

Church of St. Mary
Parish Administrative Council
January 26, 2014
MINUTES

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

We began with opening prayer and recommitment to our AFC vision. Our minutes from November and tonight's meeting were approved as printed.

Pastor's Report:

Father thanked the PAC for the Christmas gift. He also reported on how wonderful the Christmas liturgies were. The music was outstanding, and Father received several comments on the new placement of the crib.

He also reported that we received a gift for cemetery improvements from the John Thell estate. There are a few improvements needed at the entrance of the cemetery. We also are looking at plotting the new section of the cemetery that we bought from Bethel.

He reported on Saturday's retreat that was led by Sr. Ellen Doyle; around 100 people attended the day of prayer and reflection. He was pleased with how well the staff prepared everything in his absence.

The Tithing Committee met and approved a donation to Bethesda's new building (this was discussed at last month's PAC meeting).

Area Reports:

- APC - The main item in their minutes was the upcoming Parish Consultation meetings. We will address that later in the agenda.
- Area Service - Have been working on the agreement with Bethel Lutheran as a host parish for Family Promise. While we are considered "joint" hosts with Bethel, they will provide the facility and we will help provide the volunteers and the food during the weeks we are on duty.
- Area Stewardship – has met and is working on some of its initial goals.
- Area Word - Evaluating each of the different areas of Faith Formation.
- Area Worship - Evaluated Christmas services and is working on Confirmation, Lent, and the Diocesan Chrism Mass.
- Parish Society - has ordered the new convection ovens (the current ones are 40+ years old). They won't be here for the Gala, but should arrive soon. We appreciate the Parish Society's work and contribution for these ovens.

Finance Reports:

We reviewed the December financials. We are expecting a check soon as a deceased parishioner's estate is closed. The will did not have any designations to the donation. This council will need to determine where it should be placed.

This led into a discussion on how, with all of the recent funerals, we are losing steady donors. It was suggested that we look at ways to enable the younger generation to donate when they don't carry cash.

Information Items:

1. Foundation Gala is this Friday. As of today there are 176 people signed up.
2. Confirmation is Sunday, February 15 at 10:00 am in Willmar.
3. There are five Masses on Ash Wednesday, two of them in Willmar.
4. St. Mary's will be hosting the Diocesan Chrism Mass on Thursday, March 26 at 7pm.

Discussion Items:

1. Parish consultation meetings - are scheduled for Monday, March 16 in Lake Lillian and Thursday, March 19 in Kandiyohi. While anyone can attend, we will be making a very concerted effort to get the parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Patrick to attend them.

The Diocese is in a really tight spot - there are very few fill-in priests should a priest get sick (one AFC in the diocese had to have Word and Communion services for a weekend because there was no priest to cover when theirs was ill).

Our meetings will address what is a vibrant parish and what is reality in our parishes. It was suggested that Father Steve preach one weekend on the dire crisis we are in. He agreed that may be beneficial.

We will not meet until Monday, April 27 unless something critical arises.