

**Church of St. Paul – Comfrey  
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. – Church Basement**

**Members Present:** Fr. Mark Steffl, Fr. Sam Perez, Jim Rathman, Matt Eischen, Dale McMullen, Connie Kelly, Marianne Schotzko, Denice Evers, Nellie Richter – Secretary  
**Absent:** Fr. Tanner Thooft, Darrell Platz, Judy Augustin, Matthew Grausam, Samuel Rosemeier

Fr. Steffl led the group in prayer. Rathman called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Agenda addition:** New Business – Eucharistic Revival - 2023-2024 – Denice Evers. M/S/C Schotzko, Evers to approve Agenda with addition.

**Administrative Meeting Minutes from April 4, 2023 – M/S/C Rathman, Fr. Steffl to approve as printed.**

**Financials for March – April, 2023:** Fr. Steffl read Grausam's notes that stated that our combined budget expense had a deficit of \$9,631.20 as of April 30, 2023. Adult Support is short \$12,316.04 compared to our budget. Expenses are pretty much in line with budget except for higher utility expenses. \$10K was transferred from Prairie Plans investment account at the end of April to help fund operations.

Schotzko mentioned that the air conditioning temp in church is set too high so church is warm and uncomfortable during Mass. Eischen will look at after meeting tonight and set to run at 74 degrees prior and during Mass, but then set higher when nothing is going on at church.

Fr. Steffl will be including a letter with the contribution statements of donations given so far in 2023 that will be sent out soon to try to motivate more giving and help with not having to transfer money from investment account again. M/S/C Schotzko, Eischen to approve financials as presented.

**Old Business:**

Fr. Steffl said it is difficult to get a second quote on projects. McMullen suggested that if Jon Vogel could paint interior, then we should just go ahead with it. Vogel's previous bid/estimate to paint church interior was \$13,625.00 as of January, 2023. M/S/C Schotzko, Evers to table the church interior painting until next year. Richter will call Vogel and let him know, plus should have him look at the NW entrance to see why the corner is discolored since he had repaired it late last fall. M/S/C Evers, Schotzko to continue to watch the SW and NW entrances for any additional issues.

The Theme Basket/Silent Auction that ended May 7<sup>th</sup> had a profit of \$1,664.00 – had approximately 40 baskets/items donated, which was most ever. Schotzko mentioned that the CCW would like to do a luncheon next year on the final Silent Auction bidding day and set that day for Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Schotzko talked about the upcoming Admin. Council luncheon fundraiser this Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Need members to help serve food and be ready by 10:45 a.m. for 11:00 start. Darrell & Jolene Platz are donating the BBQ, Teresa Schumann donated the canned chicken for the chicken supreme. Chips, beans and buns also planned and need Council members to bring bars.

**New Business:**

**Cemetery – No meeting or report.**

Religious Education (Samuel Rosemeier helping with Totus Tuus this week at St. Mary's) Valley Fair Appreciation Trip is planned for Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> for all AFC servers. (Note: No servers from St. Paul's ended up attending). Will be checking in August as to where we are for Rel Ed teachers for fall.

**No Liturgy Report.**

CCW Report by Schotzko: Connie Kelly completed the 2022 Parish scrapbook and did a very nice job. Officers will remain the same as previous year. The year-end report was done at the May meeting. Donated a Theme Basket, gave flowers to moms for Mother's Day, planted flowers in containers in courtyard, grad gifts given, crosses ordered for

wedding gifts. St. John's Bingo in July and Birthday party in August. Activities/projects and meeting dates for upcoming year were decided at the June Executive Meeting. Schotzko will be attending the National CCW Convention towards the end of August in Salt Lake City.

Liturgical Environment by Schotzko: Looking for new members to join this committee.

Water in basement: Schotzko mentioned that Sunday night we had heavy rain and water was pooled up in front of the dining hall door area. Eischen talked about the heavy rains Comfrey and area received May 11-14<sup>th</sup>:

Eischen said that he spent time at church and watched the rain during that weekend and noticed that the rain came down so fast along the valley above the confessional that it completely missed the gutter and downspout and went directly onto the concrete slab area below. He added a plastic deflector that helped with this, but also found an 8-10" void under the concrete slab that runs along the north side of church with nothing supporting it. Barke Lift & Level Concrete from Mankato area gave an estimate to fill the void with foam for \$2,900. Eischen also took the gutters off to deflect water onto the grass and no change was noticed with water flow into the church building, so ruled that out as the problem. M/S/C Evers, McMullen to approve Barke Lift & Level to pump in foam under the cement slab.

Freeze alarms for rectory and church and battery back-ups for church sump pumps are areas that John Urlaub from Catholic Mutual Insurance would like to be addressed. Fr. Steffl will take care of getting these.

Parishioners concerns on children playing on the yard next to the rectory, batting balls close to the windows, etc. This was discussed at a previous meeting and no action taken.

Comfrey Parade in July – Leah Eischen will advertise our Sausage Dinner as a float entry and get candy.

Rathman mentioned that the neighbor to the west talked to him again about water issue, especially after the May rains. Our church building hasn't changed so nothing more can be done and the water flow onto his property is a product of its elevation and not due to our building. Fr. Steffl suggested to again keep the SW side door locked.

Eucharistic Revival by Evers: Miki Schultz from Morgan, Mary Gangelhoff from St. Mary's, Ronda Mathiowetz from Leavenworth, Deacon Mark Kober from St. Mary's and Denice are meeting and working together on gathering information for the Year of the Parish Revival (June '23 – June '24). Committee is hoping to have a 7-week program later this fall and looking at having speakers come and talk to help parishioners have a stronger relationship with Christ through the Eucharist. No wi-fi in church could pose an issue for programs, as wanting to use laptops and not sure if projector and screen would work. Can we hook up the router from the rectory? McMullen could possibly dig in internet access – will look into before the fall. Eucharistic Miracles info and 4 Pillars of Faith are just some of what the committee would like to present for program, and then have a leader at each table to facilitate conversations, etc.

Fr. Steffl stated that the Church of the Japanese Martyrs will be merging into St. Mary's – there are 5 parishes in the Diocese being merged at this time. Masses for JM will continue for now, along with Latin Mass added there on Sundays starting at the end of summer. JM members will become members of St. Mary's unless they choose to join elsewhere. Geographic location and distance to another church were all looked at as well as other areas within the parish life. The church building will still be utilized for the time being.

Rathman asked about the possibility of going back to election of new officers like what was done years ago.

Next meeting is planned for Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. with Fr. Steffl leading group in closing prayer.

Sincerely submitted,  
Nellie Richter - Secretary