

**Church of St. Paul – Comfrey  
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Present: Msgr. Lozinski, Fr. Andy Michels, Jim Rathman, Darrell Platz, Linda Kelly, Dale McMullen, Connie Kelly, Matt Eischen, Judy Augustin – Trustee, Nellie Richter – Secretary**

**Absent: Denice Evers**

**Msgr. led the group with the Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer at 7:40 p.m., with Chairman Rathman calling meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.**

**Agenda additions: Old copier, non-member church hall rental charges, Council member to take phone calls regarding roof replacement bids.**

**Msgr. talked about the Diocese sex abuse payments – Diocese owes \$34 million, with \$7 million coming from the Diocese, \$1 million from parishes and remaining money from Insurance companies. Due to our parish having one credible lawsuit, we will owe \$15,000. Channeling injunction, with all parishes paying something, will protect the parishes from any possible future ‘historical’ abuse cases. Willmar and Silver Lake parishes will be paying \$75,000 each due to the number of victims they have and parishes with no victim(s) will be paying \$10,000. Msgr. is hoping all the legal matters will be done and behind us by Christmas.**

**Pastoral Planning – Msgr.: Final masses for Clements and Morton were on June 30, 2019. Clements was part of our AFC as an Oratory. Looking at possible auction for Clements as there is not enough money to demolish (\$69,000) and asbestos is a problem. Morton is looking at demolishing their church as they have adequate funds to do so. Wanda, Lucan and Seaforth are closing next year.**

**Evangelization is another Bishop goal, so there will be an all AFC Councils, Trustees, AFC reps and Secretaries meeting at St. Mary’s on August 27<sup>th</sup> to watch video of speaker Peter Herbeck who was at the Bishop Lucker Lecture earlier this year. The book “Letter to a Suffering Church” regarding the sex abuse the church is facing was handed out to all council members.**

**There will be an AFC mission in November (Sunday – Tuesday) to be held at St. Mary’s. Also, early December, the Bishop will have a prayer service at St. Mary’s with adoration, confessions, prayers for people who come forward, etc. Need people to reach out to parishioners asking if they need prayers.**

**Richard and Pat Callanan both terminated their employment with St. Paul’s. Need to find replacement for Maintenance Person as Cindy Hillesheim is the interim Janitor right now. Dick requested to remain on the Cemetery Board. Although Msgr. does not feel that is possible if not a member of the parish, Eischen feels that if his membership is paid, he should be able to stay on. He has done a lot for the cemetery upkeep, etc. Augustin also spoke that Dick has been a valuable asset to our parish, looking out for the welfare of our church and other jobs he worked and volunteered his time at. Unfortunately, issues between Dick and Msgr. made for an unworkable relationship. Eischen brought up that the Cemetery Board is a voluntary position, not a paid one, and is opposed to taking him off the Board. Also, we allow non-parishioners to be buried in our Cemetery, so why is this much**

different? Msgr. is fine with him as a volunteer and will see how it all goes with him remaining on the Cemetery Board. Rathman mentioned he talked with Dick as well.

Minutes from June 18, 2019 Meeting: Correction – Eischen would like the word ‘School’ added to page 2, under Education, so it reads: St. Michael’s Catholic School will be closing at the close of the 2019-20 school year. (Some people read it as the parish was closing.) Motion to accept minutes with correction made by Eischen, seconded by L. Kelly. Carried.

Nothing received for July Financial Reports yet from St. Mary’s (too early in the month to get it all done for tonight) so not sure what our balance is, etc. June, 2019 Financials (which included the end of fiscal year totals) were gone over. When an Edward Jones Certificate matures and the interest is paid out, the interest is transferred to our Triumph checking account. Motion to accept June Financials made by Eischen, seconded by McMullen. Carried.

Roof bids: Ericksen Construction, Jeremy Zihlke and Tom Suess are all interested in the project but too soon to bid on a next year project. Eischen said Josh Sellner should be involved as Maintenance since he is being paid by our church. Msgr. noted that Josh is on vacation this week, but his role is to supervise all the maintenance in the AFC and inform Msgr. what is going on. A budget amount for him was put in, but he isn’t going to come out to the parish to do maintenance work. Al Longtin, for Ericksen Construction, will be contacted by Richter to see if he would want to meet with Josh on the church roof bid. An ad for a Maintenance person should be put in bulletin.

Microphone: Fr. Andy is moving clip more to the middle of his vestment rather than off to the side and Msgr. wants him to keep working with it. It works, just inconvenient, as a toggle switch works better.

Education: Msgr. said that it is up in the air right now. Andrew Dieter spoke at AFC masses at the end of July asking for volunteer teachers. If each parish could come up with several teachers, it can work. This seems to be a struggle for all parishes to find teachers.

Sub-Committees: Msgr. is looking at having Council meetings possibly every other month and then committees can meet between the Council meetings, etc. St. Mary’s will be scheduling Council meetings for all of next year, so meeting dates will be known ahead of time.

Parish Council vacancy: Rathman asked if members talked to anyone to be on council? Some people were asked but no’s were received. An ad should be put in bulletin regarding Parish Council member needed. Rathman thanked everyone for attending tonight’s meeting.

Cemetery: Msgr. wants to see up-to-date Financials and Eischen wants to see proposed Cemetery budget also with prior years’ expense/income before deciding on transferring money to the Cemetery accounts – Council needs to see those financials at least twice per year. Richter should check with Matt Grausam on putting the Cemetery on some type of a computer program.

Eischen spoke of staying ahead of economy issues and to lock-in higher rates when possible. Can divide larger amounts if needed and should check with local banks first if they offer rates close to what we are now getting, and to also check with what Edward Jones can offer.

Building/Maintenance: Nothing at this time.

**Liturgy:** Augustin had question regarding when actual day, evening or vigil mass is used for mass, etc. Msgr. said that Sean Connolly is having a Music Retreat Workshop at Schoenstatt on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. August 15<sup>th</sup> Mass at St. Mary's will feature Mozart Coronation at 7:00 p.m. and mass will be in Latin.

**Environment:** Report by Marianne Schotzko, read by Augustin: Committee members met with Fr. Andy on July 24<sup>th</sup> to plan the next year. Members are making efforts to have fresh flowers at all Sunday masses during the summer.

**CCW:** Report by Marianne Schotzko, read by Augustin: No meetings for summer; would like a mass for September 5<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meetings- Fr. Andy checking on these dates. Schotzko attended Deanery I Board Planning and Leadership Training meeting in Lafayette in late July and will attend the National CCW Convention in Atlanta, Georgia later this month. Fall Gathering will be September 24<sup>th</sup> in North Mankato. Speaker will be on evangelization.

**AFC:** Msgr. said we will need to find a new rep to take R. Callanan's vacancy. The group meets 4-5 times a year. Need 2 members from each parish. Rathman will check with Jim Schwab, who is our other rep.

**LP/Fuel contract with Farmward Cooperative:** Received pricing for: fuel oil (Rectory) of 750 gallons @ \$2.419/gallon; and LP (Church) of 4500 gallons @ \$1.12/gallon with no down payment. Motion to accept contract prices made by McMullen, seconded by Platz. Carried.

**Financials:** Augustin said we should follow procedure, as stated in the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, into the future with where funds, if needed, should be taken from. Motion to follow procedure as stated in June 18, 2019 meeting minutes regarding funds was made by McMullen, seconded by C. Kelly. Carried. (Note: Procedure: Transfer first from Triumph State Bank MMS account, then SouthPoint Savings (with minimum to keep account open), then SouthPoint MMS, all on an as-needed basis.)

**Janitor:** Cindy Hillesheim is working for our church right now, but we are repaying Leavenworth for her hours at same wage they pay her. Cindy wants to see how all her jobs work out once school starts.

**Church Dinner Report from Linda Weber,** read by Augustin: Things are progressing, with Gambling License received and tickets ordered, but more co-chairmen are needed! Can finish this year with committee they now have, but will need people for next year.

**Copier:** The old Savin copier ends up to be ours – what do we do with it? Should check with Deb at Leavenworth and Matt Grausam on any ideas they have. (JM also one to get rid of.)

**Church Hall Rent:** Increase rental prices, especially non-member prices? Motion to increase all Church Hall rentals, members and non-members, to \$50.00 was made by Eischen, seconded by L. Kelly. Carried.

Closing prayer at 9:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes submitted on September 9, 2019, but not approved.

Nellie Richter - Secretary