

## Minutes of the October 29, 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

The Meeting was called to order at 12:13 pm with prayer led by Father Walter.

Meeting minutes of the 2016-2017 annual meeting were read by Renee Senso and approved by JoAnn Bowers and seconded by Jim Newhouse.

Cortney Curran - Business Manager, provided information regarding the annual report - this year the Bishop's Appeal was made by June 11, 2017. We have a goal to make the Bishop's Appeal next year by Mother's Day, May 13, 2018. If the parish doesn't meet our goal set by the Diocese, then the parish has to make up the difference out of our operating budget. We should be very proud - as we've made the goal for the 3rd year in a row. Windows are done! Love them and they are amazing. Also Cortney mentioned recognizing the gentleman who painted all pictures on ceiling- his daughter who turned 89 was able to see the pictures her father painted. These are the only painting still available to be viewed. The Finance Council is trying to get the Stewardship Committee up and going. Father Rickert, a son of St. Nicholas, passed away Nov. 2016 and left a generous gift to the parish. If you have recommendations on what to use the gift for, please let the office know.

Chair of Finance - Jim Smith - didn't want to say anything. Father Walter talked saying Jim works with him and Cortney and things are going well - Thank you to Jim for running those meetings.

Chair of Pastoral Council - Heather Delforge - She has lived in Freedom 12 yrs and is currently in her 2nd year with the committee. People have asked her a question: What does pastoral council do? She answered saying the council plans and implements pastoral and parish activities. She thanked everyone for all their help and appreciates everyone in the room. Please reach out to her with any questions.

Father Walter appreciated Heather's work which will continue with strategic planning and sets a nice course into the future.

Kathy Brennan - Coordinator for New Evangelization – discussed last year. 3 things - August 2016 - Jennifer Jochman joined the staff and we appreciate that she has shared her time and talents. Secondly, she spoke about Eucharist adoration - praying before the Lord where Jesus is Exposed and reposed 3 times each night there are New Evangelization classes. 3rd highlight - Love Begins here - 18 students were part of this mission who bravely accepted this challenge. They began their day in church and helped people in Shawano. God has richly blessed us and this was witnessed by those that loved and served during this time.

Father Walter talked about the Love begins here and volunteering. Program that needs to be engaged early on and anyone who would like to volunteer is asked to get the paperwork completed before hand.

Travis Gerrits - School principal. Talked about 2 things: 1. The Goal of our School - Goal is to get our kids

to heaven. He reported that he went to a conference this summer and reported that when teaching, religion should be a lifestyle. They should be able to pull in the community – in turn have visited The Country Villas and The Willows. Many students have gone on their own to The Country Villas. Secondly he talked about accreditation and is starting forward with this now. Through WRISA - now in the self-assessment piece – where they will go through the school and look at all the things we do. First domain is Catholic identity - where a group of teachers that go through benchmarks and rate themselves. 3 other domains mentioned. Each domain 1/2 semester and should take 2 years to complete.

Father Walter mentioned Travis has also obtained his master's degree – congratulations!

Maintenance report - windows are done. A filter was found out of place and also a filter ordered for another project. A \$5,000 piece was obtained for free and this stainless steel part will last forever. These are values that will keep the church warm. (After the meeting, it was determined that the value of the filter was \$1000)

Cemetery – A sign has been erected that states the St. Nicholas cemetery Rules. For those of us that get the compass you will find prayers that everyone can enjoy. Jim takes care of the cemetery at Five Corners and Father Walter wanted the previous minutes corrected to reflect this.

Worship Committee- nothing really to report. Masses include The of Anointing the Sick and a Blue Mass. There is a plan to move the Crucifix to the center as Bishop Ricken has asked for this to be centered. Also mentioned a few more members could be used on the Worship Committee.

Living Justice - Hats mittens gloves collection going on right now. Blessing Bouquet - Father explained what each rose represents - white rose (baby loss), pink rose (pregnancy), blue rose (troubled times), each of us can present prayers - anyone can fill out the prayer request and put a flower in the vase, anyone can take a prayer card. If you want someone from the pastoral council to visit you this can be done. Adoptions - there are some cards for those as well. Please keep praying as this has been with us for the past two years. This program will refresh in November and all the roses will be pulled out. If you have intentions please put the roses back in.

Deacon Gary - mentioned the Roses were appreciated - his son has adopted and appreciates all the prayers. He jokingly mentioned that he helped with the window restoration – he helped w/3 pieces of glass on the storm windows. He talked about two basic areas: 1. Baptism- 50 baptisms this year. Many people helping. 2. Second child starting a new program - Belonging - before you can Evangelize someone they have to feel like they belong, he is currently working on this. There have been 12 marriages this year and even more to come next year. He has found couples to assist and in the middle of November will go through the FOCCUS Training. There has been a great response to this.

Father Walters report - wanted to thank everyone as it has been a good year. He talked about the priesthood - gave an example of when he is holding the newly baptized children he becomes connected to each of them and sad when he has to hand them back. Would like to hold them a little longer but

has them for a little time and loves it. Father also mentioned the marriage couples as well - very touching to him to be part of process. Enjoys seeing those that come back to church and continues to keep them all in his prayers at every stage in their lives. Thanks to all that come to church every week.

Capital Campaign - Mark VanderLinden - Jokingly thanked Deacon Gary for helping with those windows and mentioned the Windows are done! This was set out several years ago and this is a beautiful tribute to our Parish. Have a lot to do in the campaign - was \$1,000,000 now at \$1,400,000. Church built 100 years ago and since then there have been a lot of changes to make things better. Drawings present at the meeting and have been updated.

Consolidated Construction has been hired. Very pleasantly surprised with the professionalism, knowledge and their attention to detail has been great which helps our parish come to a happy conclusion.. Updated drawings - salmon color - They have talked to school, faith formation, staff - to help them get what they need. Talked about reducing the athletic facility. Blue area - tells us about the need to have elevator servicing all floors. Section in light blue area - (area with the lines) - hoping to include this portion that will give us more square footage. Area that says bridal room - if married here never a specific place for those getting married, this will also act as a conference room. Yellow boxed area – main kitchen facilities will remain on the lower level. Kitchen in upper level will be smaller. Storage room will also be present. Green space - restroom - 2 showers in both so that we can host Cursillo on campus. With the construction we can accommodate the overnight stays. Lots of phone calls made. Received some generous donations from some St. Nicholas alumni. Was a really neat tribute even though they no longer belong to the church. He also talked to a young family with daycare costs who didn't think they could donate. This couple came to Mark a week later and found a way to donate by donating plasma. Please send your commitment back which you should have received in the mail. Want to make sure the supporters are fully behind this. People have asked what to donate - made a decision - \$4,800 to recognize people as entry level. Plan to have a good recognition wall, a focal point and are envisioning a giving tree with leaves and people's names on each leaf. Still need more families to donate.

Father Walter thanked Mark for sharing the Capital Campaign report.

Meeting was adjourned 1:06 pm by a motion made by Gary VerVoort to adjourn and seconded by Christopher Schmidt.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Renee Senso