

**St. Clare Parish**  
**Town Hall Meeting – Wrightstown High School**  
**May 30, 2017**  
**6:30 p.m.**

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The meeting began at 6:35 p.m. with a prayer by Fr. Brian Wideman, Administrator.

Fr. Brian began the evening with a short discussion regarding Methodology and Background, acknowledging the reality of where we are. This involved the consideration of all past and recent surveys and parishioner input.

Fr. Brian included a short synopsis of the following:

- I. Parish Assessment and Proposal of a New Direction
- II. Sunday: The Day of the Lord
- III. Expanding Liturgical & Prayer Life
- IV. Discipleship & Stewardship
- V. Relationship between local and Parish-wide community
- VI. Buildings & Properties
- VII. Finances

All of the above is on the document “Tradition in Progress” 2017: Charting a 10-Year Course for Faithful Discipleship, available online at [www.stclareagw.org](http://www.stclareagw.org), or in printed form at the Parish Office.

After he finished speaking, Fr. Brian announced that we would take a 10 minute break and then he would answer any questions that Parishioners may have.

**Question and Answer Period**

The question and answer period began at 7:30 p.m.

(Questions in black; Answers in blue.)

In the plan you outlined, you seem to be pretty excited about it. What excites you ?

**Many things, including the fact that there are so many committed young folk and elders. This seems to be a very committed parish. The foundation is to grow and build our Parish, and there is an underlying fever for God and Parish.**

Number 4 under I. Parish Assessment and Proposal of a New Direction, speaks about each parish being a community of smaller communities, and also being different communities with individual identities.

**No – we don’t want to get cut off from each other – we want to be able to do things together. We acknowledge what is, which is more the individual.**

You speak of as much parishioner involvement as possible. Will we have individual votes as parishioners?

**No – basically the make-up of the parish is a corporation, a community of people, a territory.**

Parishioners would be stockholders. Parishioners vote by not paying.

**Yes, you have a vote, but it is not legally binding.**

Quarterly newsletters – why couldn't it ("Tradition in Progress") have been sent out two weeks ahead of time?

**Fr. Brian agreed that it would have been nice if it would have been sent earlier, but it was a timing issue.**

Why did you not mail out the survey that was handed out (at church) one weekend only?

**It was a Pew Poll, which was not mailed out, but just a random survey, which was not a vote. The result of the survey was 85% participation. Basically it was just to get a "temperature reading" of how the congregation felt concerning the questions.**

If we decide to build an Office/RE, are we committing to a church eventually, and do we have a cost commitment? Where did we get numbers for that?

**No, it does not commitment us to building a new church. As far as the numbers go, hard numbers, no, we don't have that. A plan was made and a cost was arrived at, which was just a budget, as a basis for the congregation. We needed to know where the congregation is comfortable, and then see what we can do.**

Thank you for all the hard work you have done! We need a first step- something that's going to bring us all together. (Clapping)

Number 18 talks about New Discipleship Formation. Why we have left out the need for new space for RE?

**I think we are okay as far as the younger students, but more space is needed for the high school students.**

There is not enough room (for the younger students).

**We have approximately 300 kids, but yes, it could be thought about more.**

Greenleaf and Askeaton are not handicap accessible, and what about bathrooms?

**I don't know, to be honest.**

Is it State law where once you start with a ramp do you have to do it all?

**No. (Answer was provided by an attending architect.)**

Regarding the building inspector - what if they find something we really didn't want them to find?

**If there are things they need to find, they NEED to find them – I (Fr. Brian) definitely need to know that.**

Was the school inspected?

**No, not yet, but it will be necessary to have it done.**

If we build new church, what happens to the existing ones?

**It will involve the Diocese – they may say several different things – we’re not really sure. Hopefully we would use many items from the old churches so there wouldn’t be much left.**

A new church is no longer an option, as far as what the Bishop said. Where does this come from? The costs to maintain the church – one says \$400,000 – the other says \$1.2 million.

**The previous plan is a past plan .**

A member of the gathering was impressed that Fr. Brian is looking toward the future. He said that the crowd should look at the silhouettes on the wall (in the high school) - they are the future.

Another member stated that our goal is to get most of the silhouettes to attend church on Sunday morning!

Are we planning on having a fund drive to get things started?

**There has been cursory talk about that. We would have a capital campaign, but it has to go through the Diocese. We need 75% cash-on-hand before we can start building.**

What do you want us to do?

**Come to church, pray, ask God how best you can be his disciple, follower, a good steward for the parish. He’ll (Fr. Brian) go with what we want, as long as it’s a good thing. We must remember charity and humility.**

What are the next steps, depending on the inspection? A committee?

**Fr. Brian did not really know how we felt about it, but if people are generally okay with the trajectory, then Fr. Brian will go back to Parish and Finance Councils to discuss it with them. Ultimately it comes down to Father’s decision. He’s figuring out the next steps, and then he will talk with his superiors at the Diocese. The Parishioners need to tell him yea or nay on this. He hopes that people will see that he’s tried to listen. If there’s a big nay, he needs to hear that.**

Can we take a vote?

**Fr. Brian stated that we could take a poll. He asked those Parishioners who were okay with the presented plan to raise their hands; then those who had significant hesitations. He also asked people to vote by stating “yea” and those opposed “nay”. It was very apparent that the “yea” vote was greater than the “nay” vote.**

Does the \$3 to \$4 million include renovations to existing structures?

**He did not have it in there. At what point do you say it’s too much?**

What about other things – like becoming more “Sunday” – can this proceed?

**The answer is yes. It is stuff we should be doing already. The Lord cares more about you than your buildings.**

Will the results of the inspections be published?

**Yes, but not sure if it will be in the bulletin – but it will be published.**

You’re doing a good job!

Father closed with a prayer and blessing at 8:14 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Patrice M. Feldkamp