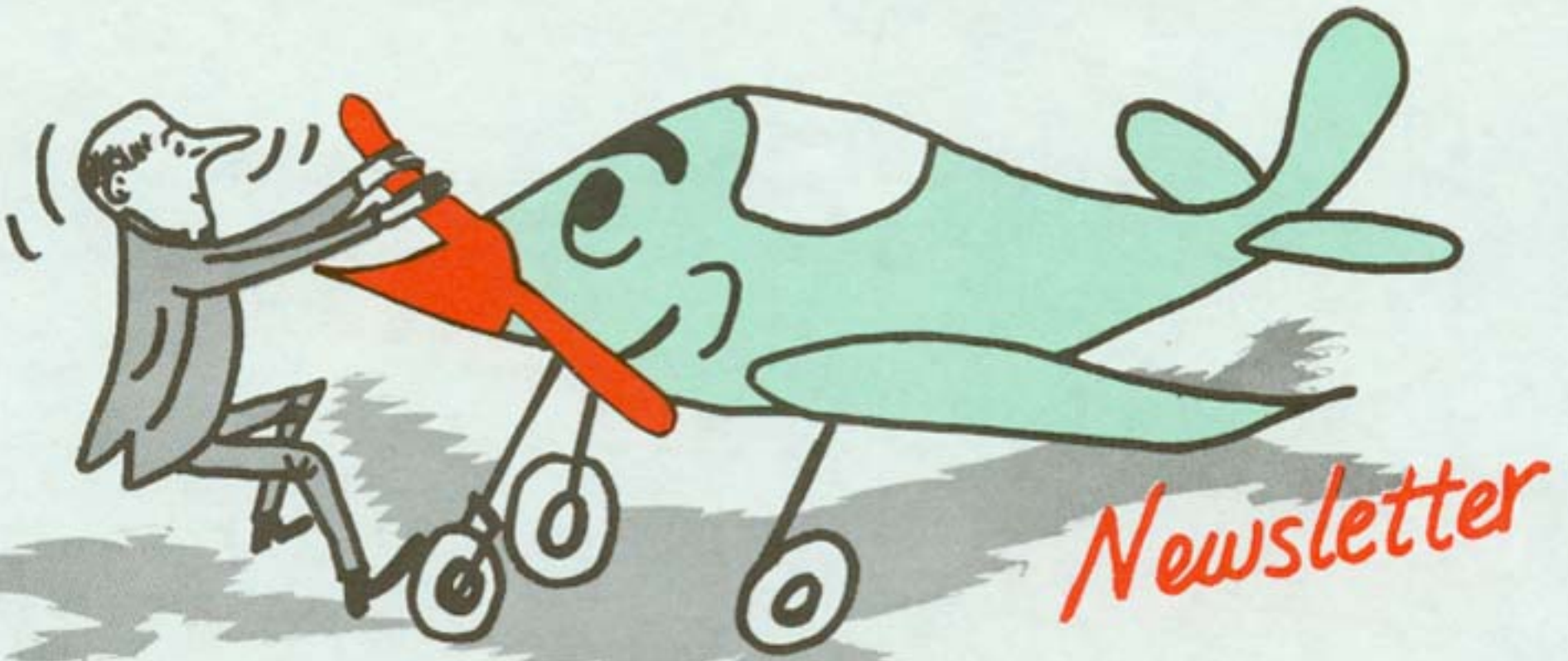


N.A.P.P.



VOLUME XXXVI

AUGUST 1998

NO. 1



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our 35th annual meeting, July 7 & 8, 1998, on Vancouver Island is now history. We missed you who were unable to come. But the forty five who made it had a good time. We did a little more loafing than usual, but that also was good. The weather and the scenery was splendid. Thanks Tom O'Neill for the arrangements and hospitality.

Next year we will be flying to Dayton, Ohio. Father Tom Schoen at the University of Dayton will assist Fr. John Bellon with arrangements. Mark your calendars for July 6 & 7.

Our fall midwest regional meeting will be at Owatonna, Minnesota, where Fr. John Wolesky grew up. He will host it. Come and join us.

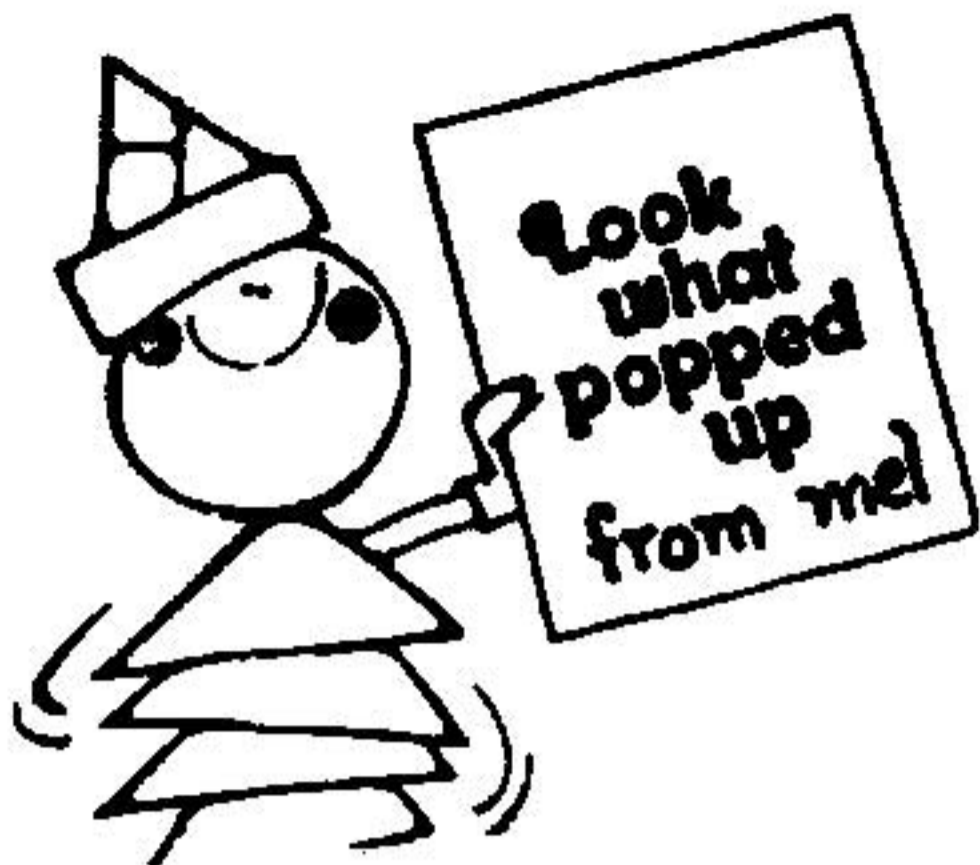
Mentioned at our convention was the recruitment of new members. Suggested was the forwarding of names to Mel or myself of any priest pilot not a member so that we could include them in our mailings and thus encourage them to join. Good idea! So if anyone knows of a potential member please let us know.

Fall is very near. I am looking forward to it. It gives us a lot of nice flying in Kansas.

I heard this at our Phillipsburg airport. A Navajo was taxiing in on a day when severe turbulence was forecast and was asked by the Unicom to describe the ride. Unicom: "Navajo Three Five Charlie, I have a pilot here who wants to know how your ride was?" Navajo: "Tell him he had better stand tall in the stirrups."

Fly safely!

Al Werth



special planes and displays. Put the September 21st date on your calendar, send your registration form to John and we'll see you in Minnesota. It should be a great day!

I'm sure you'll find the report from Pat Patten in Tanzania very interesting. The thought occurred to me the next time I've got a problem going somewhere I can reflect on Pat's struggle to save a plane and how easy we have it most of the time.

I'm also including the Financial report given by Pete Sweeney at the annual meeting. I was elected treasurer at the meeting and all the funds have been transferred locally.

Those in attendance paid their annual dues at the convention and their new membership card will be included with this newsletter. The rest of you will have a dues envelope. Please return it as soon as possible to simplify matters on this end. I would really appreciate that.

Remember, if you are unable to pay we'll be happy to have you be our guest. Your \$20 dues, and the extra so many of you give, enable NAPP as an organization to make the annual contribution to members who rely on the plane and our meager assistance to continue their particular mission.

We have one new member in the person of Fr. Stephen Placa of Brooklyn, NY. A couple in Ed Higgins parish in Pontiac, IL noted a Catholic Internet web site inquiry from a young priest taking flying lessons looking for something like NAPP. Herman and Mary Fasnacht gave Stephen a year's membership. Welcome Stephen and thank you Herman and Mary.

*Would you believe now that I'm ready to put this newsletter together Pete's Financial can't be found. Maybe I'll find it by the next issue. Sorry!*

This issue features a collage of pictures that John Bellon took at the annual convention on Vancouver Island. Of course the pictures can't begin to capture the natural beauty of the real thing. I can only echo Al's sentiments when he says we missed you. It was a wonderfully relaxing time in a beautiful environment. What particularly impressed me was the Long Lake Inn, our headquarters and residence while guests in Nanaimo. The Inn situated on a spectacular lake, plus a very hospitable and accommodating staff, made our days and nights very special. Tom, thanks from all of us.

We have included the reservation form for the Midwest Regional meeting in Owatonna Minnesota. John has arranged an interesting and unique gathering for us. Cabella's is a new store, the world's foremost outfitter of fishing, hunting and outdoor gear. There will be an opportunity to browse before lunch. The real treat will be the afternoon tour of Heritage Museum. A relatively new museum it is the fulfillment of Buzz Kaplan's dream of having a place to share some of his treasures with others. The museum offers a few unique and

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## BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

### AN AFRICAN EXPERIENCE

Pat Patten

*[I received the following EMail in July from Pat]*

Dear Mel,

Just received the June '98 N.A.P.P. Newsletter and was surprised at the retirement notice. In Swahili, there is a very nice word -- pole, pronounced 'POH-LAY' -- which really can't be properly translated but which means something like: to the extent that I can appreciate what you feel or are going through, know that I am with you. I wish you "pole." I also wish you well in all that you do in the years ahead. And of course, Flying Medical Service can always use a good pilot.

One thing I regret is that I never got a chance to visit your parish despite the invitations. Never seems to be time. Also never seems to be time to keep members informed of what's going on here. There are usually interesting and exciting things happening all the time, which are related to flying.

For example: on the last day of November last year, I was flying one of our Cessna 206s in solid IFR about 20 minutes out of Dar Es Salaam when we had a total engine failure. This is the kind of thing one reads about in the flight magazines but never expects to happen in a carefully flown and well maintained aircraft.

We were six adults and one infant on board including the doctor in charge and the matron of one of the largest hospitals in Tanzania. No one panicked -- for which I am grateful. We descended from 7,000 feet to about 1,200 feet before breaking out of thick clouds but still in heavy rain. Below us were palm tree plantations and rice paddies. The Ruvu river was high and the whole area was a swamp. Marian, our medical director who is a surgeon and a pilot was flying. I was in the right seat. When the engine

quit, this arrangement allowed for good trouble shooting (full time) and good flying at the same time. We landed in an unused rice field. No damage whatsoever to the aircraft or passengers or any property. To the NTSB and our local Directorate of Civil Aviation, it was not even a reportable accident!

We reported it anyway. The government mechanic who came the next morning for the investigation said: "Bad luck. Total failure of both mags within 20 minutes of take-off." The mags were Slick 6310s. We've used this type for years with no significant problems and likewise the 6210s before them.

The following day we replaced both mags, all the harnesses, and all spark plugs. The engine started right up. We figured three days to cut an airstrip by hand, and we're out of here. But in fact it took us six weeks to get out of the swamp.

We spent two weeks cutting an airstrip through the 8 foot tall elephant grass and trying to get the soggy earth to dry out. It took another two weeks to cut thirteen drainage channels to the side of the airstrip. The day before Christmas eve we thought we were finished and would leave early the following morning. Surprise!

A week before, and one hundred miles away, El Nino rains caused massive flooding of the Ruvu river. We hadn't heard about it. We were only about a mile from the river. On the morning of December 24th the flood crest had reached us. We walked to the airstrip, to find not an airstrip but a lake. We spent all day Christmas eve and Christmas day frantically building a 2x4 lattice work under each tire and slowly jacking it inch by inch till we had the plane three feet above the water (always keeping just ahead of the rising). The plane never went under, except for the bottom 5 inches of tire.

During those days, we had to swim to work every morning with a machete in one hand and a flare pistol in the other, held above our heads.

The area was teeming with crocodiles. There were pythons the thickness of my upper arm. One day a hippo even came to visit us on the airstrip. We lived in a mud and grass hut during that time and shared it with a giant monitor lizard, who liked to live between the top of the wall and the grass roof, and a green snake which I always hoped was a coconut snake and not a boomslang. Boomslangs are of the most poisonous kinds in the world. We never found out what it really was.

We flew the aircraft out on January 16th, using only half of the runway we had prepared, but beating the beginning of the long rainy season literally by minutes. The long rains here last for three to four months. It started raining on the morning of the 16th.

So we quickly cut grass and filled the still swampy places and decided to go for it. On the flight to Dar Es Salaam that morning to report the successful outcome, I ran into torrents of rain. It didn't stop till May!

When we got to Nairobi the following day to have the plane gone over really well, and the old mags bench checked, we found both mags perfectly good! After lots of investigation we discovered that the problem all along had been a faulty design in a mag harness coupler which allowed water to short out the spark plug leads! We're following this up with Slick and the FAA and trying to get those harness adaptors removed from the market with an A.D.

Will send more details and maybe a picture or two if you are interested. Have been thinking of writing an article for AOPA magazine or Light Plane Maintenance called "A Slick Landing." What do you think?

*[Editor's Note: Go for it Pat. I think the aviation world needs to hear the story].*

*[The following letter comes from Bishop Michael W. Warfel of Juneau]*

10 July, 1998

The National Association of Priest Pilots  
C/o Rev. Mel Hemann  
20245 St. Joseph Drive  
Rickardsville, IA 52039

Dear Father Hemann and members of NAPP,

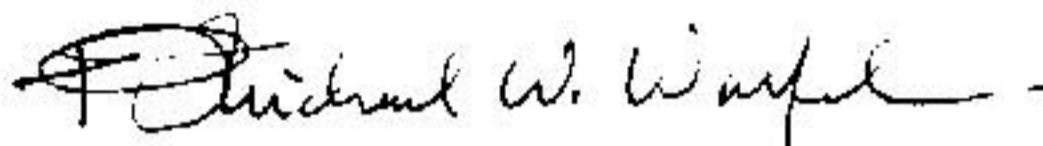
I was delighted to hear of your kindness in

granting to our diocese and to the Diocese of Fairbanks donations in the amount of \$1000.00 each. I hardly need tell *you* about the costs of operating an aircraft. You know that every bit helps.

We operate a Cessna 182 which helps transport our priests and sisters to mission parishes and other remote communities. We have just seen another of our priests, Father Michael Schwarte, pass his private pilot check ride. As a result the plane is being utilized even more effectively.

Once again please accept my profound gratitude for your kindness.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Most Reverend Michael W. Warfel  
Bishop of Juneau

*[From Michael Nash of Juneau].*

Dear Mel,

It was great to see you at the convention in Nanimoo. Once again I will renew my offer to help with some of the paperwork or in any other way that I can.

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$25.00 for dues (plus a little extra for the mailing costs to Europe). I return to Louvain in early September.

Thanks also for speaking up for Alaska at the convention. This diocese can really use every little bit of help it can get. So too can the Diocese of Fairbanks. Bishop Warfel was quite pleased when I gave him the news.

Finally, we have a new priest pilot here in Juneau. He is Rev. Michael Schwarte.

All the best,

Rev. Michael P. Nash

**N.A.P.P. MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING  
OWATONNA (OWA), MN  
Monday, September 21, 1998**

On approach, call Owatonna Unicom Advisory Frequency 122.7  
to arrange complimentary shuttle service to Cabela's.

Please Arrive by 10:30 am if possible.

11:30 - 12:30      Lunch @ Cabela's.  
\$6.50/person  
Includes: choice of sandwich, salad,  
Beverage and dessert.

12:30 - 1:45      Tour & shopping at Cabela's.

Walk or take shuttle to Heritage Halls Museum.

2:00 - 4:00      Tour of Heritage Halls.  
\$5.85/person

Call Ramada 455-0606 for shuttle to Ramada Inn.

4:30 - 5:30      Dinner @ the Ramada Inn.  
\$15.00 - 20.00/person

Take Ramada shuttle to Airport. Depart.

For overnite accomodations call:

Ramada Inn 507-455-0606.

Toll-free: 800-272-6232

Single room - \$49.00

Double room - \$59.00

Complimentary breakfast.

Meeting Contact:

Fr. John Wolesky

230 E. Cloud Street

Salina, KS 67401

Phone: 785-452-7000

Fax: 785-827-8997

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

ETA: (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) \_\_\_\_\_ ETD: (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVING BY: Plane: Make: \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# 1998 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIEST PILOTS

## Minutes of the 1998 Meeting

Our tirelessly self-oblatinal brother President, FR. AL WERTH, opened our 35th annual meeting with a prayer at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday afternoon, July 7th in the Parish Hall of the Holy Trinity ecumenical Parish at Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada.

We convened at the Long Lake Lodge in Nanaimo. Our airport fly-in base was the Nanaimo airport. Our Convention host was FR. TOM O'NEILL who was warmly applauded with much fraternal affection for his outstanding distinction of co-pastoring the inspiringly ecumenical parish of the Holy Trinity which is shared by both the Roman and the Evangelical (Lutheran) Catholic Communities (John 17-21). Congratulations, FR. TOM, for responding in this to Our Lord's prayer of the night before He died; for responding, one might say, to His Death Wish.

41 persons were in attendance: 5 Charter Members (veterans of 35 years): Reverends John Bellon, John Hemann, Mel Hemann, John Herzog and Bob Kirsch; 23 Regular Members: Reverends Tony Attea, Leo Bartel, Bill Bevington, John Esquibel, Tom Geelan, Ev Hemann, Dave Hogan, Jim Kelley, Bishop Tommy Lobsinger, Dino Lorenzetti, Mike Nash, Frank Nemmers, Tom O'Neill, Jack Paisley, George Remm, Bill Roche, Al Ruschman, Owen Shanley, Pete Sweeney, Charlie Teufel, John Walsh, Al Werth and John Wolesky; 10 Associate Members: Tom Bishop, Jack Boyle, Bill Browne, Jeff Bryant, Ron Cervantes, George Gratton, Mike Makelbust, Edwina Tabares, Marty Winnert and Fred Wright; 3 Guests: Joseph Halloran, Merlin Kieffer and Jenny Rivera.

MINUTES: Copies were distributed of the Minutes of our 1997 New Bern, North Carolina meeting covering our activities at the Cherry Point, N.C. Marine Corps Air Station. And once again a big 'thank you' to our Newsletter editor FR. MEL HEMANN for having provided copies! Motion: Acceptance of the Minutes was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer FR. PETE SWEENEY, reported that we continue to have a \$6000.00 Reserve Fund with the Archdiocese of Dubuque plus the interest accrued the past three years. This Reserve Fund is not to be touched. Our Newsletter mailings cost approximately \$1000.00. Motion: A motion to accept the Report was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

NAPP, INC.: FR. AL RUSCHMAN has again personally paid the fee so that NAPP, INC. continues to be legal under the laws of the State of Kentucky. Kudos to FR. AL!

1999 CONVENTION: The Dayton University proposal of FR. TOM SCHOEN (1997) was accepted. Motion: A motion that we convene at Dayton in 1999 was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

CONVENTION 2000: The standing invitation of ARCHBISHOP FRANK HURLEY of Anchorage, Alaska was favorably discussed.

REGIONAL MEETINGS: A Midwest Regional meeting is to be held at Ottumwa, Iowa in April 1999. FATHER JOHN HEMANN will host the gathering. No further action has been taken on FR. BILL MARTIN'S proposal of last year that a Northeastern Region be formed.

NEWSLETTER REPORT: Editor FR. MEL HEMANN announced that with his retirement everything is now in his personal computer. FR. MEL reported that the most recent newsletter would be in the July mail; he also continued to request articles from us, the members.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: Our Ad Hoc Investment Committee comprised of members, FR. PETE SWEENEY, FR. EV HEMANN and TONY FACCIOLO did not have a current report on the Money Markets, Mutual Funds, etc.

MEXICO REPORT: FR. BOB KIRSCH gave his annual report on the continuing flights of the SAN MARTIN FLYING MISSION, INC. in Cessna 210, THE MISSION QUEEN ("Queenie" named for our Blessed Mother). FATHER BOB is still flying missions of Doctors, Dentists, medical supplies, food, clothes, toys, etc. into the Sierra Madre Range of the western part of the Mexican State of Chihuahua. The C-182 of Associate member RON CERVANTES will also be on hand for flights into Mexico. Our orphan lad from Mexico, BRAULIO AVILA, whom many of you met in Angola, N.Y., is still with FR. Bob and now has his pilot's license and is working on a mechanic's rating for his return to serve his people of the Mexico Missions.

NORTHLAND REPORT: BISHOP TOMMY LOBSINGER, OMI gratefully acknowledged our last year's donation of \$1000.00 for his Yukon Territory Diocese. BISHOP TOMMY mentioned that the \$1000.00 American is worth \$1500.00 Canadian. FR. JIM KELLEY reported that bad weather and violent storms wiped out the planes he had been flying. He is presently trying to acquire a new plane for the territory (700 miles x 200 miles square) which he is covering. He is also recruiting for a younger man.

DONATIONS: Various mission member pilots were discussed among whom were FR. PAT PATTEN (Africa), FR. BOB KIRSCH (Mexico), BISHOP MICHAEL WARFEL (Juneau, AK) and BISHOP MIKE KANIECKI, S.J. (Fairbanks, AK). Motion: NEMMERS/RUSCHMAN that \$1000.00 each be donated to the Fairbanks and Juneau Dioceses. Motion was passed unanimously.

ELECTIONS: First Vice-President: FR. BOB KIRSCH nominated FR. GENE MURRAY. Motion: KELLEY/ATTEA That the nominations be closed; passed unanimously. Treasurer: FR. TONY ATTEA nominated FR. PETE SWEENEY. FR. PETE SWEENEY nominated FR. MEL HEMANN. Motion: PAISLEY/ATTEA: that the nominations be closed; unanimous passage. FR. MEL HEMANN was elected Treasurer.

CONDOLENCES: To the family of member JOE MURRAY and promises of prayerful support. Eternal joy grant unto our brother, JOE MURRAY, O Lord, and let your everlasting light shine upon him!

NEW BUSINESS: 1). FR. MEL HEMANN shared his thoughts on a new Brochure. 2). A request was made that good fuel prices be reported in the Newsletter. 3). Members were urged to recruit new members among bishops, priests, deacons and lay associates and to send the names to FR. MEL HEMANN.

ADJOURNMENT: Adjournment was moved and seconded. JOHN HEMANN/KNOBBY WALSH. Passed unanimously.

Procrastinatedly & lovingly submitted,

*Fr. Bob*

Fr. Bob J. Kirsch, Secretary