

**Church of Our Lady of the Lakes
Parish Administrative Council**

**MINUTES
April 26, 2016**

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

We began with opening prayer. February's minutes and today's agenda were approved with one addition to the agenda.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve gave an update on the lawsuits against the diocese and individual parishes - specifically the Churches of St. Mary and St. Thomas More. The Church of St. Mary has been named in 14 lawsuits and the Church of St. Thomas More has been named in 2. The number may change up until May 25 when the open window for the statute of limitations closes. Currently the diocese is paying for lawyers to look through parish records looking for insurance coverage. The diocese is hoping to make one settlement with all of the victims instead of dealing with each one individually. The hope is that this approach will be the most fair to all victims. Bishop LeVoir and Monsignor Grams have been working diligently with the diocesan and victims' attorneys. Both of our parishes have retained legal representation. All legal fees will be paid with parish funds and not area faith community funds.

Parishioners at the Church of St. Patrick made a decision last night to close the parish. Their sacramental records will go to the Church of St. Mary. All property of the parish will be sold and the assets will go to their cemetery fund. In addition, parishioners at the Church of St. Thomas More will meet on Thursday to also determine what plans they wish to make for the future, realizing that as of July 1, there will only be Sunday Masses at OLOL and St. Mary. Bishop LeVoir will come out on August 27/28 for final Masses at each of the two smaller parishes.

AFC Council and Committee Reports: no comments on the area reports.

Financial Reports: We reviewed the AFC and parish financial reports. We have paid one portion of the new screens. Mary will contact New Life to let them know that we need the other invoice so that we can have it all paid by June 30. This second invoice will be paid from our Maintenance fund and the Westby memorial.

Information Items

1. Join Hands Day - this Saturday, April 30
2. Bookkeeper position - we will bring in people in for interviews probably next week or the week after. We do have some excellent candidates.
3. Summer Mass Schedule - OLOL will have a 5:00 Saturday Mass and a 10:00 am Mass on Sunday morning. This will begin on June 5.
4. Father Jerry's 40th anniversary open house will be on Sunday, June 5, 1-4 pm.

Discussion/Action Items

1. AFC Budget – Closing St. Patrick, and the possibility of St. Thomas More closing, will have significant impact on the amount that the Church of St. Mary and Our Lady of the Lakes will be contributing. The two parishes account for 10% of the AFC budget. While there will be some reduction in costs, there is still a large portion that the two larger parishes will be picking up. We will have a more complete budget picture to present at our May meeting.
2. Membership – Please let Father Steve or Mary know if you wish to be removed from the council. Please remember that we don't want people to feel as if it is a life sentence.
3. Ron brought up that sod was torn up and a sprinkler head was broken during the winter snowplowing. We will follow up with 4 Seasons.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 24 at 12 noon at Heritage Bank.