

St. Mary's Parish Family Finance Council Minutes

March 17, 2016

Present: Kirk Greff, Brian VerDouw, Margaret Elkin, Dick Heidt, Paul Morth, Kathy Glass, Msgr. Gene, Steve Braus
Absent: Bob Schmidt, Marie Horning, Keith Horner

A. Call to Order

- A. Paul led the opening prayer.
- B. February 18, 2016 minutes were approved.
- C. New member, Kathy Glass, was introduced and welcomed to the Council.

B. Information Items

- A. February was a positive month.
 - 1. Year to date we are tracking positive in terms of both actual income/expenses (+\$32,217) and in terms of the budget (+85,258) without the \$100,000 bequest in December.
 - 2. Collections are \$26,893 above budget year to date.
 - 3. After use of the monthly overview 'dashboard' tools for a year it would be good to evaluate how they might be improved in the future.
- B. The Lead Gifts phase of the Light of Christ capital campaign continues. The Bismarck pastors will meet to develop consensus on which of 5 options for updating existing facilities would be best. A decision is expected by late April. At St. Mary's Grade School a new walk-in cooler with freezer will be installed this summer and a two-classroom portable will likely be installed parallel to LaMere on the north in order to alleviate overcrowding in 2016-17.
- C. St. Mary's will begin conversations with the Pizza Hut franchisees in advance of the June 4, 2017 end of the lease. This will be anticipated in the 2016-17 budget with the possibility of modifying the diocesan loan to include 'interest only' payments (~\$1,000/mon) until St. Mary's can raise the funds to pay off the loan. Utility costs need to be included in this budget planning.
- D. The Parish is seeking payment of \$2,947 from the diocese for its 2015-16 grant awards. \$2,100 is for 2016-17 salary improvements for two Faith Formation staff and \$750 for a regional September Faith Formation conference St. Mary's (Sheila Gilbertson) will host for catechists and directors of religious education.
- E. Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center has contacted St. Mary's and the Diocese regarding their interest in buying Cemetery land adjacent to their property. There will likely be direct discussions of options.
- F. The Cemetery is replacing its pick-up with a good, used vehicle that will be paid for with Memorial Day Collection funds that are currently on hand.

C. Discussion Items

- A. Brian and Dick reported on Budget Committee progress. The Committee will bring its 2016-17 budget proposal to the Council at the April 21st meeting so the Council can complete its proposal in May for delivery to the Pastoral Council at its May 24th meeting. The Committee is still waiting for a number of cost estimates that should be available in the next 1-2 months.
- B. Sections VI – VIII of the Standards of Excellence Self-Assessment Questionnaire were reviewed. Now

that the initial review of the Questionnaire is completed, Steve will add this feedback to that from Sections I – V so the Council can plan next steps in implementing operational improvements.

C. God's Share promotion at April 23-24 Masses was planned with the following members running the DVD equipment for the Bishop's presentation:

1. 4:30 (Dick);
2. 9:00 (Kirk);
3. 11:00 (Brian);
4. 6:30 (??). Anyone able to assist at the 6:30 Mass is asked to contact Steve.

Training will occur following the May 19th Finance Council meeting.

D. There were no additional Action Items

E. There were no additional Pastors Comments

F. Next Meetings: April 21 – Review Budget Committee 16-17 Budget Proposal
 May 19 – Complete 16-17 Budget Proposal to Pastoral Council