

Finance Committee Update

April 27 Minutes Summary

- Financial Reports were reviewed.
- The Market shows steady decline in endowments, but is expected to recover.
- St. Patrick's Maintenance account is somewhat misrepresented as being endowment because it is held at LPL with our other endowment funds.
- We still have \$60,000 to collect this year on tuition. We show 10% of past due accounts still needing to be paid.
- Magazine sales, usually done by the grade school, were discussed as no one remembers them being done. We will check with the grade school.
- We are currently showing \$2000 in the black this year - doesn't include endowments, campaigns, or other areas. Cash flow is steady at the moment.
- Dollar bill offering is growing steadily. This money is placed in the discretionary fund.
- The Archdiocese Review/audit turn-around document has come back. Other than a few things because different auditors have different preferences, it all looked pretty good.
- Bleacher project & other project updates were discussed.
- We have many future projects that are likely needing to be completed soon. We will probably need to consider another joint school/church campaign at some point. Projects include: roof replacement on the church (last one was done in 1994), garage addition/wheelchair lift for rectory, parish center windows, locker rooms/weight room, and cry room for the church.

Finance committee members include Ryan Berg, Kevin Barlow, Frosty Peetz, MJ Kernsebrock, Randy Hupp, Carol Sibbel, Rebecca Gaughenbaugh, and Matt Winkelbauer.

Parish Council Update

April 20 minutes summary

Fr. Starman presented the council guidelines and constitution for all to review. The council will try to get back to the original guidelines and follow the check list accordingly with the mission of the council to be instrumental in guiding the spiritual side of the parish. They will also be working on adding 2-3 new members.

Discussion was had regarding a bereavement after-care committee. It will be a small group that will help support those who have lost a loved one and will continue support 1 month, 6 months, and up to 1 year after the loss, for parish members. Names and suggestions should be given to Father, and he will contact and organize group.

Formed.org is a web site that helps engage people with other parishes and enables them to communicate and send out helpful information for other parishes to share, as well as has numerous studies, videos, books, and more available for use. Father Starman will ask the Amelia parish to finance the yearly fee.

Parish Council Members: Father Starman, Sue Pongratz, Ron Mejstrik, Gary Pistulka, & Brenda Podany.

School Board News

April 13 Minutes Summary

- Father Starman was recently in Omaha attending conferences. He provided the board with some statistics. In 1965, 77% of Catholic students attended mass on weekends, and 66% of public school students attended mass on weekends. Today, 25% of Catholic school students attend mass on weekends, 2% of public school students attend mass on weekends. Father is considering increasing the student/school involvement during weekend masses.
- The elementary gym will be closed May 26-June 17 for floor refinishing, and the high school gym will be closed June 20-July 14 for floor refinishing. The high school gym will also be closed from July 15-22 for new bleacher installment. A diagram of the new bleachers was passed around.
- There are currently 18 students enrolled for Kindergarten next year.
- The new water fountain/bottle filler has been purchased and installed at the high school with funds raised by the Student Council and Drama departments.
- Constitutional curriculum was discussed, with information from Mr. Bulau as to what he teaches.
- Shad Thompson & Dean Benson will not be returning to school board next year. Elections will need to be held soon.
- School handbooks & calendars were approved for the 2016-2017 school year.
- The external review will be spring 2017, with Mr. Havranek hoping to get it scheduled mid-week in February. We will need board members present during the external review, as it is a Rule 10 requirement.
- Radio ads were discussed. Catholic schools ads run in the local area, but do not say "St. Mary's" as they are from the Archdiocese. Father Starman will request to have St. Mary's added to the ad by name.

School Board Members: Cameron Everitt, Shad Thompson, Ranell Otte, Dean Benson, Julie Barlow, Ann Crumly, Ann Krotter.

A Good Steward is "Prayerful"

Taken from a book & blog entitled "Everyday Stewardship" by Tracy Earl Welliver, I will be sharing his blog posts from over the 6 weeks of Lent.

I remember when I was younger, being on a retreat and praying alone in a chapel for the successful talk a friend was giving at the same time. What was different on this day was I decided to pray the Psalms aloud since no one else was there to judge either my singing ability or my mode of prayer. For about 30 minutes I sang aloud, one Psalm after another. Towards the end of my prayer time, I felt a very strong presence of God. There is much more to the story, but suffice to say that it was an experience that made me break down into tears and one that I will never forget. God had broken through my ordinary life and was present to me in a way that was extraordinary.

I often tell people one reason I love being Catholic is that for us the supernatural is really the natural. We believe bread and wine become Jesus Christ, we understand the supernatural reality of all the sacraments, and we hopefully are never surprised when we see the powerful results of prayer. There should be no separation between our ordinary lives in the natural world and the elements of the supernatural world.

When the apostles see Moses and Elijah before them in the Gospel from Luke, they want to immediately pitch tents for them to stay. That is a pretty natural response to the supernatural. What would your response be to seeing Moses and Elijah? Fear? Confusion? Hospitality? Being *prayerful* is a primary characteristic of an Everyday Steward. The goal is to make our entire day a prayer and to allow God into every moment. The more we practice this type of prayer, the more the supernatural and the natural blend. We become more open to being used by God for His Glory. And who knows, the chance may increase that one day we might just say without surprise, "Hello, Moses and Elijah! Would you like something to drink?"

St. Joseph's Parish Council Update

The parish council of St. Joseph's met on April 24th. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Parish Council was renamed "St. Joseph's Finance & Parish Council" for more clarity in future audits.
- Council approved a motion to replace the windows on the west side of the church.
- Father Starman is taking into consideration the possibility of an earlier mass time during summer months, but it will depend on mass times in O'Neill, and also who is assigned as our new associate pastor.
- St. Joseph's will use some of the Ignite the Faith money to purchase the "Formed" program, which is a website with hundreds of hours of Catholic content. There is a code to access the website which will be made available to parishioners in both St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's.
- St. Joseph's farewell potluck for Fr. Weeder will be Sunday, June 26th after mass. The P. C. will provide the meat, drinks and table service. The parish will be asked to bring side dishes. We will plan to have a welcome potluck or cookout for the new associate sometime in July.

Council Members: Daryl Tomjack, Kelly Cameron, Rick Doolittle, Sandra Homolka, Ann DeVries, and Vicki Tomjack.

Bleacher Project

Our bleacher installation for the high school gym is just around the corner, as they are set to be installed in July over an approximately two week period. Many thanks to the generous donors who have given over \$36,000 towards this project. If you would like to give to this project, please contact Sue Pongratz at 340-2524.

Jennifer Walkwey, Development Director

Development Updates

The month of April was a busy one as we pulled together the \$10,000 Raffle & Casino Night! We raised nearly \$13,000 and the place was packed with people—the biggest complaint I heard was that there was not enough game tables. It was a wonderful evening of fun, and judging from the crowds, the money raised, and the response, I'd say a huge success. This was a huge group effort, and I must say thanks to everyone who helped with the big to the small, whether it was bringing food or making decorations or anything between. Every little bit made the evening go smoothly & I am so very grateful!

I have taken another class, Public Relations & Marketing, towards my certificate in Fundraising Management. It was a great class with a lot of useful right-out-the-door information, and a few 'to-dos' created for the summer in our marketing areas, including improvement of our websites and continuity of logos, etc. in all of our communications.

The summer doesn't really 'slow down' much here, but it does give me time for some of the projects that get put off at other times of the year, so I am looking forward to the chance to tackle some of those organizing & catching up projects that have been placed on the backburner for a while. If you have some free time & would like to come help with some 'busy work' such as copying, organizing, cleaning—give me a call & I am sure I can find a place for your hands!

Blessings,
Jennifer Walkwey, Development Director