

Church of St. Thomas More
Parish Administrative Council
February 18, 2014

Members Present: Father Steve, Otto Lamecker, Jo Malvin, Pam Lundstrum, Jody Wittman, Mary Jo Schmoll, and Mary Nordstrom. **Absent:** Paul Lux and Barb Stahl.

We began with opening prayer, recommitment to our Vision and approval of the October minutes and tonight's agenda.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve gave an overview of the Small Christian Communities: 180+ people have joined 22/23 groups and have started meeting. Jo suggested that maybe they could do that after the Soup Suppers. They will discuss it at their Ash Wednesday Mass. We discussed the Tuesday morning daily Mass. After consulting the parishioners on a couple of Sundays, Father Jim has decided that it doesn't make sense to drive down here each week. Father Steve briefly discussed the lawsuit against the Diocese of New Ulm that was recently filed regarding Father Markey who was in Lake Lillian in the 1970's.

Area Committee Reports: There was very brief discussion regarding the Area Committee reports.

CCW Report: Jo Malvin gave a brief CCW report. She is going to get Mary an updated account balance so that the balance sheet can be updated.

Finance Reports: We discussed how having to cancel Sunday Masses due to the weather has impacted our income. Generally, when Mass is cancelled, the parish doesn't make that up. We also looked at a report for the last three years of Raffle, Fall Dinner, and Turkey Bingo.

Information/Discussion/Action Items

- **Matching Grant Breakfast:** Happening this Sunday.
- **Painting church interior:** Mary will bring down some samples on the taupe, ecru spectrum and we will have some people determine the best choice.
- **Cancellation of Mass plan:** Father wanted to discuss the best way to notify parishioners when Mass is cancelled. Currently he has called a couple of people who then call others. He asked that CCW develop a calling tree to contact the regular Sunday attendees. We will continue to contact the radio station which will help reach some of the people.
- **Ash Wednesday:** Mass will be at 5:30 pm. Father Jerry is scheduled to be the president. Some parishioners have asked if a priest can be present to lead Stations of the Cross. Father Steve will check to see if one of the priests can cover some of the Wednesdays. Normally there is no collection taken up on Ash Wednesday. This year, we will be taking up a collection in all of the parishes in the AFC and we will be donating this to Heartland

Community Action Agency's Safe Harbors program to fight homelessness in this area. It was suggested that the free-will collections during the Soup Suppers will go to Heartland for emergency assistance.

- **Carillon bell system:** Jody has been trying to keep the bell system going, but it is not working well. The machine is no longer maintained by the company and the tapes are no longer produced. Jody will see if cleaning the heads will help it work. Right now it is turned off.
- **Bishop LeVoir's column in the Prairie Catholic:** We discussed the Bishop's article in the Prairie Catholic regarding small parishes. We talked about what parishioners' wants and needs are and how to continue the sense of "community/family" with a declining number of priests in the diocese. Can we do things outside of Sundays that offer formation/service opportunities? Pam shared that there are some people who might be willing to meet on a regular basis to do service projects.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 pm. This is a change in date and time from our normal meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nordstrom