

**Church of St. Paul – Comfrey
Administrative Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.**

Members present: James Rathman, Linda Kelly, Dale McMullen, Matthew Eischen, Judy Augustin, Denice Evers, Msgr. Lozinski, Fr. Andy Michels, Andrew Dieter, Richard Callanan, Nellie Richter-Sec.
Absent: Connie Kelly, Darrell Platz, Margaret Hopwood, Doug Callanan, Marianne Schotzko, Jim Schwab

Msgr. Lozinski led group in Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer at 6:35 p.m.

Chairman Rathman called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

Agenda Additions: Other: Parish Emergency Preparedness Contact and Parish Spending.

Minutes from Administrative Council Meeting of May 21, 2019 – no corrections. Motion to accept made by L. Kelly, seconded by Eischen. Carried.

May, 2019 Financials: Evers pointed out on the Income Statement the comparison of Adult envelopes to the same time last year that we are over \$10,000 less and Total Sunday Collections are \$12,000 less than compared to last year. Our monthly DUF is high, so hoping it goes down next Fiscal Year since Estate money received is several years ago. (Note: DUF will go down approximately \$223/month and Priest Pension down approximately \$33/month for 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.) Also, summer yard care very high at over \$6000 already (mowing, Lawn Pro and landscaping costs). Diocesan National Collections – we send the money given for these various collections to the Diocese (Rice Bowl, Campaign for Human Development, etc.) R. Callanan asked about budget amounts not in bulletin anymore, so people don't know where we are at financially. The budget will be put in the bulletin again starting in July.

Evers stated that the Edward Jones \$25,000 Investment was re-invested with Edward Jones for 3 months – earning a good rate (2.4%) – this investment is earmarked for Abuse payment. Diocese of Duluth is settled and hoping our Diocese will be settled soon, too. Msgr. said that lawyers are meeting regularly and working towards a settlement that the victims (creditors) and their lawyers will accept. Evers asked about the priest accusation (Steiner) whose police investigation did not prove his guilt, same as Fr. Gross, and if the accusers are still part of the payout? Msgr. said that the accusers are still in the 'pool' for payment, but once settled, money will be paid to a trust and then payments to victims will be made from there. The cut off for these cases was May, 2016 and any new cases of abuse after that date are not included in this pay out. R. Callanan noted that there is an Abuse notice in bulletin under Morgan, but not in any others. Msgr. explained that it has to be in the bulletin somewhere and Joan places it where there is room. Motion to accept Financials made by Eischen, seconded by L. Kelly. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Building & Maintenance by R. Callanan: Roof bids: Laraway Roofing not interested and not equipped to do, but gave Ericksen Construction as another company to check with. Jeremy Zihlke is interested, but out too far yet and nothing yet from Tom Suess. Concrete Pad – nothing yet. Job Description for AFC Maintenance Person – Msgr. not finished with it yet. R. Callanan does not feel that it is fair that both get paid to do some duplicate jobs, but will wait for job description.

Liturgy: Fr. Andy hoping we are getting a new wireless microphone pack with toggle switch. Leavenworth purchased one recently and Fr. Andy is happy with it. R. Callanan mentioned, quoting Msgr. from a recent AFC meeting, that we are 'in crisis mode', which he feels our finances are also at St. Paul's, and with only 1 or 2 masses per week, and other priests not seeming to have issues with it, he would not be in favor of voting for purchasing. Evers said the wireless ones used for theater cost around \$800. Augustin said that Doug Callanan talked with Rhapsody Music and the cost is \$600-plus. Msgr. said that with Fr. Andy, he gets nervous and then

mic issues add to that. Eischen said we need to watch our finances, but we need a priest and we need to hear him. Need an actual bid before purchasing.

Dieter added that he feels St. Paul's is in more of a 'challenge', rather than a crisis, with financial downfalls due to decrease of the number of people attending church. The Diocese is in a crisis. Eischen asked if we can let Fr. Andy chose what he would like so what we purchase is acceptable? Don't want to buy something he isn't comfortable using. R. Callanan added that if Fr. Andy likes the toggle switch one like JM, should check with them as to where purchased. Msgr. said they are \$600-800 and we can check into this.

Education: Msgr. is looking into Religious Ed program for 2019-2020 and seriously looking at a different one. Not sure how the Family Faith Program serves the kids. Will move to a more traditional program with several grades together with a teacher. Prayers need to be learned. Dieter added that too many ages in same class. Will split into more groups, to do it right, with maybe 5 teachers. May offer something for adults to help them to teach and grow in their faith, too. Msgr.: We need to be serious about passing on our faith. Eischen asked if we need a DRE if we have teachers? With Dieter, can he teach the 5 teachers? Dieter responded saying that teacher training would be held, possibly instead of class nights, to check effectiveness of classes and help them if any issues (would be all 4 parishes together for the teacher classes). Expectations are to teach specific things to age groups with volunteer teachers. Would still combine SP and JM. Msgr. would like St. Paul to have adoration hours here. R. Callanan asked if St. Michael's in Morgan is closing, and Msgr. said yes, May, 2020.

Sub-Committees: Msgr. is getting a clearer picture of what he would like - possibly will meet with the Administrative Council every other month and then certain committees can hold meetings between. Not finalized yet.

Parish Council: No one came forward even with notices in the bulletin. Rathman said there are concerns from parishioners on how things are being handled, but after looking at Diocese Statutes/By-Laws, they are being followed as stated. Msgr. replied that we need a group of people who are strong in their faith with no personal agendas. How do we become a unit and a model to the parish? We need to be a positive group, based on faith and the teachings of the church, and not be in a power struggle, and become part of a team with no agendas. R. Callanan stated that he has an agenda, and with Sister JoAnne gone, he has St. Paul's best interest and disagrees that we cannot have an agenda. Dieter added that we need to leave our egos at the door and try to accomplish things together. The potential of what we can do cannot be met if we don't. Msgr. added that to stay fighting for what is best for St. Paul's is a dead-end street. The Diocese is the structure and each church is a part of that structure. Faith is most important – that is the agenda. Diocese is unable to keep all churches open, but need to pass on our faith, with service to the church and doing the work of the Lord. Rathman said the Pastor would rather work with a parish that isn't divided.

Eischen mentioned that council members could each talk to maybe 2-3 people to find interested parishioners. Evers said that we really never had an election, but would have parishioners write down names on paper that they felt would be good. Then the people with the most write-ins would be asked if interested and would go down the list until someone said yes. Rathman said we should organize and come up with names for next meeting.

Evers said that Clennon from Springfield will put something together regarding investments and will have by August 1st. Comfrey Community Days Parade – Dale McMullen will possibly add posters advertising our Church Dinner to his entry – will get his nieces involved making the posters.

NEW BUSINESS: Building & Maintenance by R. Callanan: Mainly small items worked on.

Cemetery: Report by D. Callanan, read by R. Callanan: Mowing and trimming ongoing, tank for watering flowers is in place and being used, several graves need attention, black dirt delivered. Would like discussion on church transferring \$100,000 (\$60K to Operating Fund and \$40K to Perpetual Care) and asking for consideration to this

request. Augustin read the section regarding this from the last Cemetery Meeting minutes of April 25, 2019. She also asked about who pays for, as an example, a 100-year old stone that is leaning and needs fixing? This would be paid from the Operating Fund, as Perpetual Care cannot be touched. It is recommended to have \$25K per plotted acre in Perpetual Care. Msgr. said that when a closed parish merges into another parish, the remaining church manages the funds for the closed church's cemetery. Example: Clements is closing and will be merging with Morgan, so Morgan will manage their funds. Eischen said we need to calculate what the last year's expenses were to figure out what is needed. R. Callanan added that expenses run \$2-3K and then mowing costs on top of that per year. Bob Zwaschka is unable to help in cemetery this year. Independent Contractors have to carry their own Liability Insurance.

Liturgy: Augustin – Church is in Ordinary Time. Msgr. added that the Bishop would like parishes to have a Corpus Christi procession in 2020. Dieter also mentioned a Music Liturgy Retreat/Workshop at Schoenstatt with Sean Connolly will be held in August.

Environment: Report by Schotzko, read by R. Callanan: New green vestment received; 3 more ordered but not here yet. Corpus Christi this Sunday. Fr. Andy and the Environment Committee will be setting up a meeting.

CCW: Report by Schotzko, read by R. Callanan: Executive Meeting on July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in Church Hall. St. Theresa Circle will be serving at funeral this Friday. Next meeting is September 5th. Msgr. commended the CCW on doing a good job.

AFC: R. Callanan: Last meeting minutes have not been received yet. Joan W. was not there, but waiting to see the rewording regarding AFC Mass Schedule when priest shortage. Msgr. said that the 4 Council/Trustee AFC Meeting will now be on Tuesday, August 27th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's (instead of September 17th). Will be watching a video from Peter Herbeck (speaker at Bishop Lucker Lecture this past March).

Financials: Discussion of what funds are available to use, if needed. Motion by Eischen to transfer from the Triumph State Bank MMS account on an as-needed basis, then SouthPoint Savings (keeping minimum needed to keep account open), then go to SouthPoint MMS, for month of June only and re-evaluate in July, seconded by McMullen. Carried.

Other: Parish Emergency Preparedness Contact – Diocese wants all parishes to have a person listed on the Self-Study. Msgr. said there is training involved. He will check with Tom Keavney on description of what it all entails.

R. Callanan said it was brought to his attention about recent purchase of 2 sets of cruets. Who will inform the donator of the set we are now using (purchased as Memorial), and tell them why they won't be used? Eischen said we need to have respect for items donated by people and tread lightly when replacing items. The outside church sign was taken down, although originally donated by Pete and Benny Rathman, when church addition was done, so just have to be mindful when replacing things.

Rathman stated he is resigning as Chairman/Council as of tonight, but if Council members want him to reconsider, please let Secretary know. More gets accomplished without butting heads.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. after closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted on July 8, 2019, but not approved,

Nellie Richter - Secretary