

# St. Katharine Drexel Parish Town Hall Meeting Notes

## June 11, 2015

### I. Newsprint Notes

Following a brief presentation of the preliminary draft of the recommendations for action by the parish planning committee, those present were provided with an opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas and suggestions. What follows are the comments made as recorded on newsprint.

1. Parking concern at St Mary - how will the parish deal with traffic?
2. What happened to the 2010 plan to move to one primary site?
3. The KCSS – Classical program has an enrollment gain. Did the planning committee talk to them? In 5-10 years will the St. Al school be needed?
4. If there is a property sale keep in mind the need for asbestos removal
5. Faith Formation impact - if sell St. Al's what will we do in the interim?
6. State of art Faith Formation, why at St. Mary in just one location?
7. Youth apprentice idea is welcome, but not sure we should close site, might need in future?
8. St Al's – the grassy area could be sold, and keep St. Al buildings for use?
9. Costs - what income might the parish receive? Hopefully neutral fiscal impact
10. St. Mary sound system not very good - St. Al's better
11. Invest in building disciples and less in building buildings.
12. St Al's kitchen is the best – may need to improve kitchen at St. Mary
13. OSH, Elizabeth Ministries, Scouts, others, that use St. Al site, how serve them?
14. If we close site – we may save funds, but will we lose people and their income?
15. St Mary site improvements - Kaukauna City Hall needs to be involved
16. Faith Formation – we've got to do right
17. Fish Fry and Chicken dinners at St. Al – were a good outreach tool – do them again?
18. Raising buildings and land at St Francis how will that be used?
19. St Mary's property across the street – which one is that?
20. Is the root cause for these proposals money, is there a financial problem due to too many disengaged parishioners or other reason?
21. If parking a problem at St. Mary - why was the garden added?
22. There are some parishioners who provide no support because we are paying to maintain 3 sites.

### II. Note Cards

Following discussion, at the end of the meeting, those present were asked to write on a 4X6 card their response to the following statement. "In light of everything you know about the parish, and the information shared this evening, moving forward from here, what advice do you have for parish leaders" The unsigned, unedited comments follow.

#4 of IV Facility Use States the draft proposal was made by the Pastoral Council. Hopefully the implementation of a detailed plan would also include both Councils - Pastoral and Financial. The Pastoral to cover our spiritual, and of course, the Finance Council for the material-financial aspect.

I hear people asking about one site (new?) and want time line. If we are struggling to maintain what we have "where" do they think funds would come from?

It has been 5 years since the 2010 plan came out. Now we have another year and ½ to stall again. Why do we need that long? Many of us would give more, we have too many sites. Get off the stick and move on. Great Meeting! Thank you.

Have all masses at St Mary's. Enlarge parking space on 7<sup>th</sup> street, no fancy garden needed. If it's possible, sell St Al's and find another facility for CCD.

Thank the committee for their difficult work. Coming to the conclusion of 2 sites and selling St. Al's is the correct thing to do. Thank you.

Get down to one site plan by Dec 2016. The sale of property probably would finance a build on a neutral site if need be. Parish meals should be reinstated - it builds togetherness and allows us to reach out.

We appreciate all the research done so far and we know it isn't easy. Lots to think about - Pray!

You're doing a great job, especially with Fr. Jerry, remember it's not about us but continuing the mission of Jesus. Trust in God's will and use our resources to glorify God. May God continue the work in which he has already begun in You.

If we are looking at the finance part in the parish, what is the cost of a new site versus all these renovations being done? Then we would have a new building instead of older ones with problems.

What advice do you have for the Parish? To be open to all as you proceed forward. Keep us advised.

I think as good Catholics our job is that we pray for the planning committee, and after all their hard work, go along with their decisions. They are working hard for what is best for all.

You're on the right track, keep moving forward.

We need one church that can accommodate faith formation.

One church, one new site.

Please remember the church is the people. Please remember the emotional and spiritual needs of the parish as you go through this process that will be very emotional and difficult for some. May the Holy Spirit guide you in the decisions you will be making on the behalf of so many.

Be a two church parish - we really serve two different communities. Think outside the box to plan for a site for faith formation - like rent Nicolet School or buy Bob and Dave's Landscape building across the street.

If we love each other, we must respond to our brothers and sisters who are wounded by closing St. Al's. It is not a matter of right or wrong. It is a matter of "Love your brother as yourself."

Advice I have is to be open with parishioners, and keep us informed of what is happening and when. Present a decision made right away. I feel left in the dark otherwise. Keep financial impacts to a minimum and ask for work volunteers, etc. for remodeling, building, etc.

Parish needs to positively pursue sale of St. Al properties and build what is necessary at St. Mary location to accommodate Faith Formation and convenience of parking/access.

Transparency - Be honest - we heard St. Al's was for sale from multiple sources. When a board member was approached, the sale was acknowledged. So this is how you plan to make decisions - underhanded and by withholding info until the deal is done? I still feel the best for the parish is to unite under one, new church.

Lead with your heart and what "the man upstairs" has to say to all.... 1. Faith Formation for all ages. 2. Would like to have a better idea for when/site will be on table to go towards 5 years/10 years. 3. Listen with our ears/eyes.

Close St. Al's or sell it and save us money, before it needs more repairs.

Is St. Al's kitchen more valuable to bring it to St. Mary's and update this site with new stove, freezer, refrigerator, etc.? Even table and chairs if needed.

Sound issue for the present church - don't put in too much carpeting or cloth since it will affect the quality of the choir music (remember when the church was rented out for other org's

because of the wonderful acoustics?) Holy Cross was disappointed with their sound caused by too much cloth/carpeting.

Closing St. Al's is a mistake - only campus we have to continue our ministries!

I think we need to use the St. Al's site as a Faith Formation and Catholic Outreach center. The two churches can be used for worship only. Offices can be over there - they aren't open on weekends. Let's use the buildings to make them valuable.

The church is more than a building. We need to consider the needs of everyone involved. Our children are our future and we need a strong faith formation program. My hope is that there is enough room to build a "state of the art facility."

Keep the St. Al's site for now, even if you just shut it off for a year or two, but still keep it. Pray even more. Build people and not buildings. Bring in Matthew Kelly to speak to the parish (make it a free event even if it costs a lot). Hold a whole parish rosary session every week. Teach the people to pray. Offer everything up to our Lady Undoer of Knots. Pray some more.

Focus on reversing the drop in attendance. Build better disciples and act on the ministry priorities. Investigate building a new church on the St. Al's site and selling off the St Mary's and St. Francis sites. Why the change from "advance" to "continue" in the mission statement? Bring back at least some of the fish fries and chicken dinners, or something along those lines. We do very little to advance sharing. Fr. Jerry really needs to be blunt about this at Mass. If he can't, he needs to let someone do it for him. Are we looking at what successful parishes are doing differently from us?

Remember it's not all about the money. A strong connection with Jesus promotes the generosity we need. Make sure the Faith Formation program can do what it needs to do in the new site before selling St. Al's. Think big on space. Don't be limited on the growth of this parish. We want 100% not 27%.

Proceed with the present plan and consider selling lots at St. Al's site.

Stay the course on selling St. Al's. What is the drop dead date to sell this property?

Keep planning! The committee is doing a great job so far. Thank you for your service to the people of St. Katharine Drexel Parish.

Don't forget the responsibility to support (not "subsidize") KCSS. This year parishes contributed less than was paid in tuition by the parents.

I don't know why Jeff needs so many classrooms for confirmation.

Merge with Holy Cross and build one new church and school for all of Kaukauna. Why would we close a site when we don't have a clear goal in mind? Is the one site at St. Mary's or a new building? KCSS does not have room to expand, this issue needs to be addressed.

I would look into the total impact to the parish to close a site, and why would the planning committee give itself executive authority to proceed with closing a site? It would seem this committee had a mission at its inception.

Pick one goal and get good at it

What is the exact value (\$) of each site? List: benefits of each site; down-sides to each site; potential on-going maintenance costs; where Faith Formation will go in all scenarios. We need concrete numbers first.