

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

**Minutes
December 5, 2016**

Present: Father Steve, Ron Dobbs, Steve Maher, Luann Sieben, Dave Henle, Mary Nordstrom, and guests from the Knights of Columbus: Kel Torkelson, Dave Lais, Dennis Meyers, and Dick Meier.

Absent: Sheri LaPatka

We began with opening prayer. We then skipped to the Garbage enclosure item on the agenda. The Knights talked about plans to redo the garbage enclosure. They presented options for a 12x10 shed to replace the current enclosure. The labor would be donated and the parish would pay for the materials. Dick Meier has talked to the building inspector and we would a building permit, but we can avoid having to dig new holes for the posts. The only concern is that an enclosed dumpster will create a strong odor in the summer. Father Steve wants to make sure everyone is aware of this. The KCs are looking at this as a project for next Spring. They will invite the CCW and Catholic United Financial and the general parish to help with the labor. A motion was made and passed to go with the building with soffits and a service door. (We are wondering if it is possible to have the service door open in instead of swinging out.) Mary will contact Dick Meier with the council's decision.

The minutes from October and today's agenda were approved.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve gave an update on the sale of the properties in Lake Lillian and Kandiyohi. We were supposed to close on the Lake Lillian property November 1, but there is no record of the city vacating the street between the church and old school. St. Thomas More has been using the "street" as diagonal parking and has been maintaining it for many years. We will need to proceed with a "quiet claim deed" which can take up to six months. The realtor is hoping to work with the purchaser's lender and put money into escrow and proceed with the closing. As of last week, we also have a buyer for the Church of St. Patrick.

Area Council report: We discussed Turkey Bingo and the success of that evening. A large number of families attended and in fact some people had to be turned away.

Finance Reports: There was brief discussion on an unbudgeted expense for Vestments/Altar Supplies. That was to refinish the crucifix from Regal which is now hanging in the Family Area at Our Lady of the Lakes. It had previously been hanging in the Church of St. Mary in Willmar.

We also discussed the need to increase the number of families who do automatic giving, as well as encouraging those already using ACH to prayerfully consider increasing their amount. Perhaps we could have one of our weekly announcements show the different ways people can give. We need to meet people where they are – texting, using the slides, etc...

Information Items:

1. Donation of bell in bell tower – an anonymous parishioner is donating a third bell to the Our Lady of the Lakes bell tower. The costs are being run through the church so that we have an historical record of the amount and also so that the cost can be tax exempt. We hope to install it in the winter when the ground is frozen.
2. Communal Penance Service – 12/18 at 3pm
3. Christmas Masses – Christmas Eve at 4pm and Christmas Day at 10 am.
4. DMA Goal – we discussed the soft goal for the parish