

St. Edward Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, September 17, 2023 - 9:45 a.m.

Fr. Robert opened the meeting thanking everyone for coming, whether presenting or here as a parishioner to find out where we are and where we are moving in the future of our parish. As you hear the committee people involved in various ministries presenting to you, it gives you a glimpse of what is happening in our parish other than during Masses. Most times we gather for Mass or other celebrations, but there are a lot of things that happen behind the scenes that keep our parish as it is right now and moving to the future. So, I'm glad to have you all here at this time to look into what we did for the last year and what we are doing looking forward in our parish, building our community with faith, following the example of our patron, St. Edward. Once again, thank you and we will begin.

Pastoral Life: Deacon Jeff

- Over 30 families are visited and offered Communion in area households and facilities and it is most appreciated. If anyone is interested in helping with this special ministry, please contact Deacon Jeff.
- Fr. Robert, Deacon Gary, Deacon Jeff and Karen Court offer communion services at Country Villa, Primrose, Century Oaks and Willows Assisted Living, as well as the homebound
- We minister to baptismal couples and marriage couples. Fr. has joined us in helping prepare baptism couples at both St. Nicholas and St. Edward. Couples can attend at either parishes.
- We have received a bulletin from the Diocese, asking us to consider workshops for proclaimers of the word and cantors, however extraordinary ministers are required. The closest workshop to us is at St. Pious church on November 7. There will be more information being published on these workshops in the future.
- St. Edward continues to support Spiritus, Pillars, Harbor House, VIDA (Mother of Unborn Baby Care), Freedom Food Pantry and COTS. We continue to look for and train Mass servers. Contact Deacon Jeff if interested or if you know someone who would like to service at Mass. Age is not a factor.
- Deacon is grateful to all attending this meeting and for all your prayers.

Trustees' Reports:

- **Treasurer Trustee Pat Coonen:**
 - Pat has been a part of the Finance Council for a year and reports we have an excellent, well-qualified group of people on that team.
 - We are blessed to have an ACTIVE parish. Every week there are needed and appreciated volunteers in all capacities who are greatly appreciated, building a caring community. These volunteers are so needed to keep our parish alive in this family of faith. We are rich in history and growing.
 - In Fall of 2024, St. Edward will commemorate 175 years. We will begin our Jubilee Year on October 15 of this year with Bishop Dan Felton celebrating Mass, followed by a dinner. Guests are asked to bring a salad or dessert. Pat reminded everyone to RSVP for the dinner. If anyone would like to get involved in planning special events over the course of our Jubilee Year, please contact Pat. Thank you for being such a wonderful church family.
- **Secretary Trustee Merle Verhagen** was not present.

Outdoor Learning Center Report – Terry Woelfel

Fr. asked Terry to give an update on the Outdoor Learning Center (OLC). The concept for the OLC started when the old playground was moved to the north side of the property. Fr. Walter suggested we use this open area for the group of young adults. We came up with a concept of an outdoor learning center, with the ability for campfires and teaching opportunities. However, we soon realized we can't just focus on one group; this needs to be a whole community project for the young children at school, the young adults, adults and older parish members. We started by meeting with about 25 people from each of these areas and came up with lots of ideas for an OLC. Our goal was to see how we could build a place where people want to come to our community. We invited 4 different landscaping vendors to propose a layout for this area. Although they each had the exact same criteria of what we were looking for, they came up with 4 different concepts and presented to our group. All 4 estimates exceeded the \$200,000 we gave them to work with. After the group voted on all the concepts they liked from the estimates, Fr. Robert, Terry and Pat met with the landscapers and shared the concepts we liked. We then met with Lowney's and asked them to redraw a layout which would get us in the ballpark of the \$200,000 we wanted to spend. They came back with a really nice concept, but just a few things needed to be tweaked. They are going to come back one more time with the final offering. Terry believes we will get down to budget and that everyone will truly appreciate their concept for this area. Terry stated Fr. advised the group we need to go to the Diocese to obtain a proxy when every anything is changed on the parish campus. Once we receive that, we'll have to go back to at least 2 of the vendors to get 3 quotes to get this done properly. At that point we will also have Lowney's re-quote. Terry stated once we get a final offering, a drawing will be shared with everyone. *Question from attendee: Will there be a covering over this area in case of inclement weather? And will this area be used year round?* Terry answered that there will be a roofed area and he feels the hardy young adults may use it year round as it will have a natural gas fireplace to provide warmth. The goal is to be able to use it year round. *Question from attendee: Is there a timeline to finish it?* Fr. Robert answered we do not have a timeline yet, because once we get the final plan it still has to go through the diocese proxy process and we'll need to get two more vendor quotes. This will take time. It's Fr. Robert's hope to

have this available by next year at this time, however he can't say that with certainty. Terry stated we will try to utilize parishioners' time and talent in the building process where we can, but we definitely need to keep a single vendor on this project for accountability. And to have something built that is going to last a long time.

Pastoral Council – Patrick Berg, co-chair with Tim Pitsch

- Patrick thanked past council members Jane Varick and Kim Goffard whose terms are up on the Council, for their dedication to the parish during their years of service.
- We are assisting in the planning of the 175th anniversary for our parish.
- We are helping set up a new pictorial directory sometime over the winter.
- We approved a donation to VIDA as part of our outreach in alignment with our One-by-one campaign.
- We are looking into marketing options for our parish. There are a lot of new subdivisions popping up in our neighborhoods and we want to be able to evangelize them.
- We are looking for a couple new members for the Pastoral Council. Thank you for your time.

Finance Council – Tom Pethan, Chair

Tom stated he took over as Chairman in July and thanked Terry for help in the transition. He introduced Council members: Mark Hofacker, Tim Westphal, Terry Woelfel, Liz Harp, Nichole Pietsch, Pat Coonen (Trustee) and Erin Ebben (staff). He thanked Erin for helping to keep the Council rolling. Tom then shared some brief comments:

- One point to make was that parish support, our core giving, increased by about 45K or 14%, which is amazing. We are blessed to have such generous giving, especially considering all the events and fundraisers we have at the parish.
- We started and will continue to push short-term funds like CDs that have really strong rates right now and try to have a minimal amount of money idle as possible, moving toward guaranteed returns to make us as strong as possible.
- A major point to highlight is the high expenses we realized for building and grounds projects for the past fiscal year. We have over a 4.5 fold increase over the past year, however these projects needed to happen. Cathy from Building & Grounds will elaborate on the specific projects.
- Over all we are doing really well and are blessed here at St. Edward

Maintenance Report – Cathy Schwieso on behalf of the Building & Grounds Steering Committee

Cathy introduced the members of the Building and Grounds Steering Committee: Fr. Robert, Deacon Jeff, Bill Willmer, Mike Ebben, Don Coonen, Dave Calmes, Tim Westphal, Mark Hofacker (Finance Council liaisons) and Cathy.

Projects completed or near completion in 2022-2023:

- **Church repairs:**
 - Roof replaced; new gutters installed
 - 3 scupper drains installed in the flat portion of our roofs to take care of excess water
 - 8 sky lights replaced
 - 3 new AC roof units installed, other units repaired
 - Floor tile/grout cleaned throughout church
 - 13 Furnaces cleaned & checked; 2 had to be replaced
 - LED lighting installed throughout church
 - Deteriorated masonry repaired inside and outside; church outside now sealed
 - Baptismal font repaired
 - Cupola fascia, soffit and masonry repaired
 - Security locks installed in parish office
 - Safety film installed on parish windows
 - New smoke detectors installed (2007)

NOTE: A public safety training coordinator from Northeast WI Technical College inspected both church and school and provided recommendations for both. This service was free of charge.

- **Outside Church Repairs:**

- Parking lot and cemetery driveway resurfaced
- Security cameras installed around school and church
- Additional power/light poles for tractor pull area erected
- Permanent fence installed around the tractor pull area
- Playground landscaping and swings installed, cement entrance poured

- **School projects:**

- New roof (also on burger barn), gutters and down spouts
- New soffit and fascia
- LED lighting installed throughout (should see 50%-60% in usage savings)

Maintenance Report continued:

- Broken retractable screens in most of the windows repaired or replaced
- Tempered glass installed in trophy cases
- 3M safety film covering windowed doors – addressing security issues
- New carpet installed in three classrooms
- New dishwasher in the kitchen
- Boiler system updated with a new control box for all the boilers, new thermostats in all the rooms and air handlers throughout the school Still waiting for valves to finish and test new system
- New electrical panel project was initiated and preliminary work is complete. A portion of the labor was donated. We are waiting to determine if final install over December break is feasible
- **Rental properties: East Rental Home**
 - New roof, gutters with toppers and larger downspouts
 - Basement walls painted, sealed and professionally cleaned to take care of any mold possibilities and passed inspection before offering to new renters
 - To combat water from seeping into the basement;
 - Concrete slab was poured outside home to route water away from the house
 - Window well blocked with cement blocks
 - Dirt around the house was sloped away
 - New drain pipes installed
 - New dehumidifier
 - Underwent a bathroom remodel: new tub, tile, flooring and toilet, new kitchen flooring installed; the entire home was cleaned and several rooms painted; (**NOTE:** Pat Coonen. worked with diocese on new lease agreement)
 - New dishwasher
 - Motor replaced in the AC unit
- **Rental properties: West Rental Home**
 - New Furnace/AC Unit
 - Prior to installation, furnace ducts were cleaned
 - Locks were re-keyed on all outside doors. Erin has an original key. Thank you to Don Coonen.
- **Part-time Janitor Position:** Seth Duprey was hired as a part-time janitor and is doing a fantastic job cleaning the school. He worked full-time through the summer and painted and thoroughly cleaned school as well as the church.
- **Custodial Manager Position** – Bill Willmer will be retiring as soon as we hire his replacement. He has been a great asset to St. Edward by sharing his expertise over the past year.
- **Volunteers:** On behalf of the Steering Committee, thank you to the many volunteers who truly are the backbone at St. Edward parish.

Cemetery Report – Ervin Van Camp was not present.

New Evangelization –Celia McKee, Mary Hildebrand and Amy Froehlich

Celia stated St. Edward has a solid New Evangelization team and shared these points:

- Ashlyn Hildebrand served at Apprentice in 2022-23, and she is now hired on as parish support staff for 2023-24. She takes a lot off our plates and her creativity is a great asset to the team.
- Numbers are where they should be in the Wednesday night NE program. A couple of new families have joined per the recommendation of an NE participant.
- We do have catechists and volunteers, but we can always use more – in particular MEN. The boys and young men in our NE program need to see we have active males in our parish.
- We have a more intentional effort in equipping parents to live the faith in their families.
- Sacrament of Preparation – calling parents back to the Baptismal font where they took the vows to raise their children in the Catholic faith.
- Confirmation changed from May/June to February in 2023. We had to shuffle our program to start preparation much earlier, but it all worked out great. Regional Confirmations help Bishop Ricken with scheduling, so all future Confirmation celebrations will be hosted at St. Edward Church due to our larger capacity. In 2023, St. Edward, St. Nicholas and St. Mary's gathered for confirmation at St. Edward. In January of 2024, only St. Edward and St. Nicholas parishes will be involved in the Confirmation celebration due to the large number of confirmation candidates.
- A Confirmation Retreat is set for October 15 at Our Lady of Champion. Candidates and parent and/or Sponsors are invited as we want them to know this special Shrine is right here in our Diocese.
- Eucharistic Revival – we are emphasizing the 5 practices laid out to us by Bishop Ricken.
- Celia thanked everyone for their support for the NE program.

Adult NE Coordinator Amy Froehlich

- The Adult NE program has provided a mixture of opportunities from movies to events and activities where many parishioners came forward to volunteer with Amy, offering their expertise and talent.
- Yesterday we traveled to the Shrine in Champion and it was a beautiful, prayerful day.
- We've offered several different retreats. We are always looking for suggestions on programs to offer.
- An opportunity Amy would like parishioners to know about is GIFT. St. Edward is part of this group in the Fox Valley area. Any time you see the GIFT logo in gold lettering, know that you are welcome to attend the event due to Amy's attendance at the monthly meetings. This is something we contribute to financially to provide speakers that she wouldn't necessarily have the means to offer.
- October 10 is the next offering where there will be a speaker on mental health.

Young Adult Coordinator Mary Hildebrand

Mary began her presentation by expressing that the Young Adults are very excited at the prospect of the OLC.

- This past year a Mom and Tots group was started and within that group we are building a community of parents and children and it's going very, very well.
- We started an Outreach, giving newly married couples a book called the Bible of Languages, hoping to equip them for marriage and let them know that the parish is here and that we are praying for them.
- Going forward we will continue with everything that is working:
 - The Mom and Tots group
 - Our Ladies Nights, which were well attended
 - Our Sisters of the Spirit will start up again this fall
 - Our Faith around the Fire this summer was awesome. Fr. Robert joined us and we talked about the Eucharistic Revival. We are in hopes he can join us again next year
- We are going to focus on our 2023 graduates, sending them a care package whether they go to college or are working at home. We want them to know we are still their parish and we are praying for them.
- Mary is always open to new ideas, suggestions or anyone who would like to lead an event

School Report – Renee Cowart

Renee began her presentation thanking all the volunteers who worked to complete projects at school over the summer. Specifically Don Coonen who was always willing to take on the many projects Renee had for him.

- After being closed all summer, our new playground is up and running. This summer we added 8 swings and a blue rubber base. A special thank you to Bethany Brincks and Jacky Schreiber for putting in so many hours for Home and School. They are now painting games and different activities on the new blacktop between the playground and the north end of school.
- We are now looking for some type of safety netting to pull across so the basketball hoops can be in that area between school and the playground rather than the parking lot.
- We are working on new curriculum over the next 6 years. It's hard to get new curriculum because it doesn't really change very much over the years.
- This year we added a Super Kids reading program for Kindergarten & 1st grade and we will bring in 2nd grade next year. Thus far the kids are enjoying it. Many other schools use this program.
- We are looking a new math curriculum for 2024-2025.
- We have been focused on safety. This year we added a couple more cameras and shatterproof film to all our external doors and the glass area by the office
- We continue to look for a part-time morning 4K teacher. We are covering that grade with current staff.
- We hired a new 1st grade teacher, however she is on maternity leave. We are looking for her return.
- Back to School Night is set for September 25 with an Open House, Home and School meeting and a pizza dinner.

Home & School – Bethany Brincks, co-chair of Home and School

- Bethany co-chairs with Laura Pethan and Jacky Schreiber
- We currently have \$1,558 in our playground fund
- This past year we purchased:
 - New swings which are being well utilized
 - Sod for the playground
 - The rubber mat
 - Music binders
 - We covered the remaining balance for the St. Edward Eagles signage in the fence around the playground.
- This year's list of projects includes:
 - New curtains for the stage
 - More iPad for students
 - Learning programs
 - A safety net for the playground

Home & School continued:

- Fundraisers
 - Kwik Trip car wash coupons
 - The Golf Outing
 - Looking into a Culver's fundraiser
- Our back to school night is coming up.

Worship/Music/Organ Committee – Pat Coonen on behalf of Mike Collom

- Along with our 175th Anniversary and our focus on St. Edward parish, Fr. and the committee discussed having our St. Edward statute permanently inside the main body of the church. We will need to go to the Diocese for a proxy before beginning this project. The proposed site is between the exit sign and the pillar in front of church where everyone can see it. It will be at the same level as our St. Boniface and St. Patrick statues.
- We have also been talking about bringing the Mary and Joseph statues together by creating a little shrine area with a platform that will look similar to where Mary is now along that wall.
- Mike and Lynn have committed to remain our Music Ministry Leaders until the end of 2023, but then they will be retiring from their positions. So if you know someone who is capable and can fill this position, please have them talk to Fr. Robert. *Question from an attendee: Fr. do we have a plan for advertising for this position?* Fr. answered that right now Mike and Lynn are talking to friends who may be interested. Once we hear from them, we will proceed.

Tractor Pull Report – Lynn Schuh on behalf of Rodger Baum

- Net proceeds from the 47th Annual Tractor Pull totaled \$126,000. This is the most ever taken in for this event.
- This year we had good weather and it went without a hitch. There were bigger crowds than expected.
- This year's improvements included permanent fencing and additional lighting
- WLUK-TV Fox 11 / Good Day Wisconsin interviewed, Farmer, Lynn and Rodger. This promotional viewing was seen by many and it was good publicity. We hope to advertise that way again next year.
- This year the West Food tent tried a new cafeteria style serving line which was well received. Volunteers reported it was easier to work with this new method.
- Volunteers stepped up when some shifts were short and offered to help in many ways.

Harvest Moon Committee – Bethany Brincks

- Last year profits were just over \$48,000, which goes back into the School and NE programs
- Dinner was set for 200 people. We hope to increase that number this year.
- Last year was the first year the Silent Auction was online and the committee will try it again this year. It worked well, but we did have some bugs which are being worked out this year.
- The event's date is October 21 and doors are opening at 5:00 pm
- Will be starting a cash raffle with a top prize of \$5,000. Tickets came in this week.
- We are looking for donations and sponsors, so if anyone knows of anyone let us know.
- There are 8 on the committee, with two new committee members this year. We are always looking for new volunteers.

Fish Fry Committee – Denise Brincks, co-chair

- This year we served 3,331 fish dinners in-house and takeout
- We had 35-40 volunteers per fish fry, beginning on Monday through Friday.
- This year volunteers helped raise \$35,987. St. Edward is a great parish of generosity and volunteerism.
- We served 806# of haddock, 284# of perch, 350# of pike, 106# shrimp, 896# of French fries, 550# of baked potatoes and 540# of coleslaw.
- Upcoming 2023 fish fry season dates are: February 16th, 23rd, March 1, 8, 15th and 22nd.

Living Justice Committee – Becky Lewin

Living Justice is the most exciting thing we can do. We live stewardship daily and it's exciting to be involved with this ministry.

- **Freedom Food Pantry:** St. Edward is coordinating with the Freedom Food Pantry. Becky is in contact with the person in charge there and they are so grateful for the support St. Edward offers. Two bake sale proceeds went to the Freedom Food Pantry.
- **Bake sales** will be resuming next month. Proceeds always go to a local charity. If anyone has any suggestions for that charity, please see Becky. After 15 Years of bake sales we have donated \$35,000 to many charities.
- **Flowers:** We deliver flowers for friends at home at Easter and Christmas.
- Becky is looking for direction from Fr. for the One x one campaign outreach program. One idea is to prepare care bags for the homeless and another is some type of charity for Vets.
- Becky is looking for people to help on the Living Justice Committee. She feels it would be a good idea to involve the NE students to help assemble or deliver. She is trying to make this outreach as easy as possible.
- Becky is grateful to Randy and Paula Carlson for stepping up to take donations to various charities.

Additional Comments:

Fr. Robert asked if anyone wanted any clarifications or questions.

Patrick Berg stated he forgot to mention there will be a pictorial directory organized this winter or spring to help commemorate the 175th anniversary. There will be more details coming.

Lucy Valitchka expressed a thank you to all the volunteers at St. Edward mentioned throughout the reports. She stated she is very impressed with all they are doing for our parish. She also expressed a thank you to Fr. Robert.

Fr. ended the meeting by stating what every parishioner sees what happens in the church. We come to celebrate Mass. We come for baptisms, weddings, funerals. But it takes all the committees, councils, volunteers, to do everything that goes on behind the scenes and is happening day in and day out. There is no summer break for those volunteers. Throughout the year, they do something, take on something else and go on.

I want to thank every volunteer, even if you volunteer one time or those we see at every event. I'm incredibly grateful to everyone, whether in the office, in school, building & grounds, outside, everywhere. We are a great parish. Keep it going! And that is in the hands of everyone who calls St. Edward's their home.

Thank you once again for being here. Spread the word. We do great things by talking. If you know of something that we are doing, tell your friends, tell your family so that we can spread the word and invite more people to participate. Keep up the good work.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Schwieso