

**Church of St. Mary
Parish Administrative Council**

**MINUTES
April 25, 2016**

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

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

Pastor's Report

- Easter was very good. People were very generous. Not all of the Easter receipts are reflected on the March financials as some came in during April.

Area Pastoral Council and Committee Reports: We briefly discussed the APC and area committee reports.

Financial Reports: We reviewed the March financial reports. Things are still looking good through March.

Information Items:

- Update on columbarium – Nathan is working on it. Cold Spring Granite will come to work on the base in the next week or two. The goal is to have it in place by Memorial Day. After it is in place, pavers and landscaping will be put in place. The cemetery committee will need to get together to determine what we will charge per niche.
- Bookkeeper position – Next week we will make a decision on whom to bring in for interviews. We have some good candidates and should be able to fill the position with a qualified candidate.
- Summer Mass schedule – Beginning the first Sunday in June, St. Mary's weekend schedule will be Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 9:30 am in English and 11:00 am in Spanish.
- Father Jerry's 40th Anniversary open house – Sunday, June 5, 1-4 pm at OLOL

Discussion/Action Items:

1. Lawsuits – The Church of St. Mary has been named in 13 lawsuits alleging sexual abuse of a minor: Twelve cases by Father Dave Roney and one case by Father John Cooney. The law firm of Meier, Kennedy and Quinn have been retained by the

Church of St. Mary to provide legal representation. Currently, Meier, Kennedy and Quinn is searching the parish records of all parishes named in lawsuits looking for insurance information. The Diocese of New Ulm is paying for the cost of the record search. Any legal fees beyond this record search will be paid by the Church of St. Mary; no AFC funds will be used for legal fees. We won't know the total number of cases until the May 25 deadline when the statute of limitations window closes.

- a. Foundation Golf/Gala – In light of the attorney's recommendation that parishes who are facing lawsuits should not hold large fundraisers or capital campaigns, what recommendations do we want to make to the Foundation Committee in regards to the Foundation Golf Outing and Gala? We did not reach any consensus.
2. AFC Budget – We are working on the AFC budget. The budget will be somewhat different in 2016-2017 depending on the decisions made by the parishioners of St. Patrick's and St. Thomas More.
 - a. Merger: If the parish decides to merge, once the merger happens the receiving parish receives the entire parish roster, the sacramental records, the assets and liabilities of the original parish. (Neither parish can merge into the Church of St. Mary; nor can the Church of St. Thomas More merge until all legal issues are resolved.)
 - b. Closure: If the parish decides to close, the assets are sold and the money goes to the parish cemetery, should one exist.
 - c. We discussed budget implications that St. Mary's and OLOL will face in light of the above situations.
3. Membership – We discussed the need for additional members. Please send names to Father Steve or Mary.
4. Fundraising Request Application – The Willmar Ministerial Association sent information on "Firefighter Sunday" on May 15. They are asking to put out a boot asking attendees for offerings. Because of our policy against fundraisers in the Gathering Space, a motion was passed that we not put out the boot, but that we ask the Tithing Committee make a donation to the Willmar FireFighters Association.

Our next meeting is Monday, May 23 at 12 noon.