

Church of St. Mary
Parish Administrative Council
MINUTES
October 26, 2015

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

We began with our opening prayer and approval of last month's minutes and today's agenda.

Pastor's Report: The parish is very active in the last few weeks. Father Steve has had 14 baptisms in the last two weeks and there have been some large funerals as well.

Father has two meetings in New Ulm this week. One is the annual audit for the diocesan compliance in the Safe Environment (protection of children), and on Wednesday, all of the pastors of parishes who have been served notices of claims will be meeting to get an update on the claims.

We are short a custodian as Tom is out due to an injury. Larry Meyer has agreed to help out until Tom comes back.

Father also shared with the council the addition of light meals for the 5:30 Faith Formation students. This is an example of ministry being born out of a need - parents have told us that it is difficult to feed their children prior to the 5:30 class time. We are providing very light meals these weeks. We will continue to have the Family Meal for both the 5:30 and 7:00 students on the first Wednesday of the month.

Area Council and Committee Reports

We discussed the APC's discussion regarding a Mass schedule that could be done by one priest.

Finance Reports

We again discussed the increase in value of our buildings and properties due to Catholic Mutual's ledger page. That will be discussed when the auditors are here.

Information Items

DMA: The DMA is changing its format this year. This year, the parish will receive 20% of each dollar donated, starting with the first dollar. The parishes will receive 20% of the amount their parishioners donate. In order to compensate for this, the

total DMA goal was increased by 20%. The parish goals this year are also "soft" goals in opposed to past "hard" goals, which means that the parish will not be assessed if it isn't met. We will focus our appeal this year by publishing the percentages where the DMA money goes.

Discussion/Action Items

- Parish Consultation Meetings: The meetings in Willmar and Spicer will be Tuesday, January 19 and Thursday, January 21 (not determined which date for each location).
- Cemetery project: columbarium: Father Steve shared information on building a columbarium at the cemetery. We looked at some photos of ones that would hold 72 urns (niches). There would be an up-front cost for this, and then the sale of the niches would be used to cover the cost. It was discussed to use memorial funds to invest in this. The council gave the go-ahead to investigate this idea further.
- Area festival: We continued the discussion that was started at the APC meeting regarding the possibility of an Area festival. There are many thoughts about this - each parish has different goals and purposes from their events. The challenge going forward is to identify new leaders to take over from the people who have been doing it for years.
- Fundraising request: We approved the Boy Scout's request for a breakfast on Scout Sunday on February 7, 2016.