

**Church of St. Paul – Comfrey  
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.**

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

**Msgr.** led the group with Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer at 6:33 p.m.

**Chairman Rathman** opened the meeting at 6:44 p.m. Additions to the Agenda: New Business – Announcements after Communion and Miscellaneous Non-Issue Items. Time was given for everyone to read the February 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve January 24 and February 21 minutes made by Hopwood, seconded by McMullen. Carried.

**Financials** for February and March, 2019 presented. Income not keeping up with expenses – people not attending and weather was a factor. Snow removal over budget this year. Questions regarding various expenses. Motion made by McMullen to accept January thru March Financials, seconded by Platz. Carried.

**Rain water issue:** Rathman and Eischen talked to Doug Steffl and offered that if Steffl pays \$2500 of the Heiderscheidt bid (\$10,000 – given last fall and approved by the City), the church will pay the remainder. Steffl looking for a cheaper bid, but nothing was received as of today from Steffl. Discussion about the amount of water coming off church and rectory buildings, previous church size, former owners of property, etc. Fr. Andy and Rathman feel Steffl should be talked with again although several members feel that tonight was final offer. Money from Steffl would need to be paid up front before project would be done. Platz added that 3-4" rainfalls seem to be when Steffl has the most issues, and a recent conversation with Steffl became a bit intense when talking about this problem. This is not a new problem to that property. After some discussion, Evers feels that the bid from Heiderscheidt's should have a breakdown of costs and when received, bid should be shown to Steffl, giving him 2 weeks to decide.

**Stained Glass Window Coverings** – R. Callanan stated that this item, as well as Funeral Parking (taken care of), Old Stoves, and Old Food Warmer should be removed from Agenda as no need to discuss further.

**Sub-Committees:** Msgr. tabled this as he needs more time.

**No definite projects** decided for our DMA funds for this year. R. Callanan also said that the Parish does not have to pay the Diocese the difference of the goal and money donated.

**New Business:** Matt Grausam, Financial Business Manager at St. Mary's, presented the 2019-2020 Financial Budget. Financials will be done by St. Mary's after June. Josh Sellner will oversee the maintenance of all 4 parishes in the AFC and his time here yet to be determined. Schotzko would like to have the monthly budget expenses along with collections back in the bulletin as a comparison. Evers requested Dieter's job description, which he said he would supply his current contract as well as



the reworked contract as of this July. Motion to accept the 2019-2020 Budget as presented made by C. Kelly, seconded by Hopwood. Carried.

**Cemetery:** Doug Callanan – Next Cemetery Board Meeting will be April 25<sup>th</sup>. Snow was difficult for several funerals, dealing with a lot of clay and extra work which should be compensated. R. Callanan said that Bob Zwaschka will try to mow the cemetery, but is not able to do the trimming – will have to figure out how both jobs will be paid – may need to go to hourly. Will discuss at Cemetery Meeting.

**Building/Maintenance:** R. Callanan – need to have a cement section put by the back garage to help with getting deliveries mainly of Church Dinner items into the back garage (sidewalk ends so carts are difficult to maneuver). Also, was told 3 years ago by a contractor that a new roof on church building is due. Should get estimates from Jeremy Zihlke, Tom Suess, Andy Peschges and Ryan McMullen. Suess has stated that the old chimney (no longer used) needs to be removed. Shingles should be matched with the new addition shingles and we should also get bids for a metal roof for the entire church. Leaks and bat problems are ongoing. R. Callanan will contact the mentioned contractors to check if they are interested in bidding the job. John Urlaub, Catholic Mutual Insurance, recently did a walk-through inspection of all our buildings. Only issues were paint stripe was needed on the steps' edges in the elevator maintenance room (done) and 2 different fire extinguishers needed in the back garage. Matt Eischen will be asked about the extinguishers. Urlaub also recommended that the Rectory should have a weekly walk-thru, top to bottom, and R. Callanan already does that.

**Education:** Letter from Linda Schwab received and read – she will be stepping down as Director of Religious Education as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. She will help with any transitions, if needed. Msgr. reported on Religious Ed Committee meeting: Declining numbers in all parishes; need to face facts – parent support is low or non-existent. Programs are offered, but are we accomplishing our goals? Poor attendance at classes, confessions, etc. Group is still discussing all 4 parishes regarding education. SP/JM doing Family Program now, but will discontinue that program. Will need to find out how to utilize education time the best. Dieter said that practicing faith has to be more than just Wednesday nights for 1-1 ½ hours. Sunday mass attendance is poor. Basic knowledge of prayers, etc. also poor.

**Liturgy:** Augustin commented that we made it through Holy Week.

**CCW:** Marianne Schotzko reported that CCW meetings are attended by 10-12 women and feels we have an active group. New crosses ordered and paid for Baptism gifts. Deanery meeting in St. George in March about Human Trafficking was very good. Baccalaureate will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. NUDCCW Convention is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> in Hutchinson. Good speakers to talk on domestic violence and human trafficking.

**AFC:** R. Callanan – Reported that at the last meeting, he felt the first 45 minutes were a disaster and no meeting minutes received as of yet. Discussion on the sheet passed out at a Sunday mass – interpretation of Comfrey not having a mass when no priest available. Msgr./Dieter said that interpreted incorrectly as well as the paper should not have been handed out.

**Liturgical Environment:** Schotzko – Miss not having Sister here with the planning; Washing of Feet for Holy Thursday not done due to Fr. Andy unable to do. Msgr. said that it is optional and the priest decides whether or not it will be done. Holy water issues. Services went well with a few glitches.

Other: Evers talked about announcements and that if Fr. Andy doesn't have the wireless microphone on when doing, no one understands them. Could he possibly go to the lectern to read them? Msgr. said that our wireless microphone is difficult to use and would like to see it changed. Reminder that Divine Mercy Sunday is this Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> at Leavenworth, 2-4:00. This rotates each year among the 4 parishes. Msgr. would like our parish to consider some Hours of Adoration. Diocese of St. Cloud handout to show that they are doing area communities similar to Diocese of New Ulm. DNU looking at 25-30 priests projected in 5 years. Church in Morton closing this year. Franklin will be merging with either Redwood Falls or Fairfax at some point. Lucan/Seaforth/Wanda merging with Wabasso in future and there will be others.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with motion by McMullen, seconded by Hopwood. Carried.

Closing Prayer.