

Church of Our Lady of the Lakes
Parish Administrative Council
February 25, 2014
MINUTES

Present: Father Steve, Berni Schwaegerl, Ron Dobbs, LaVon Gustafson, Steve Maher, Luann Sieben and Mary Nordstrom.

We began with opening prayer and commitment to our AFC vision statement. Our minutes from January and tonight's agenda was approved.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve reported that through the parishioners' generosity, we were able to pay off the rectory mortgage. In order to pay it off, we used \$19,679.46 from the Maintenance Fund. There was also discussion regarding abstracts - whether or not we need a physical copy.

When monies come in for debt reduction envelopes - and when Christ Our Life checks come in from the diocese, we will replenish the Maintenance fund. Carol has contacted the envelope company to see if the debt reduction envelopes can be changed to Maintenance.

Finance Reports: We discussed the January financial reports. We had transferred the money from savings to checking in January to cover the mortgage payoff, but waited until all the paperwork is complete to cut the check, so it isn't reflected on the financial reports.

Information items:

1. **Rectory:** covered above

Discussion/Action items:

a-1. Bulletin:

The last couple weeks, we have gone down to our summer bulletin format (four pages). This is because we had not been receiving enough information to fill all eight pages. However, because 1.75 pages of the bulletin is reserved for advertising, we are limited on what information we can include. Our advertisers are up for renewal in May, so now is the time if we are going to make changes.

Option 1: We keep the advertising as-is and limit the information

Option 2: We reserve the advertising to single-sized ads and limit them to the back page only which would give us three full pages each week

Option 3: We remove all advertising and lose all the revenue which would give us four full pages.

The recommendation was that we go to four pages and limit the advertisers to just the back page (Option 2).

a-2. Fiat:

Some of the PAC members were here to help with the Fiat mailing and were frustrated with the mailing: it is difficult to fold, the paper and colored copies seem expensive. Is it worth the expense? Mary will send the cost of the Fiat to the group.

Father Steve discussed that some of the reason for the newsletter is to reach out to the 65% of our members who are not attending Mass. What cost do we put on that? It is one way to live out our Vision.

b. Family Promise:

They will be making a presentation to the Area Pastoral Council tonight.

c. Staffing:

Father Steve shared staffing plans for 2013-2014. The Faith Formation staff will be moved to Area employees as of July 1. The directors and support staff will be responsible for certain grade levels for the entire AFC, instead of just for one site.

d. Maintenance:

There was a question about a previous leak in the Gathering Space. We need to replace/repaint the discolored ceiling tiles. Father Steve will talk to Ken Heinen about leading a maintenance team.

e. Tithing:

Steve M. talked to a couple of other parishioners who thought the idea of tithing was a good idea. There was some discussion on how to make parishioners aware of this idea. Father Steve suggested that we ask a parishioner who tithes to get up and speak about the difference it has made in their lives. The consensus of the council was that it was a good idea. If we are going to do it, we would start it on July 1, at the beginning of the fiscal year. It was suggested that the council members talk to other parishioners and get their feelings.

f. Bishop LeVoir's article in the Prairie Catholic:

This will need to be the topic of discussion in future months. We will be thinking of how Our Lady of the Lakes will adjust/adapt when one of our three priests leaves or retires. Most likely we will not get a replacement priest.

g. Chairs:

Mary and Father Steve reviewed the bids for chairs compared to adding additional pew space and ordered stackable chairs that can be used for overflow crowds. They should arrive within the next couple of weeks. An apology was offered for not bringing the bids back to the council to review.

h. Terms:

LaVon's term expires this year.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 29, at 5:00 pm.