

**Church of St. Mary**  
**Parish Administrative Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**May 22, 2017**

**Present:** Father Steve, Kurt Schimek, Bob Hogan, Bill Schindele, Dave Reed, Rick Conway, Sue Minnehan, Penny Johnson and Mary Nordstrom. **Absent:** Nathan Streed.

We began with our opening prayer and approval of January's minutes, and of today's agenda.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Father Steve gave an update on the lawsuits against the Church of St. Mary and the Diocese of New Ulm. Due to the diocesan bankruptcy, it was the recommendation of the diocesan attorneys, Meier, Kennedy & Quinn that in order to avoid conflict of interest, the parishes be represented by different attorneys. All affected parishes are represented by the new firm.
- Update on the closing of the Churches of St. Patrick and St. Thomas More. All properties in Kandiyohi and Lake Lillian have been closed. The funds from the Church of St. Patrick will ultimately be the responsibility of St. Mary's PAC. The funds from the Church of St. Thomas More will remain at the bank in Lake Lillian until all lawsuits are settled (St. Thomas More was named in a lawsuit alleging clergy sexual abuse of a minor.) Once the lawsuits are settled, the funds will be distributed to the parishes where former members joined on July 1, 2016.
- Father passed out information from Catholic Leadership Institute regarding the shifting demographics in the Church in the United States due to the aging of Baby Boomers and coming of age of Gen-X. We will have to keep this in mind as we plan for communication methods and revenue into the future.
- Father Steve also gave an update on Father Jerry's upcoming back surgery. He will be out a minimum of four weeks. We were able to line up substitute priests for the first three weekends to avoid having to use the "one-priest Mass schedule" for at least those weeks. It is hopeful that Fr. Jerry might be able to preside at the Masses the weekend of July 1-2, but not distribute Communion.

**Area Council and Committee Reports:**

- Father shared that the Area Pastoral Council will be working on a 3-year pastoral plan for the area faith community. This will include priorities and goals and objectives for each priority.

## **Finance Reports:**

- We reviewed the April financial reports for both the AFC and the Church of St. Mary. Both the AFC and St. Mary's are in good financial positions through April. We will begin sending out the financial reports during the months we don't meet.

## **Discussion / Action Items:**

- Cemetery proposal – Nathan is going to get a bid on extending the fence near the infant section. Due to his absence, we did not have numbers to review.
- 2017-2018 Budget – Father Steve updated the council on his decision to pull the Director of Adult Faith Formation position. This enabled us to avoid a large increase in St. Mary's proposed budget for the upcoming year.
  - AFC – the budget that was approved by the APC was reviewed by the council.
  - St. Mary's – it was recommended that we add \$7,500 to St. Mary's budget to be used for cemetery improvements that come before the council. With that change, the budget was approved.
  - St. Mary's wishlist items – the wishlist items were approved at an estimated cost of \$13,860.
- PAC Membership – Father Steve annually gives council members an opportunity to resign their membership. Please let him know by the end of June.
- Meeting dates for 2017-2018 PAC meetings
  - We will continue to meet every other month at 12 noon.
- Fundraising requests – Relay 4 Life fundraising request was approved.
- Feedback on AFC bulletin
  - Comments were solicited regarding our current bulletin – the size, the contents, etc... No decisions were made.