

**Church of St. Paul – Comfrey
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. (via Zoom)**

Present: Fr. Steff, Fr. Sam, Matt Grausam, Dan Davis, James Rathman, Marianne Schotzko,
Connie Kelly, Dale McMullen, Denice Evers, Judy Augustin, Nellie Richter – Secretary

Absent: Matt Eischen, Darrell Platz

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rathman at 6:50 p.m.

Fr. Steffl led the group in prayer.

Agenda addition: New Business – Church Dinner.

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2021 presented. No corrections or additions noted. M/S/C McMullen, Schotzko to approve as read.

Financial Reports for March and April, 2021. Grausam said we are doing pretty good with the increase in the Adult support and surpassing the budget. The Investment with LPL Financial (Milbrath) has realized a substantial gain. Expenses are in line with the budget. A new Easter candle stand and follower were purchased for a smaller sized candle. Fr. Steffl said that the new wireless microphone is working great. M/S/C Schotzko, Evers to approve financials as printed.

Old Business:

The Rectory doors were re-keyed by Josh Sellner. Sleepy Eye Electric will be installing a camera system, as the other AFC churches will be having systems installed as well. Payment for this will come from the SouthPoint Money Market Savings account. The monitor for the system will be in the sacristy. Looking at early June for installation.

Fr. Steffl mentioned that Richard Callanan did not accept the maintenance position that he was offered. James Rathman is willing to volunteer and do a walk-thru of church building, and he felt that the work lists put together and the number of hours expected per month were reasonable. The Lock Box in the Rectory entrance is in place and was installed by volunteers.

The placement in church of the 2 cornerstones that Brian Callanan painted was tabled from previous meeting. Schotzko feels that they could possibly be placed on either side of the St. Paul statue (above the main entry east church doors), but not sure how they could be installed. Rathman will look at, so anyone who wants to discuss this or has ideas, please call him. Schotzko mentioned that the funeral luncheons will be discussed at the next CCW meeting.

New Business:

Fr. Steffl said that COVID Protocols have been lifted for the most part, so no more wearing of masks, pew roping can be removed, etc. Fr. met with Doug Steffl the previous week regarding the water issue Tabled until next meeting.

The North entrance project (DMA project) – not sure who could repair the plaster, etc. John Vogel from Springfield does do painting. Tabled until next meeting.

Catholic Mutual Inspection – the only issue was an Emergency Light in fixture by dining hall entrance needing a new battery. Choir loft is chained off due to the railing being too wide-spaced according to present “code”. Augustin said that Kurt and Matt Eischen fixed the railing section that was loose. Rathman said he wouldn’t want to change the railing design, but maybe could add plexiglass to it?

Religious Education Report by Dan Davis: Program ran quite smoothly these last months and we had closing Mass at St. Mary’s on Wednesday, May 5th followed by a root beer float social. Very good turnout, especially from St. Paul’s students. Had a follow-up meeting with the teachers on May 19th. St. Mary’s will be hosting a team of diocesan missionaries June 6-10th for Totus Tuus program for AFC students going into Grades 1-12. St. Paul’s had 2 students

receive their First Communion on May 2nd. There will be a Valley Fair Server Appreciation Day on August 12th (last year the park was closed due to pandemic). Fr. Steffl mentioned that Fr. Zach had server practice on May 19th and 4 new students showed up for this.

CCW Report by Schotzko: Same officers as last year: Leah Eischen – President, Marianne Schotzko – Vice-President, Susan McMullen – Secretary and Lori Schumann – Treasurer. We will be hosting a Deanery 1 Meeting here on July 20th. A \$1,000 donation was received from Lori Schumann from memorials given in memory of Bernie Berberich. CCW Executive Meeting will be in July.

Augustin had nothing to report for the Liturgy Committee. Liturgical Environment Report by Schotzko was that Easter decorations were taken down. No Cemetery Meeting to report on, but Fr. Steffl did state that regarding snow removal in the cemetery in Sleepy Eye – it depends on where in the cemetery the burial is, but the cemetery absorbs the cost of the snow removal, not the family.

Food Safety Training by Brown-Nicollet Environment Health would be free to anyone who wants to take it, but dates have yet to be determined.

The 3 evergreen trees west of the Angel Courtyard – Schotzko agrees that they are dying, but if removed, maybe wait awhile before deciding if we need to replace with something else. M/S/C McMullen, Schotzko to approve to have the 3 trees removed by Ryan Tree Service for \$450.

Scrape and paint the back garage fascia and window trim, the Rectory back porch doors and old corner posts – Schotzko suggested to put in the bulletin and ask for volunteers first. Rathman will drain the water heaters – water in Rectory is orange due to not much water being used. Fr. Steffl will look at the water softener on Friday. The Rectory foundation is needing some attention – Fr. Steffl suggested maybe the next possible DMA project.

Church Dinner by Schotzko: Leah Eischen did mention being on the committee if McMullen's would stay on. We have people who do their jobs well for the Dinner. Evers feels we need a committee to order the food, send letters for raffle prizes, do the work lists, etc. She would be willing to help with stuffing the parishioner ticket envelopes. Need to get the Gambling Permit done so the City can approve it at their June Council meeting. Fr. Steffl said that Leavenworth and St. Mary's are doing most everything that they used to do for their summer festivals. M/S/C Evers, Schotzko to approve getting the Gambling Permit for our Church Dinner on Sunday, October 24th.

Fr. Steffl said that the largest Religious Ed class (Juniors) was confirmed this year. We will need to find teachers to volunteer and commit their time if the program is going to continue between our parishes. Most of the Japanese Martyrs students attend St. Mary's, so not many are attending the program at this time.

Next meeting will be Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. IN PERSON in the Church basement.

Fr. Steffl said the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted,
Nellie Richter, Secretary