

These meeting minutes were approved by the Parish Council
during the January 16 meeting.

**SAINT CECILIA PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
Wednesday December 27, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Bortle, Lisa Underhill Schmidt, Chuck Gilarski, Larry Gross, Jonathan Weber, Terry Herrman, Bill Haas, Sly Upah, and Father Nienhaus.

MEMBERS ABSENT: LouAnn Vulgamott, Karen Popelka and Jean Kresse.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chair of the Finance Committee, Randy Dalhoff, Business Manager, Jerry Greving, Recording Secretary, Jim Westphal, Youth Minister, Joe Lawlor and from the School Expansion Exploration Committee: Pat Halbur, Todd Clancy, Lori Van Fleet and Susan Vernon.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Chuck Gilarski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **PRAYER:** Jonathan Weber led the group in an opening prayer
3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Recording Secretary Jim Westphal presented the Minutes from the November Meeting. **MOTION** by **Bill Haas**, supported by **Mark Bortle** to accept the Minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **STAFF REPORTS:**

Board of Education – Larry Gross reviewed the points made in the report contained in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #1](#)).

Spiritual Growth & Liturgy – Bill Haas reviewed the points made in the report contained in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #2](#)).

Parish Community Life – A report was contained in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #3](#)). It was noted that the Parish Council will be hosting coffee and doughnuts on February 4, 2007, the weekend of the Community Fair.

Youth Ministry Report – Joe Lawlor reviewed the points he made in his report contained in the Parish Council Packet ([See addendum #4](#)). Joe also noted:

- That the Large Rosary would be given away to the Harlan, Kentucky Parish when the Appalachian Group travels there.
- A speaker, who is a reformed gangster from England, will be speaking at Saint Cecilia on January 8, 2007.

When asked about what was contained in the Needs Assessment answers, Joe said that the answers on the whole were quite positive. He was surprised by one answer however, which stated that disciplinary actions were not being carried out very well.

Business Manager's Report- Jerry Greving said his report was contained in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #5](#)). He noted that the December collection was substantially higher than in the month of November.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Parish Open Forum – Chuck Gilarski** reported that the questions asked at the forum ranged from construction concerns to attitude questions to questions on Church policy that only the Archbishop could answer. Chuck said in deference to the holidays he would put off publishing answers to these questions until sometime in January.
 - B. **School Expansion Exploration Committee – Terry Herrman** turned this session over to **Todd Clancy** and the group from his committees for questions. Todd thanked his committees for their work

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and told the Parish Council that his goal was to have everyone on the Council read and thoroughly understand the report and to vote on the Committee's recommendations.

A lengthy discussion ensued with questions regarding:

- Utility Costs
- Educational Endowment help
- Laying off of part-time aides
- Increases in Church subsidies
- Financing
- Attrition
- Numbers of classes
- How to determine class sizes
- Infrastructure use

As two voting members of the Council were absent from tonight's meeting and not all members of the Council felt they had a chance to thoroughly study the report due to the holidays, Terry Herrman made a MOTION, supported by Bill Haas, to table the vote on these recommendations until the January 23, 2007 Parish Council meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- C. Fund Raising Programs – Chuck Gilarski** said he had received 3 proposals from fund raising organizations. The prices ranged from \$100,000.00 to \$120,000.00 but all guaranteed success. Chuck said he found many of the churches and organizations had back to back to back fund raisers. Chuck asked for volunteers for a committee to interview these representatives. **Jerry Greving, Randy Dalhoff, Chuck Gilarski, Jonathan Weber, Jean Kresse and Father Nienhaus** will be the committee.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Changes in the Building Plan – Jeff Witt** has spoken with the architect concerning changes in the phase 2 building plans suggested by Father Nienhaus to raise seating capacity to 1400 persons in lieu of the possibility of only two weekend masses in Ames within the next ten years.

It was decided that a Special meeting should be called for January 16, 2007 and that the Agenda should include a presentation by Jeff Witt on these proposed changes and a discussion of the School Expansion Exploration Committee's recommendations. The meeting is called for a 6:00 pm start.

- B. "Clutter" in the Gathering Space – Jonathan Weber** said he is continuing to receive complaints about things for sale in the Gathering Space. The Spiritual Growth & Liturgy Committee has already addressed the problem and for the next six months all sales related projects will take place in the Social Hall only.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Family Life Committee – No meeting.

Finance and Administration – **Randy Dalhoff** said we are low on funds. He said the committee will act on the new "page 19" recommendations of the SEE committee. He said if we enter a new building campaign he is convinced commitment will decrease. A report is in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #6](#)).

Good Shepherd – No report.

Stewardship Committee – **Bill Haas** reported 7 people attended the last meeting, the next meeting is January 3rd, all are welcome to attend.

Deanery – **Sly Upah** reported that discussion was still centering around clustering and the closing of parishes. People affected are not joining other parishes and many are choosing to join protestant congregations rather than travel to find new Catholic ones

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Sly also handed out a questionnaire from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council regarding goals for 2007 – 2009 ([See addendum #7](#)). Parish Council members are invited to e-mail their responses back to Sly. A written report of the meeting is contained in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #8](#)).

Facilities – **Jonathan Weber** reported that the parish purchased a new snow blower. **Jerry Greving** reported that the gas smell in the kitchen is coming from unburned fuel from the gas ovens. Alliance Energy suggests running the kitchen exhaust fans to eliminate the problem. He also reported that the front doors are still causing some problems and are being worked on and adjusted. Jerry said he checked into how carefully snow must be removed from the pavers in front of the Narthex. He said there would be no problem using a blade to do that.

Chuck Gilarski asked if there was a danger from traffic exiting the rear parking lot. Extreme caution must be used due to a limited vision around neighboring property's fencing.

Terry Herrman said he has received complaints that Handicapped signs are being moved to make way for school busses and turned so non-handicapped may park.

Long Range Building Committee –

Social Concerns Committee – **Chuck Gilarski** said the report of the November meeting is in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #9](#)) and he handed out the report of the December meeting ([See addendum #10](#)).

Sanctity of Life – No meeting.

8. OBSERVATIONS/EVALUATION/FEEDBACK

9. PASTORAL COMMENTS – **Father Nienhaus** reported the Christmas celebrations were fantastic and the crowds were enormous. He hopes for 2007 to prove a positive year.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:54 pm.

NOTE: *The next regular Meeting is scheduled for one week earlier on January 16, 2007 at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall.*

Respectfully submitted, **Jim Westphal**, Recording Secretary