

**Church of St. Paul – Comfrey, MN  
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. – Rectory**

**Members present:** Judy Augustin, Darrell Platz, Jim Rathman, Linda Kelly, Matt Eischen, Connie Kelly, Msgr. Lozinski, Fr. Andy Michels, Dan Davis, Doug Callanan, Richard Callanan, Nellie Richter  
**Members absent:** Denice Evers, Dale McMullen, Marianne Schotzko, Jim Schwab

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rathman at 6:41 p.m. Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer was led by Msgr. Chairman Rathman gave the group time to read through the November 14, 2019 and December 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Motion by Eischen to accept minutes as read, seconded by Platz. Carried.

**Additions to the Agenda – Worship & Spiritual Life, Casting Nets.**

Msgr. stated that the Diocesan bankruptcy is hopefully coming to an end soon. The clients (victims) will be voting on the original proposal that they were given and they need two-thirds to pass. Will be good to go forward. Bishop is meeting tonight with the parish of Rosen. Our DMA paid in so far is \$4020 against the \$5502.75 assessed, which means that \$1005 (20%) will be coming back to parish for our church roof project designation.

**Liturgy:** Augustin stated that Christmas went well with a dedicated group and helpers. Lent is now right around the corner.

Msgr. mentioned that the group 'Casting Nets' are lay people from Wichita, Kansas who could possibly be here on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 19<sup>th</sup>) and talk on Evangelization (can check them out on YouTube), but nothing is decided yet. There would be no cost.

**Dan Davis:** Religious Education classes are going well. Had a late class cancellation last week due to weather, but think everyone was notified. Classes are now in Comfrey. St. Paul's number of students attending is 13. Dan will send out letters to families regarding tuition for both JM and SP - \$20 per child with family cap at \$50. Still looking for a facilitator yet – would help teachers, call parents if kids don't show up for class, and possibly do opening and closing prayers. Confirmation will be Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's – St. Paul's does not have any Juniors this year. First Reconciliation for AFC second graders will be Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's. First Communion will be Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> in Comfrey for Makenze Fischer. Baptism class will be in February at St. Mary's. This Man is You starts up again this coming Friday for men of the AFC.

**Stewardship:** Financials for November and December, 2019 presented. With our finances running behind compared to our budget, it shows that we need the support of the parishioners as well as our various fundraisers each year. Questions/concerns on the fluctuating amount per month getting paid to St. Mary's Church & School for priests, DRE and business office salaries, living expenses, insurance, etc. Eischen wants a breakdown of these checks per month (July-December) since there is quite a discrepancy of amounts. Hard to approve financials without this information. Richter will check with Grausam on getting these breakdowns. Financial approval tabled until more information is received.

**Maintenance:** No inquiries received on Maintenance Person. Eischen would like the Help Wanted for Maintenance, Church Dinner Committee members needed along with a Rel Ed Building Facilitator put in the bulletin each week until filled. Eischen did a building walk-thru with Richard Callanan last week. Janitor (Diane Radtke) is coming in to clean at least once per week.

**CCW Report** (from Marianne Schotzko) read by Augustin: Christmas Party on December 5<sup>th</sup> was well attended by New Hope, Leavenworth and Morgan ladies. St. Nicholas meals – 53 meals were served/delivered. In 2021, our

church will be hosting the Deanery I Board Meeting. Our CCW Circles served 4 funerals in November – December. Environment Report: Christmas decorations were put up Sunday and Monday before Christmas by Environment Group as well as other volunteers and have recently been taken down. Getting ready for Lent.

Cemetery: Doug Callanan brought up the request for purchasing a fire-proof cabinet for Cemetery records stemming from the November Cemetery Meeting and has found one on Amazon for \$799.99. Rathman looked at Sam's Club and Kemske's and their prices were higher. Eischen thinks we should go with 2 – 2-drawer fire-proof file cabinets (one for church records and one for cemetery records) and place in 2 different rooms/locations. He also attended the Cemetery Meeting in November. Doug said we do have backups (copies) of our fold-out cemetery map, but should also microfilm old record books.

Doug is again requesting a transfer of funds (\$100-150,000) from money previously bequeathed to parish to the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund. Eischen said we have a beautiful cemetery and we want it to remain in good repair, even if our parish closes. Richard gave the Operating Funds balance as of June 30, 2019 at \$47,847. The Perpetual Care Fund was at \$66,156 and with 2.35% interest, it comes out to approximately \$1,554.67/year. (The annual interest from Perpetual Care Funds goes to the Operating Fund and should be adequate to cover yearly expenses.) Income for last 4 years (from lots purchased, cremains holes dug, donations, sale of dirt, land rent, etc.) was \$11,678. Expenses for same time period totaled \$28,237.

Richard figured that if we added \$150K to the \$66,156 Perpetual Care funds we currently have, we would be looking at \$216,156 at 2% interest for an annual \$4,323 in interest. If monies are kept in CD's, the interest rate will remain low, but could run our Operating Fund for many years to come. Eischen added that there are no inflationary costs built into these amounts. Doug encouraged people to donate to the cemetery – he attaches the Veteran's plaques free of charge to the families. Should lot prices be raised? With the cremains burial of 2 allowed per lot, this has also changed the number of lots being purchased. Eischen asked for people to comment with their point of view on the proposal by Callanan's. Richard said he will continue his search on investments, but the money could go into the Edward Jones account for now. Msgr. added that he thinks the non-member lot price should be raised, and if our church merges with another down the road, the cemetery upkeep won't burden that church. Eischen would like this to be an item done and off our Agenda – we owe our forefathers and parishioners who built our church, and who belong to our church today, to have our cemetery taken care of for years to come. Motion made by Eischen to transfer \$150,000 from the Edward Jones Zions investment (when it comes to term on Feb. 28, 2020) and put the remaining balance into the Edward Jones Money Market Savings, seconded by L. Kelly. Carried. Rathman added that he feels that when people view our assets, the extra money is hurting us, as people think we have enough and then don't give. Could also possibly look into future money transfers into the cemetery funds if our church would close.

An all AFC Meeting with Councils, Trustees, AFC representatives and Secretaries is set for next Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's.

For future meetings, Eischen would prefer they not be on the third and last Tuesday of each month due to Fire Dept. meetings/drills and the fourth Thursday of month doesn't work for Evers. Next Meeting was not set yet. (Note: Meeting has been set for Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.)

Motion by Eischen to adjourn meeting, seconded by L. Kelly. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with closing prayer.

Submitted,

Nellie Richter - Secretary