

**Church of St. Paul – Comfrey
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 6:30pm – Church Basement**

Members present: Fr. Steffl, Fr. Tanner, Fr. Sam Perez, Jim Rathman, Darrell Platz, Matt Eischen, Dale McMullen, Judy Augustin, Denice Evers, Nellie Richter – Secretary

Members absent: Connie Kelly, Marianne Schotzko, Matt Grausam, Samuel Rosemeier

Guest: Richard Callanan

Fr. Steffl opened the meeting at 6:35p.m. and led the group in prayer.

Agenda addition – LP tank cost. M/S/C Evers, McMullen to approve Agenda with addition.

Financials for November and December, 2022 were presented. Fr. Steffl read Grausam's comments on bottom of report stating we are \$4,308 short of budget and Adult support is approximately \$3,400 less than last year at this time. Loose Plate is up \$600 compared to last year at this time. Total offertory is \$4,700 short of budget. Budget for upcoming Fiscal Year will be presented at next meeting. M/S/C McMullen, Evers to approve Financials as presented.

Old Business:

Northwest entrance was completed by Jon Vogel and was covered by Catholic Mutual Insurance minus the \$1000 deductible. Parish Office sign with hours for Rectory was ordered in Fall by Evers. Jon Vogel's estimate to paint the interior of the church was looked at. Fr. Steffl suggested doing a fundraiser for the project and ask people to prayerfully consider donating for this (it is also our 2022 DMA Designated Project). Rathman stated we should wait to decide until next meeting. Callanan mentioned that someone did repairs in our church years ago and used a lift and could get to walls easily. Rathman would like to have a second quote to compare and McMullen will check with others. M/S/C Evers, McMullen to table this until next meeting.

McMullen took the old trophies to Crissy Rogotzke in Springfield (bought out the engraving business from New Ulm Nicklasson's store when it closed) and they will be reused. Calendar Raffle Tickets were handed or mailed out at end of December. February 5th is this year's drawing.

New Business:

Cemetery Report (by Callanan): He handed out copies of a letter received from a family regarding how nice our cemetery looks when they visit their loved one's graves and included a donation for maintenance. Brian Callanan is to thank for the meticulous care he puts in for the upkeep of our cemetery. Taxes owed this year on cemetery acreage rented out in 2022 will be \$184, but will then have renter offer a donation in lieu of paying rent hereafter.

Callanan also mentioned the cemetery wanting a new telescoping flagpole with illumination and moving the flagpole more to the front of the cemetery. Cost is unknown yet as still working on finding one that is sturdy. Old flagpole will be removed by Brian. Fr. Steffl suggested putting a notice in the bulletin asking for donations towards this project. M/S/C Evers, Eischen to approve the cemetery personnel to purchase a new, collapsible, lighted flagpole and install it in a different location in the cemetery.

Callanan also asked about putting cameras, like what we have in church, out in the cemetery due to some issues of vehicles driving onto the cemetery grass where there could be a liability issue with stones, etc. Fr. Steffl has not heard of putting cameras in a cemetery. He suggested purchasing a Trail Cam which is cheaper and can be hooked up to a cell phone. Richard read wording from a letter Doug Callanan gave him requiring Proof of Liability Insurance from anyone who does work in our cemetery. This stems from someone who was subcontracted to do work on an existing headstone and damaged it due to the unprofessional job they did. Fr. Steffl feels it is more of a lack of communication among these companies but suggested talking to Justin at Sturm Funeral Home first. Eischen thinks a letter to the monument companies would be beneficial. Fr. Steffl would be happy to talk to Doug about his letter and this issue.

Religious Education Report – Samuel Rosemeier (read by Fr. Steffl): Classes resumed on January 11th (one week later due to weather). They covered Vocations Awareness and students learned what a vocation is and different types of vocations. Next week, classes will be about Pro-Life. Two students from St. Paul's will be making their First Reconciliation on Sunday, January 22nd at St. Mary's along with other students from our AFC.

Liturgical Environment Report and CCW Reports by Marianne Schotzko (read by Evers): For Advent, the color lavender was utilized and Advent wreath was updated with 2 new candle holders and candles. Christmas trees and empty crib were put up a week before Christmas and then decorated on December 20th by 3 committee members and 4 volunteers. Many donations received to help pay for the poinsettias. Most décor was removed after Epiphany except for nativity scene. Will be decorating for Lent at the end of February. Informed that baby Jesus and one of the Kings is in need of some touchups/repairs.

CCW: Food donations were collected during November and 5 generous baskets of grocery items were donated to parish members. December 1st was CCW Potluck Meal and Bingo party that included women from St. Michael's and New Hope Lutheran Church attending and all enjoyed the food, fellowship and fun. St. Nicholas meal was made and delivered on December 6th to 58 community members and 15 who helped with the meal. Groceries were purchased with Wendell Fredin's Thrivent \$250 seed money. The December issue of the Magnificat was given with each meal and remaining copies were placed in back of church. Also included in the meals were cards of praise and encouragement. Christmas gifts were purchased for shut-ins, employees, priests and volunteers.

Liturgy Report by Judy Augustin: Made it through Christmas and starting to look into the Lenten season. Fr. Steffl added that Christmas Eve weather wasn't very good, so attendance was down for 4:00 pm Mass. Christmas Day Mass weather was better. Ash Wednesday (February 22) Mass will be at 7:00 pm.

Southwest entrance: A leak was detected mid-December when we had rain. Fr. Steffl contacted Andy Peschges and McMullen also talked to him but will need to wait until spring until it can be looked into. Theme Basket idea for Spring: Richter would like to try doing this for several weeks after Easter, have in the rectory garage and after Sunday Mass, could open up the garage so people can look at and bid, and also stop whenever office is open. Council gave their approval to try this fundraiser.

Rathman called Springfield office of Farmward and our large LP tank is leased to us free of charge, but no other LP company can put LP in it since we don't own the tank. To purchase a tank, a 1000-gallon tank would cost \$4,400 and a 500-gallon tank would cost \$2,500. Would expense of purchasing the tank offset having LP donated? No action taken.

Fr. Steffl commented on Holy Hour/Adoration and feels it is a good start for our parish. Eucharistic Revival – he welcomes any ideas that others may see or hear from other parishes visited. Church Dinner final result is \$17,271.94 profit realized. Fr. Steffl will reach out to Justin Asmus at Sturm's regarding subcontractors/workers they hire to do work in our cemetery.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Fr. Steffl led group in closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nellie Richter – Secretary