

Church of St. Paul, Comfrey
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes - Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Present: James Rathman, Linda Kelly, Margaret Hopwood, Msgr. Lozinski, Fr. Andy Michels, Richard Callanan, Marianne Schotzko, Judy Augustin, Nellie Richter
Absent: Matt Eischen, Connie Kelly, Dale McMullen, Darrell Platz, Denice Evers, Doug Callanan, Andrew Dieter
Guest: Mitchell Redman

Note: As there was no quorum of Council Members, members could only discuss items on Agenda, not take action or approve, unless approval was given by Msgr.

Msgr. Lozinski opened with the Evening Prayer – Liturgy of the Hours at 6:35 pm.

Read thru Administrative Council Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2018. Looked at the September, 2018 Financial Reports as presented. There were some line items that a breakdown was asked for by Hopwood and Augustin, mainly the priest and other expenses paid to St. Mary's. Msgr. explained that Fr. Andy's salary and benefits are divided 25% SM, 75% other 3 parishes; Dieter's is about 18-20% for SP to pay; Msgr.'s breakdown is 25% Diocese, 50% SM and 25% other 3 parishes. Augustin asked about Sean Connolly's wages and if our parish will have to pay – Msgr. said not as of yet. Callanan asked if these breakdowns are standard. Msgr. stated that St. Mary's pays all the AFC costs for priests and some others and they need to be reimbursed.

Landscaping: Mitchell Redman was here to discuss his last bill for remainder of landscaping. Extra labor with removal of tree roots and other factors accounted for the higher bill. (The original amount was an estimate, not an actual bid.) The hoses, sprinklers, timers, etc. were recalculated as rental of items, not purchases, so new bill with those changes came to \$4,327.01. Callanan said he had contacted 3 other landscaping companies and Redman's bill is in the ballpark of what others would have charged. Msgr. approved bill to Redman to be paid.

Environment: Schotzko said their committee had a meeting Monday evening. Plan to decorate for Advent with the empty manger scene. Msgr. prefers no decorating before Christmas, but is okay with Thursday or Friday prior to Christmas for decorating. Schotzko asked if an Anointing Mass could be set – Fr. Andy said Wednesday, November 14th at 8:30 am mass would work. Christmas Eve mass schedule this year will be 4:00 pm at St. Paul's, 6:00 pm at Morgan and 8:00 pm at JM. All Saints Day mass on November 1st is at 6:00 pm, with CCW meeting to follow. Will ask Joe Larsen (We Care) about getting angels for people to buy Christmas gifts for less fortunate children, as in past years. Schotzko asked if there should be a budget for Liturgical Environment/decorating? Msgr. said there should be. Environment Committee also talked about having signs in the elevator that would state what is on each level/elevator stop.

Since Matt Eischen was not at meeting, he sent Callanan an update on the back garage. Allen from Lamberton Heating & Plumbing was here today and felt that the gas lines, etc., should be completed by Wednesday. Matt said project went over budget, but assumed it would. Eischen/Brown families put the stoves together and they will cover the costs of them. Church just needs to pay the plumber bill. Matt plans to do a dry run prior to the Church Dinner to make sure it all works. He will also be taking the old stoves. Lamberton will be available if we should have any problems.

Msgr. said he called Doug Steffl and told him we would be working on the church water run-off issue, but not this year anymore.

Callanan will be meeting with Josh from Nosbush Glass Co. on Friday on the window coverings for the west windows, new addition. Snow removal by Redman's breaks down to about \$50/hour, no matter how many people are here to clear snow. An email was sent to Jerry O'Brien (Heymann Construction) this morning regarding elevator heater. Tank heater is here and in room, but Thyssenkrupp not responding to installing it as previously agreed to. Although part of the project bid, Thyssenkrupp would not extend the warranty, even though it has not been installed yet. There were 4 issues last winter that the elevator wouldn't work due to the cold weather/temperature.

Callanan had bills from Lawn Pro for 3 lawn applications for 2019 for both cemetery and church lawns. Cemetery \$750/year and church lawn \$570/year. If prepaid by 11/15/18, there is a discount. Msgr. approved both bills to be paid.

Msgr. is still looking into a 4-drawer, legal-size, fireproof file cabinet. Will need to find an area in Rectory for placement.

Cemetery: Richard Callanan mowed once after Bob Zwaschka's accident and Brian Callanan mowed the next time and will continue to monitor. Report on Bob is that he is improving and worrying about the cemetery and Church Dinner.

Education: Confirmation Retreat is November 18th with Kevin Losleben. Concern about absentee of students. There will be a Confirmation meeting in December. Parents only meeting for First Reconciliation students will be first Sunday in November at St. Mary's.

Liturgy: Augustin showed a sample Advent booklet from Liturgical Press, one that our parish has purchased in the past, and would like to be able to look at purchasing again. Msgr. said the Word Among Us has better write-ups and Judy can contact Msgr. regarding this.

CCW: Schotzko attended the Deanery I meeting at St. Mary's on September 25th with Deacon McKeown as speaker. Sunday, November 4th will be Mass of Remembrance – when families of deceased this past year bring up a candle. Doing 'Box of Joy' but donating money rather than boxes. Phantom Bake Sale was last Sunday (14th) along with rolls and coffee. Bake Sale proceeds will go to First Choice Pregnancy, Benson Girls Ranch and Water for Life. St. Nicholas Day – planning to deliver meals to senior citizens and shut-ins.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service (held Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving) was poorly attended last year – decided to skip this year. Will need to inform New Hope on this decision. St. Paul's will have an 8:30 am Mass on Thanksgiving and Leavenworth will have Wednesday evening mass at 8:00 pm.

Msgr. talked about the bankruptcy of New Ulm Diocese and second mediation the following week (Tuesday – Thursday), in Reno, NV. How much the insurance company of Diocese will pay is unknown at this time. Once that portion is finalized, then lawsuits for individual parishes will happen. Schotzko asked about the one against our parish. The report was inconclusive, but then victim went to lawyer, Jeff Anderson. Callanan thought there was a certain time limit that abuse could be reported. Msgr. explained that May, 2013 – May,

2016, the Statute of Limitations was lifted and anyone could bring any accusations forward, no matter how many years ago. There are 104 cases/victims in our Diocese. The Diocese declared bankruptcy in March of 2017. Once that gets finalized, Msgr. feels that insurance will cover a large portion. The Diocese went into bankruptcy so all victims could get something; if they wouldn't have, the first several victims could have taken all the funds and Diocese did not want that to happen like it did in the Diocese of Duluth.

New Business: The SouthPoint Certificate rolled over for 12 months at 1.25%. Cleaning of Rectory – Marge Prokosch has volunteered to do this. Vacuum cleaner for rectory – Callanan can purchase a Shark model from Amazon for \$125.62. Motion detector light for above rectory front entrance (a single light) can be purchased from Home Depot for approximately \$35.00. Msgr. approved both to be purchased.

DMA Project for 2018-19: Msgr. said the Diocese set our parish's goal at \$6,987.39, with 20% coming back to the parish. Good to have a project that the parishioners would want to give to. Msgr. stated that our priest vestments are not in good shape, as well as the altar cloths, so those could be a possible project.

Callanan said that Nickel Landscaping will trim all bushes around the church and rectory on Friday, the 19th, free of charge. Schotzko said that a Thank You should be sent to them.

Church Dinner Update: (Linda Weber's email was read by Schotzko): Tickets are being turned in but would like people to consider selling more. Thank you to Matt on project lead of back garage and to others who have helped, etc.

Msgr. mentioned that the Relics of Padre Pio is the same day of our Church Dinner, October 28th, at the Cathedral in New Ulm, so he will be unable to attend our dinner.

Callanan would like people to go thru the church building with him sometime so others know about elevator issues, main water shut-offs and other important things such as that.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. with closing prayer.

Submitted, but not approved, 11/09/18
Nellie Richter