

Church of St. Paul – Comfrey, MN
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Members present: Msgr. Lozinski, Fr. Andy Michels, Jim Rathman, Dale McMullen, Linda Kelly, Connie Kelly, Marianne Schotzko, Judy Augustin, Denice Evers, Matt Grausam, Nellie Richter – Secretary

Members absent: Matt Eischen, Darrell Platz, Dan Davis

Chairman Rathman opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. followed with prayer by Msgr.

Msgr. talked about church protocols that we will need to adhere to in order to start public masses in church. There may be even further instructions. Some of the protocols we will need to follow: 6 foot social distancing (family members can sit together in a pew), need hand sanitizer at all entrances, enter one door and exit another, missalettes cannot be used, communion will be distributed after final blessing, recommended to wear a mask to church, priest will have an ablution bowl and hand sanitizer by communion railing, communion can be received by hand or tongue, an 'X' should be put on carpet every 6 feet in center aisle, kneeler by communion railing, need to rope off pews, etc.

Weddings and funerals can now be celebrated with a mass for up to 10 people. When we have more than 10 people in church, no singing will be allowed. Can have a Cantor sing but not the congregation. Must disinfect after each mass by Janitor (or others). Rathman commented that the social distancing will be continuing for a long time to come.

Financials thru April were presented by Grausam. Financially, our parish is doing okay considering the current COVID-19 situation. Expenses – abuse payment of \$15,000 was paid as well as \$2,700 lawyers' fee and \$150,000 was transferred to the Cemetery. Question asked about the priest vestments paid for in August, as money was donated and designated for vestments/linens and put in savings account. This will be checked into. Evers asked if parishes were notified about the \$2,700 lawyers' fee being charged? Msgr. thought it had been discussed - the lawyers represented every parish in the bankruptcy. Evers then asked if every parish paid the lawyers' fee? Grausam said that Morgan also paid the fee, so believes that just the parishes that had lawsuits against them paid. (St. Mary's and Japanese Martyrs did not pay this fee/had no lawsuits against them.)

Religious Ed program this year had 13 active students from St. Paul's and 5 from Leavenworth. Only \$20 in Tuition fees was received this past year. Msgr. stated that for next year, the tuition fees will need to be communicated to the parents earlier. Grausam said that the budget for 2020-2021 has many changes. Our AFC will be paying for 3 priests' salaries and benefits. Schotzko asked about the percentage of what each parish pays and shouldn't it be figured closer to the average number of masses each parish gets per month? Before COVID-19, we averaged about 10% of the monthly masses said within the AFC, but yet we are paying 25% of priest expenses. Msgr. said that those are questions to ask Fr. Steffl when he comes here in July.

We are now receiving quarterly financial reports and those are to be shared with the parishioners so they can see how our parish is doing. We will still receive detailed financial reports for the Council meetings, usually every 2 months.

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Schotzko asked about church bulletins – since we aren't getting as many printed these last few months, are we getting a break on the cost? Msgr. said the company will need to be asked about that. Schotzko also asked about where the new priests will be living? Msgr. said that Fr. Sam Perez will be living in Morgan and Fr. Peterson and Fr. Steffl in Sleepy Eye.

The January 21, 2020 Administrative Council Meeting minutes were looked over. M/S/C L. Kelly, C. Kelly to approve as written. There was a question about monthly breakdowns of what we pay to SESM – this info will be made available to the rest of the Council members.

Church Roof: Rathman stated that we received 3 bids for replacement of Church, rectory and garage roofs. Was suggested that we should hire a person to evaluate the roofs first, such as a building inspector or roofing contractor. It was noted that APK's estimate (Marlene Schuelke's son) is the lowest in price by \$15-20K and also includes the chimney teardown. McMullen said that Ryan inspected the church roof and feels it needs ventilation – insulation was blown in years ago and filled to the top without space for ventilation and that may be why the shingles failed. Peschges/Suess' estimate has Malarkey shingles with extended warranty, which are better quality shingles than what the others proposed. Leaks on the north side still happening every winter due to snow/ice melt. Does the chimney have to be taken all the way down or just down below the roof? Evers said we need to get the Bishop's permission before we can even decide on a contractor. Msgr. said that since it is over \$30K, it will need to be approved by the Diocesan Building Committee and the committee members do not do any type of inspection. Msgr. suggested contacting John Urlaub, Catholic Mutual Insurance, to ask him if he knows of any inspector that would be willing to check out the roofs. Once that is done and a report received, will have to get updated bids from the 3 contractors.

Augustin mentioned that there is water in the church basement that comes in the old furnace room from the old coal doors and runs into the storage room off of the dining room. These coal doors are not properly sealed – when standing under them and looking up, you can see daylight. They need to be sealed or capped off. McMullen said he will look at on Wednesday.

Rathman: Regarding the 2 stakes in the lawn on the north side of church on either side of the LP tank, he would like to plant 2 trees in memory of Rosemary. Redwood Falls Nursery suggested Elm trees – New Horizon or Princeton. New Horizon is resistant to Dutch Elm Disease, but being there were other questions on the trees, Rathman will check with Redwood Falls Nursery again. M/S/C McMullen, Schotzko to approve planting of 2 trees (species unknown) on north side of church where marked.

Will need to have a schedule and sign-up sheets by the elevator entrance for next week's in-church masses. Msgr. said that in order to allow everyone to come to mass, people should sign up for only one mass per week. The last parking lot mass will take place this Saturday evening in Leavenworth. Msgr. said that we need to be very patient and charitable. We have one First Communicant (Makenze Fischer) who is still waiting for this Sacrament.

Rathman thanked everyone for participating tonight via Zoom. No AFC Meeting planned yet, but will have one before end of June. No Council Meeting scheduled tonight, but will plan to have one before end of June.

Zoom Meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted - Nellie Richter, Secretary (6/05/20)