



## ***St. Benedict Catholic Church***

### ***Finance Council Minutes***

September 9, 2011

The Saint Benedict Catholic Church Finance Council met at the home of Marge Vaga at 7:00 PM on Friday, September 9th. In attendance were Larry Besch, Doug Burrer and host Marge Vaga. Our guest for the meeting was Deacon Lynn Sherman. Jim Buswell, Jim Sebestyen, and Pat Dolan were all absent attending to other matters, nevertheless the Finance Council still had a quorum. After an opening prayer from Doug Burrer, we began the meeting addressing the following agenda items:

1. CD Reinvestment
2. Building Funds held in Checking
3. Preparation for expenditure of funds for land, and architectural and engineering services
4. Outcome of independent review of Parish finances
5. Merits and Demerits of fundraising at this time
6. Tentative plan and timeline for acquisition of property and funding required

#### **Executive Summary:**

- ***Offertory Report:*** August offertory was \$9023.40 down 27.6% or \$3437 over last August. Fortunately, the result is for four Sundays where last August there were five. The July/August period consisting of nine Sundays shows offertory down only \$101 or 0.5% over the July/August period of last year. Thus, offertory results have not declined but also have not increased the 5% we projected for the current year.

- ***Financial Report:*** August expenses exceeded offertory and other spendable (unrestricted) revenues by \$1994.56 lowering our checking account balance to \$17205.60. This erased the increase of last month (\$1554.06) but hopefully is not indicative of future results. Spendable cash was increased \$3000 last Sunday as Fr. Emmanuel returned the advance we provided for Chaplain training. However, we still have \$6159.21 in checking designated for the building, youth activities, and Baptismal funds and the parish charity obligation is now \$2788.23 and will continue to increase \$500/600 per month under Methodology. These are further demands on checking and could reduce our reserve funds to only 11K+ available to paid current parish expenses.

#### **Old Business.**

- None

### **New Business.**

- ***CD Reinvestment:*** CD #22 (~\$28,200) is currently invested at .85% with Farmers State Bank. Unfortunately, this low rate of interest is indicative of what the market pays at the moment. A discussion was had whether to reinvest CD #22 for 2 years rather than 1 year and earn a slightly higher rate of return, but this proposal was rejected. There may be a real need for our CD funds if our pending acquisition of property takes place and we cannot afford to have our money tied up for 2 years and incur the increased penalty for withdrawal of funds if that were required. CD #20 (~\$33,000) renews in November and we will reinvest that CD for one year at market rates. Finally, CD #23 (~\$9,800) renews in February 2012 and we will add \$1,000 to that CD by transferring building fund money held in our checking account.

- ***Parish Financial Review:*** An annual independent review of our Parish Finances is ongoing and Larry Besch is heading that effort. We do not anticipate any problems nor do we have any errors on our books that cause concern. The Diocese requires this annual review and we are happy to comply. The cost for the review is normally around \$1500 and we have that amount built into our budget.

- ***Fundraising/Capital Campaign:*** Deacon Sherman suggested we begin to think our way through a possible fundraising effort but something less than a capital campaign, the latter of which we see as being conducted when we build a proper church. However, his question of what would we need in terms of funding to eliminate the need for a Parish Compensation Subsidy. After running the numbers at the table, we agreed that we would need to see an average of \$3,000 from each of the 54 Masses we hold; an increase of approximately \$500 per Mass from current offertory levels. This issue was and is tied to the potential acquisition of property and renovation of existing structures on the property that they might be used for Parish office space, Religious Education classroom space, and a dedicated worship space for our Parish.

- ***Monthly Finance Report:*** The August 2011 monthly finance report is attached for your review and comment.

- ***Charitable Giving Strategy:*** The Parish currently carries an obligation for charitable giving to a worthy cause in the amount of ~\$2,700. This money is kept in our checking account at present in readiness to be spent if needed. Upcoming events where these funds may be needed are Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Deacon Sherman continues to monitor the charitable needs of our Parish and when he and the Pastoral Council determine these funds should be expended a check can be written within the week.

In closing, it is worth noting that although July and August offertories were less than projected by ~\$2,000; our close oversight of all expenditures reduced our projected and budgeted expenses by approximately the same amount. The dark days of September 2009 when our checking account balance was around \$1,300 is far behind us. Remain positive and project an attitude that good things are about to happen for our Parish. Things our Parishioners long to see and as momentum continues to build we hope to see those who remain our Parishioners but worship in a proper church return to us. And that Ladies and Gentlemen, will provide the needed \$500 mentioned in a previous paragraph. A closing prayer was offered at 9:45 PM by Deacon

Sherman for our Parish and its needs. The meeting was adjourned with the agreement to meet next in October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the home of Marge Vaga.

*Saint Benedict, Pray For Us.*

*//original signed//*

Douglas A. Burrer  
Finance Council Chairman

ENCL:

- Financial Report for August 2011