

**Church of St. Mary
Parish Administrative Council
September 30, 2015**

MINUTES

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

We began with our Area Prayer, which includes a recommitment to our Vision, and our enrichment, which was Chapter 3 of *the Francis Effect*.

There were no minutes to approve, and no changes were made to the agenda.

Pastor's Report:

- Father Steve gave a very brief update on the Fall Festival. We had wonderful weather and a successful day. It is important that this council consider possible leaders for this event. The people who have been leading it for several years are ready to pass on the responsibilities.
- There is no update on our Notice of Claim. Due to an active lawsuit against the Diocese of New Ulm, we were required to send to the diocesan attorneys copies of many records. We are waiting for reimbursement from the diocesan insurance company for our expense in producing this material.

Financial Reports:

- We looked at the financial reports for the end of the year and the end of August.
- Rick brought up a concern about the balance sheet and the increase in value in our properties. This was due to a Catholic Mutual audit and increase in value. Rick feels that we should be reporting historical costs and not the insurance values. Mary will ask the auditors about this.
- Father directed that this council's main role in regards to the financial reports is to monitor the income and be watching for changes in parishioner giving and what the trends are showing.
- We discussed how the notice of claims might be impacting the giving and what may happen in the future.

Information Items

- Fiat – we will be sending out more issues, with fewer pages in an effort to get in front of the people.
- JOWL mobile app – Mary showed the new mobile app and encouraged the council members to download it and give feedback.
- Audit – our four parishes will be audited in November. It will be interesting to hear their comments regarding our “one budget for expenses.”
- Parish Hall lighting – we received one sample light, hung it up and discovered that it is not what we are looking for, so we are looking at other options.

Discussion Items

- Parish self-study – we looked at St. Mary’s numbers and the trends that they show. It was noted that we only have two weddings in the AFC for the next calendar year. Another trend is that more and more funerals are occurring in places other than church.
- Fall Festival – discussed in the Pastor’s Report.
- Consultation meeting at St. Mary’s – what topics should be discussed? Some suggestions were:
 - When it comes time to go to one English Mass on Sunday mornings, what is a good time?
 - Would people be open to more bilingual Masses?
 - Are people understanding the need for us to function as an AFC instead of as individual parishes?
 - What are thoughts on bringing young adults back to Mass?
- Cemetery project (columbarium) – Father Steve will have numbers at the next meeting. What is the council’s interest in investing in an above-ground columbarium? We would need to up-front the money, and then as spaces are sold, the money would come back to us.
- Boy Scouts’ request to be able to sell popcorn in the Gathering Space the weekend of October 24/25. Their request was approved. It was suggested that we consider revising the policy in the future to limit sales to after Mass.

Our next meeting is on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 12 noon.