

Church of St. Paul – Comfrey, MN  
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Church Social Room

Members present: Msgr. Lozinski, Fr. Andy Michels, Dan Davis, Matt Grausam, Jim Rathman, Matt Eischen, Linda Kelly, Connie Kelly, Dale McMullen, Marianne Schotzko, Judy Augustin, Jim Schwab, Nellie Richter – Secretary

Members absent: Darrell Platz, Denice Evers

Meeting was opened at 6:38 p.m. by Chairman Rathman while waiting for Msgr., Fr. Andy, and Davis.

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes from May 19, 2020: Correction to include Jim Schwab as present for the Zoom Meeting. M/S/C Schotzko, L. Kelly to approve minutes with correction.

Agenda additions: Council terms – L. Kelly finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> term and McMullen finishing first term; Leak in basement. M/S/C Schotzko, L. Kelly to approve Agenda with additions.

Msgr., Fr. Michels and Davis arrived; all prayed the Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer at 6:44 p.m.

Msgr. talked about the evaluation of the resumption of public masses – feels it is going well but each church can only hold as many people as social distancing (6 feet) allows, even though we can be up to 50% capacity. Msgr. is unsure on funeral lunches being allowed yet.

First Communion for Makenze Fischer will be on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 a.m. mass. Msgr. mentioned that St. Mary's will have Eucharistic Adoration from Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. thru Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and all are encouraged to attend. Cleaning/sanitizing of pews needs to be done after each mass – hand sanitizer should be available at entrance and exits of church.

Financials presented by Grausam: Contributions are falling short of our budgeted amounts. Schotzko asked about getting an adjustment on our bulletin costs due to decreased bulletin quantity while masses were suspended. Grausam will look into. Eischen and C. Kelly noted that the same amount of time to type the bulletin and other expenses don't change even if quantity printed is less. The advertisers on back page pay for the paper and printing of the bulletins.

Eischen asked Grausam about receiving income and expense printouts each month for future meetings. Edward Jones investments are coming due 6/24/20. Richter should check with Edward Jones, SouthPoint, Americana Bank in Sleepy Eye and others for interest rates. Monthly payments to St. Mary's for priest salaries, health insurance, living expenses, business office, etc. will have to increase to absorb extra costs for another priest in our AFC, beginning in July.

Religious Education by Dan Davis: Making preparations for next year. A few difficulties arose last year and need to be considered going forward. Difficult to find teachers and substitutes – may need 4 or 5 teachers this fall, depending on how classes are divided. Expect 20 or 21 students next year depending on how many 1<sup>st</sup> graders register. Learning gaps of combined grades also a problem. The Confirmation class (11<sup>th</sup> grade) will be a class by themselves. There are several combinations of class division scenarios, but will still run into some problems with classroom spaces. If social distancing continues, may be difficult to have classes here at St. Paul's. This past year, students that attended regularly were SP 13 and JM 5. Projected Religious Ed start date is Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. C. Kelly stated that we used to have more classes years ago placed everywhere and it worked. Largest class will be

the 11<sup>th</sup> grade (6 students) if all return. Grades 8/9/10 would also be 6 students. If we need 5 spaces for classes, will be difficult to find adequate areas in church building. (VIRTUS does not allow 1 adult to be alone with a class in a separate building.)

Fall Festival – Msgr. said that we will have to see what protocols are required by then with the dinner. Eischen thinks we should plan a festival, but change to just all take-outs.

Maintenance: Church Roof – Msgr. said that the request has to get presented to the Diocesan Building Committee and then approved by the Bishop. Have to determine what the parish project will all include. Eischen said that getting 22 years out of a 30-year shingle is fairly normal and even though they are starting to flake off doesn't mean that there are any components on why they are failing. The chimney can get removed below the church roof level and the roof ventilation can be looked at. All the bids have expired, but need to get process moving from Diocese first before seeking updated ones. Need to decide on a contractor or a range of costs that would be acceptable. Andy Peschges did an evaluation on the church and rectory shingles – both need to be replaced. McMullen would like to keep the contractor and materials purchased local. Rathman asked for a council vote on having Peschges/Suess be awarded the project - all voted yes.

Rathman talked about the leak in the furnace room. The pipes entering the building needed to be sealed and caulked as well as the old coal chute area, and that was done. Augustin noted that a strip of siding on the back garage (west side) is missing.

CCW Report by Schotzko: Had a mass on 6/04/20 before the CCW meeting – 10 were present. Unable to entertain at nursing homes/assisted livings due to COVID-19. Not able to offer reception for First Communicant or the graduates. Schotzko also had a question regarding Fr. Andy asking the CCW to pay for the 6/04/20 mass mileage – these masses are open to anyone to attend, so CCW should not have to pay the mileage. M/S/C Eischen, McMullen to have church pay for mileage for these masses. Farewell for Msgr. and Fr. Andy was discussed at CCW meeting and will go along with the AFC June 28<sup>th</sup> Farewell gathering. A basket will be put out for people to place cards in if unable to attend.

Cemetery – Schotzko stated that she is very proud of how our cemetery looks, especially when visiting other cemeteries over Memorial weekend. Cornhusks blowing into the cemetery are a nuisance.

Council Member Terms: Linda Kelly is completing her second 3-year term at the end of June and she declined to accept another term. Dale McMullen is completing his first 3-year term and accepted another term. How do we want to proceed and try to find another council member? Voting during mass (writing up to 3 names down and going with the most write-in's, etc.) used to work in the past, but would be difficult to do now with so few people in church. Decided to put notice in bulletin to see if a volunteer comes forward.

AFC Meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Leavenworth.

Rathman thanked everyone for attending.

Closing prayer led by Msgr. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nellie Richter – Secretary  
7/16/20