

**Church of Our Lady of the Lakes**  
**Parish Administrative Council**  
**October 28, 2014**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Father Steve, Ron Dobbs, Berni Schwaegerl, Steve Maher, Dave Henle, and Mary Nordstrom. **Absent:** Luann Sieben, Sheri Lapatka.

We began with the Bishop Ken Untener reflection, a recommitment to our AFC vision, and approval of our May minutes as well as tonight's agenda.

**Pastor's Report:** Father Steve welcomed Dave Henle as a new member to the council. He then shared information about the Partners in Hope award that we received from Heartland Community Action Agency. We have unofficially worked with Heartland for many years, and officially beginning in January of 2013 with providing some funding to the Safe Harbors program which provides motel rooms for the homeless. More recently, we transitioned the St. Mary's Door Ministry program to Heartland where they can provide emergency assistance. Since the official partnership began, Heartland has received over \$20,000 from the AFC. We then had brief discussion regarding where to refer people who come to the door, and agreed that the Link is the best place to start.

Father also pointed out the new TVs and DVD players that have been installed in the classrooms. These have been added as we support Faith Formation in new technology media.

**Area Pastoral Council and Committees Reports:** The minutes from the last meetings were presented.

**Financial Reports:** We reviewed both the Our Lady of the Lakes and Area Faith Community financial reports and discussed them, including how the process of one AFC budget for expenses is progressing.

The Area Pastoral Council has also identified the need for the re-establishment of the Area Stewardship Committee. The APC has recommended that one person from each Parish Administrative Council sit on that committee along with Father Steve and Mary. It was suggested (but not required) that one of the parish trustees be the representative. The committee would be responsible for: 1) reviewing the details of the monthly reports for the AFC, 2) creating a written policy that defines

what is the criteria for a capital (parish) expense, and 3) staffing/personnel. Ron Dobbs has volunteered to be a representative for Our Lady of the Lakes.

We also discussed the reduction in the AFC budget due to Father Jim's move to Ortonville and Rosen. This will result in a savings of approximately \$1,500 per month. Father also shared the decision of the St. Patrick's Administrative Council that Mary Nordstrom will live in the rectory, assume the expenses as well as some of the responsibilities of overseeing the church.

**Information Items:** Just reminders of upcoming Area events and liturgies. We also talked about the Ministry Spotlight weekend that will occur on November 22/23 which is the anniversary of our Vision weekend. This will be an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of the AFC and the Area committees.

**Discussion Items:**

- A. Audio visual system:** The PAC members shared input they received from parishioners regarding installing video screens in the sanctuary. Some people thought they would be a great addition, others were concerned about the cost, and also wanted to make sure that screens would not detract from the celebration of the Mass. Members will ask more people in the next month.
- B. DMA:** We discussed our project for this year's Diocesan Ministries' Appeal. We agreed to pledge \$3,000 to the Link and any over that would go to parish maintenance items.
- C. Area Mass Schedule:** The Area Pastoral Council has recommended that we hold consultative meetings in February, 2015 to look at long-term Mass schedule changes. Parishioners will be given some questions to consider, and also some non-negotiable items such as "Father Jerry will not be schedule for more than three Masses a weekend." The plan is that at their November meeting the APC will recommend a temporary Mass schedule for spring, and then after the consultative meetings a permanent schedule would be proposed.
- D. Annual Link commitment:** We agreed to commit to \$3,000 to the Link.
- E. Acknowledgement of Key Volunteers:** tabled.