

COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES
Thursday, January 27 2011
IC Education Center Conference Room – 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Crosby, Laura Rebhan, Jo Germain, Arlene Tenner, Rags Raasch, Tanya Weinzierl, Eric Crandall, Audrey Cernohous and Fr. Jim. Also present was Annette Rudd ex officio for Connie Crosby who was absent excused

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laura Rebhan. Prayer was led by Fr. Jim

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes were accepted by consensus as published.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

Finance and Administration – Dave Crosby – The building loan and payments were discussed. Funds have not yet been moved from Today for Tomorrow account at Royal Credit Union. Jo will take care of this month. The balance sheet in process of being updated to meet new corporate veil guidelines. St. Pat's complete. Immaculate Conception in process. An update on copiers for the school were discussed. A meeting has been scheduled with the school budget committee to discuss parameters. This purchase would be part of the school's annual budgeting process. Diocese has changed companies which will manage the 403B plan for the parish/school. The Diocese is requesting, based on the Plan Document Summary from Principle Life, which payments for these plans are sent within 7-10 days following each payroll period. This includes the employee and employer portions. This is a change in our current policy which the church has followed. A motion was made and passed. CF tuition update was presented. Hot lunch program/Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act was discussed. A school budget update was provided.

Stewardship – Jo Germain – No meeting. Ongoing stewardship information continues in the bulletin as pre-set up. Weekly stewardship messages, monthly Cunneen stewardship articles, and the ongoing "Ministry Focus" done by Wanda Viellieux.

Worship & Spiritual Life – Audrey Cernohous – Maureen Kilian and Deacon Mike Germain were welcomed as new ministry members. The church decorating will be different this year. It will be John's version i.e. "Jesus being born in the glorified state". The statues of the crèche will be placed around the altar area and will contain a lot of gold in coloring. The Advent wreath will be transformed into a Christmas wreath using gold candles, and the center candle will be a gold "Christ's candle". There will be a star on the canopy and other decorations on the canopy as well. Advent and Christmas music is in place. Wedding music was discussed. It was suggested that there be a list of appropriate songs for couples to choose from and if they want a particular song, it should be liturgically correct for the service. There will be a "Marriage Preparation" workshop in March which will include "What constitutes good liturgical music". Funeral music and soloists were also discussed. It was suggested that only liturgically appropriate music be used. If families want a soloist, they could sing a solo(s) and a cantor from our church could lead the music for the rest of the service. Discussion was held on why there will be changes in some of the wording in the Mass parts. Much of the Latin was never translated correctly. The Vatican did not have enough trained translators to change the words into the vernacular. Next Advent, 2011, they wish to incorporate the correct translations into all Catholic churches. The changes will not be hard for the congregation as the new wording will be in the hymnals.

Catechesis & Faith Formation – Laura Rebhan – Budget was discussed including hardship families. Adult Formation is being promoted on Facebook and parish members are providing positive feedback. Workcamp update provided. BASE/two more people to be trained and we will be in compliance. Operation Shoe Box was interesting and we would like to take more adults next year. ACRE will be administered to assess children in grades 5, 8, and all high school and Catechists. Common Ground is a local meeting of all Youth Ministers. At these meetings Ecumenical event are prepared for our youth. The next event is a middle school mini youth rally held at First Lutheran Church January 22, 2011 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. A high school lock-in is planned for March.

Education – Arlene Tenner – Ministry of Education: 2011-2012 St. Mary's School tuition contract does not have a tuition increase, but it does include a SCRIP assessment fee of \$150. The fee is mandatory and can be earned via profits from SCRIP bought by individual families and credited to the families. It can also be partially or fully paid down directly out of pocket. It is assumed most families will use the SCRIP program to earn down their fee while they are shopping with SCRIP. St. Mary's is hosting its Kindergarten round-up this evening, January 27 and

sent personal written invitations to IC and St. Pat's families with four year old children. St. Mary's is also participating in a Pre-K community information night today at one of the public school buildings. Catholic Schools Week is January 30 - February 5. Some students will be singing at the 9AM Mass with a full breakfast served after Mass. K - 8 students and faculty will be attending Mass on Wednesday in Hudson with the bishop. Jo made a report about a van ready for purchase for 2011-2012 school use. It would be used as an alternative to the local taxi service to transport students to other public school buildings in town and was suggested for other parish use as available. The purchase of this particular van has not been approved by Budget Committee nor Ministry of Education yet. The projected and planned budget for next year does include transportation expenditures for students as the public middle school will be further away from St. Mary's. Already noted earlier in the meeting were probable changes to the school's hot lunch program, still contracted through New Richmond public schools. The changes are prompted by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Buildings and Grounds – Fr. Jim – We used the tractor with front end loader to push the snow back off the parking lot and pile it higher during Christmas vacation. To push it back further and higher Pat Lions used his big rig when he came to dig a grave. Permission was given to put the little play house out on display in the parking lot near the school doors for Mardi Gras. Approval was given to the funeral committee to purchase two chairs to be used at funeral visitations in the church near the casket for elderly family members. These will be paid for with private donations and stored in the sacristy as chairs to sit on or used for the video taping of the Sunday masses. The holes in the front pews do not match up to be switched for the handicap section. We are presently deciding what options we have to make this happen and with the other work this is not a high priority at this time. Our salt treatment system for the sidewalks seems to be working well and we are able to keep the sidewalks clean using very little treatment and also saving on the cleaning of the church and school floors.

Outreach – Annette Rudd – No Report.

Parish Social – Tanya Weinzierl – May Fest Planning Begins - January 19th, 2011 Father Jim, Jo Germain, Kim Palmer, Cari Giannini and Tanya Weinzierl met to discuss some possible changes for this year's May Fest celebration. There will be a May Fest Committee Party/Meeting at the Weinzierl home on February 12, 2011 to briefly review last year's May Fest and talk about the up-coming event. E-mail invitations will be sent out to last year's committee members and the door will be open for anyone wishing to get involved.

Parish at Large – Eric Crandall/Ragna Raasch – Ragna Raasch – A member of the parish reported that two parishioners had fallen in the Church/School parking lot. One of the two parishioners had gone to the hospital for evaluation after the parishioner had gone home. The incident raised some questions about whether more could be done to assure safety in the parking areas and about liability issues. This was brought forth as a concern and not as a complaint. Fr. Jim explained that it is impossible to have the parking lot free of all snow and ice. The cost would simply be too expensive and very difficult to control. Every attempt is made to keep the sidewalks clean but the traffic, melting and freezing can create slippery spots in the parking area which is no worse than the city streets. The parking lot is plowed if there are two inches or more and is periodically scraped when weather conditions allow it. After more discussion it was suggested that a reminder be made in the announcements at Mass for everyone to be careful and pay attention when you are walking outside and not just on the church property. Our insurance, Catholic Mutual, does cover all injuries that might occur. It was noted that Catholic Mutual just inspected the grounds and buildings several weeks ago and we passed with no deficiencies.

OLD BUSINESS: Cemetery Lots – This issue was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: Van for the School – Part of the five year viability study included the lease or purchase of a van in the 2011/2012 school year. The reason was that with the Middle School moving to the old high school location, the walk is too far for the band students to walk. In addition, we are paying \$10/day for Hot Lunch mileage. Hot Lunch could begin to use the vehicle for those trips, saving the program money. As the budgeting process for the school has been progressing, Mari & Jo have been doing the research to find out what the best solution for the school would be. The diocese has been contacted regarding insurance and the kinds of paperwork needed for drivers. The diocesan insurance rep made the suggestion that buying a used vehicle would probably be the most cost effective. The insurance cost is the same either way. To that end Mari put out the word to parishioners that are in the business of selling used cars and vans to keep their eyes open for the right deal for the school.

Mark Flatten from Bernard's Northtown brought a 2000 Dodge Caravan for Mari & Jo to try out yesterday. Basic information – Cost \$4000 with 100,000 miles. All of the particulars have been sent to the Budget Committee and to the Finance Council looking for input prior to purchase. Details about maintenance, storage, and cost sharing are being pursued as this whole process unfolds. This is a little early for purchase, but could be done out of the St. Mary's savings this year and paid back next year out of that budget where it was initially included. Advantages to early purchase is showing the perspective Middle School parents that there will be transportation for Band, support for the Hot Lunch program, and transportation for field trips and other things as can be worked out in a schedule.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. Fr. Jim closed with a prayer. The next meeting will take place February 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., Education Center Conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa Skramstad – Secretary