, 2017, and January 9, March 13, and May 8, 2018.

The next meeting of Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.