

Church of St. Paul, Comfrey
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: James Rathman, Margaret Hopwood, Connie Kelly, Matt Eischen (6:55 p.m.),
Msgr. Lozinski, Fr. Andy Michels, Judy Augustin-Trustee, Jim Schwab,
Richard Callanan, Doug Callanan, Nellie Richter

Absent: Linda Kelly, Dale McMullen, Darrell Platz, Marianne Schotzko

Note: As there wasn't a quorum of Council Members, could only discuss items on the Agenda, unable to take action or approve, unless approval was given by Msgr.

Msgr. Lozinski opened with the Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer at 6:32 p.m.

Chairman Rathman gave time for all to read thru the October 18, 2018 meeting minutes. Doug Callanan noted that for future minutes, should be stated which Callanan is being referenced.

Agenda additions: R. Callanan asked to have the following added: 1) Funeral procedures 2) Bank account signatures 3) Other AFC parishes to respect annual Church Dinner festival dates.

October, 2018 Financials presented. Church Dinner net income so far is \$18,079.50 but advertising bills still need to be deducted, and there are sausage sales to add, so should be looking at least clearing \$17,500 this year. Rathman would like the final number of church dinners served in bulletin. D. Callanan mentioned that remaining sausage should be announced at church since not everyone leaves the church in the back.

Environment: Schotzko unable to attend, but she had report and D. Callanan read: Fall décor completed. Four families participated on Sunday, November 4th Mass of Remembrance for loved ones who passed away this past year. Anointing Mass has been rescheduled to Wednesday, December 12th at 8:30 a.m. (due to Buzz Kelly's funeral). Notice will be put in bulletin to remind parishioners that donations can be put in collection basket for Christmas decorations/flowers in memory of family members. Advent wreath and altar linens will be changed for Advent'on November 27th at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are welcome. Planning to have Confirmation students light the candles on Advent wreath for Sunday masses. Will plan a statement about the Advent Candle as students enter church and light candle. Christmas trees, stable and other decorating will be done the week before Christmas and help will be needed. Check bulletin for times. Completion will be done following the December 23rd mass, with potluck to follow. Elevator signage (to state what is on each elevator stop) not ordered yet, but hope to have done by Christmas. Okay with suggestion of vestment/altar linens as DMA project or any other project that the Council feels is best. Would be fitting to buy a vestment or altar cloth in remembrance of Cullen's and Eckstein's in honor of their large donations given to our church.

Back Garage Report: Eischen stated it was ready for the Church Dinner and worked well. He would like the minutes of October 18th to be corrected to state that Matt Eischen removed the old stoves before the church dinner to get them out of the way, but that he does not want them, nor are they his. Bulletin notice to let people know that they are available, as is, to whoever wants them and can offer a donation (all gas stoves), with a December 15th deadline.

R. Callanan reported that he met with Josh from Nosbush Glass (re: coverings for the new addition west-facing stained glass windows) and will be giving an estimate, but work may not get done until spring. Since Thyssenkrupp Company refused to do anything about installing the tank heater, Jerry O'Brien (Heymann Construction) sent a worker over today and he installed the heater for the elevator. Also, since last meeting, the vacuum cleaner and rectory outside porch light were ordered and received. Waiting to install the light.

Augustin asked Msgr. if he ever talked to Doug Steffl regarding the water run-off and what was discussed. Eischen had met with Heiderscheidt's and received an estimate of \$10,000, but wouldn't be started until spring. Many do not feel it is the church's full responsibility. Would hope it would be a shared cost with Steffl's, to some degree, and need to have that in place prior to doing the project. Fr. Andy told members present that we need to be more like Christ and do what is right and Rathman also agreed that we need to get along with our neighbors.

Cemetery: D. Callanan reported that his son, Brian, took over the mowing after Bob Zwaschka's accident. He isn't sure if Brian will do next year. Report on Bob is that he is continuing to improve, but not known if he will be able to take care of cemetery next spring.

Education: Msgr. reported that Religious Education classes are going about the same. There will be a meeting of the DRE's in the next few months. Absenteeism of students/families seems to be consistent.

Liturgy: Augustin had no report.

CCW: Schotzko's report – read by D. Callanan: Christmas meals to be delivered to community seniors on December 6th. Approval received for \$250 Thrivent seed money. Need volunteers to prepare and deliver the approximately 30 meals. St. Anne's Circle served approximately 160 guests for Buzz Kelly's funeral luncheon. Profits from Phantom Bake Sale will donate \$160 each to Benson Girl's Ranch, First Choice Pregnancy of New Ulm and Water for Life (Guatemala). Baptism gifts were approved to be ordered. Christmas gifts to shut-in's and parish staff. Next CCW meeting is Christmas Party with Potluck on December 6th and women of New Hope Church are invited.

AFC: Report from October 23rd meeting – both R. Callanan and Schwab attended. R. Callanan disappointed as he doesn't feel that the minutes reflected the conversations actually held at the meeting such as discussions of Time, Treasure and Talent, Individuality of each Parish, Fourth Plan for Parishes, Music, Bulletin and total cost of it. He felt there were some good things talked about.

Sub-Committees: Msgr. – table at this time. Rathman feels that 4 meetings per year that Msgr. would attend with his busy schedule would be workable, if the Council is able to meet in the months in between.

DMA Project: Eischen suggested that possibly a stove for the rectory could be a project. The electric stove was acting up for the Church Dinner, otherwise not really used for the remainder of the year. Also, could use some cement (approximately 15-20 square feet) to connect the sidewalk to the back garage apron. This would help carting fridges and other items from church to the garage for Church Dinner. Maybe some smaller parish projects could be our "Project"? Price of priest vestments? Msgr. responded that prices can range from \$150-200 on up to \$800-1000. Would need 4 colors. If DMA parish goal of \$6,987.39 is met, parish would get 20%, or about \$1,400, towards listed project.

New Business: R. Callanan on funeral procedures: No one was assigned to carry up the gifts at Kelly's funeral, although C. Kelly said there were people planned to do gifts, just forgot to let them know. No ushers assigned and mix-up of people getting in food line before the family came back from the cemetery. Msgr. said we should have ushers specifically for funerals, men or women, and they would automatically take turns helping at funerals.

Bank Account Signatures: R. Callanan asked if only one signature is needed to sign checks. Answer is yes, and Fr. Andy and Msgr. can sign. Parish Council can give advice, but Pastor has full control of parish finances. Any project over \$10,000 would need a proxy. The council approves a budget and follows it as much as they are able to. Matt Grausam, St. Mary's Business Manager, will be paying all bills eventually and will present a monthly report to the council. D. Callanan asked if, in certain circumstances, the Trustees could sign checks. Msgr. said both would need to sign. Sub-committees, such as the Cemetery, should figure out a yearly budget, then they can approve

expenses/projects within those budgets. Time would be better spent on prayer and evangelization, not at meetings discussing small issues and expenses. Eischen asked how long it takes to get a proxy for a \$10,000-plus project. Msgr. said that a parish can apply for one in early April in order to start later that month (example: water run-off), so relatively quick turnaround.

R. Callanan brought up the two conflicts on same day of our Church Dinner – St. Mary's of New Ulm had a breakfast bizarre, which took approximately 20 people from attending our dinner, and then a potluck at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye following the Latin Mass. Fr. Andy said that the Diocesan website lists annual festivals, but maybe that should be something the AFC Committee/Council should be looking into.

Msgr. commented that Bishop LeVoir has called a meeting to talk about our Diocese's bankruptcy and it will be on Tuesday, November 27 at Olivia from 1-3 p.m. Secretary, Trustees and/or Chairman should plan on attending. Every parish will have to donate something for bankruptcy, whether or not they have a case against their parish, since parishes did not have a choice in priest placements. Eischen asked if this amount will be divided by size of parish. Msgr. not sure at this time. The bargaining with each parish then falls under a 'channeling-injunction' which means that nothing from the past can be considered going forward. Insurance plays a large part in the Diocese mediation, but not in the parishes. Each victim will get something and bankruptcy will allow parishes to continue their work.

Meeting of AFC Secretaries will be on Friday, November 30th starting at 1:30 p.m. in Sleepy Eye.

No council meeting in December.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. following closing prayer.

Minutes submitted, not approved.
Nellie Richter

NOTE: January meeting date was set for Thursday, January 24th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the November 30th Secretary Meeting.