

**COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES**  
**Thursday, March 26, 2010**  
**IC Education Center Conference Room – 6:30 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fr. James Brinkman, Eric Crandall, Laura Rebhan, Jo Germain, Monica Rominski, Chery Stephens, Arlene Tenner, Jim Tilly, Wanda Viellieux. Absent: Connie Crosby, Jo Germain, Tanya Weinzierl.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** February minutes approved by consensus.

**MINISTRY REPORTS:**

**Finance and Administration** – Monica Rominski – The finance council last met on March 17. Christine Charbonneau and Stephanie Schleicher met with the Finance Council and provided an update on the Scrip Program. Discussed the current status, possible ideas for the future, and looking at ways to further expand to increase profits. Next steps/discussion: Need more people involved to help run program. Discuss options to make it more convenient. Educate parish on benefits.

A Principal, Pastors and Finance meeting was held in Superior in February. Jo Germain and Mari Patterson attended. Lots of information was shared. Copies of the Diocese Annual Report for Schools were distributed. Other topics discussed - Lobbyist activity in support of Catholic Schools (WCRIS Organization). Bishop also shared his views on Catholic Education and how all churches – whether they have a school or not – should help support Catholic education.

It was brought to the attention of those in attendance that there are parishes within the diocese that are not incorporated – this is being addressed by diocese. Need to create a “corporate veil” to protect parishes and the diocese from lawsuits.

Diocesan Service Appeal (DSA) – will probably be going up this year due to a change in the formula. Credits once received by parishes with Catholic schools will no longer be available. Maximum raise in assessment is 20%. The percentage charged to the parishes has not been raised in a number of years, until last year when the formula was simplified. For 2010/11 formula changing again to eliminate the credits. Diocese has been spending at a deficit – need more money.

Jo Germain reviewed current status of our income/collections. We continue to see inconsistencies in week-to-week giving. Bulletin and pulpit announcements are being used to make everyone aware of the short fall. Parish Debt Reduction – current pledges continue to be paid. New pledges are coming in. The new campaign has reached approximately 47% of our goal. (As of 3/25/10, 207 pledges coming to \$301,981.)

Jo will begin budget process for 2010/2011 within the next month and the finance council will begin reviewing for approval before June.

**Stewardship** – Wanda Viellieux – no meeting; no report.

**Worship & Spiritual Life** – Chery Stephens – Holy Week and Easter: Fr. Jim presented the history and theology of Holy Week. Discussed all; planning including music and decorations. Year of the Priest: A prayer will be said by the congregation beginning in April. Parishes are asked to reflect on what the service of the priesthood means in their lives. Eucharist Ministers' training has taken place

and guidelines passed out. There was a very good turn out. A list of Ministers is being printed for office use.

**Catechesis & Faith Formation** – Laura Rebhan – The Dead Sea Scrolls tour has been scheduled for April 13, 2010. Work camp's latest fundraiser of Irish Soda bread and scones grossed \$965. They are very close to reaching their goal of \$16,100. Common Ground (New Richmond's Ecumenical Ministry group) Lock in was held March 19 – March 20 at First Lutheran Church with 22 area students attending. The lock in was discussed. First Communion and First Reconciliation evaluations will be conducted to see where we can better serve our families during this preparation time. The Catholic Formation Department has made the appropriate budget cuts as requested and a report was given to the accountant. Adult Enrichment is being evaluated and improvements and recommendations are being considered for next year's sessions.

**Education** – Arlene Tenner – Report will be e-mailed in.

**Buildings and Grounds** – Fr. Jim – The Education Center roofs have been repaired. The church sidewalks that have risen from the frost will be sprayed with a yellow line as a caution and, hopefully, will settle back down once the weather warms up. The church floors have been cleaned, stripped and waxed for Easter and the summer. Weather permitting, Fr. Jim will sweep the parking lot Friday afternoon and see if he can break the record of seven wheelbarrows of sand.

**Outreach** – Connie Crosby – no report.

**Parish Social** – Tanya Weinzierl – May Fest is full speed ahead with planning. There was a committee meeting in February. The following decisions were made by the committee:

- We will have a big tent this year in the church/school parking lot. This will host the Black Forest rib meal along with German music, and beer.
- There will be a "Best Chocolate Chip Cookie" competition. Cari Giannini has agreed to chair this piece of May Fest. Cari is looking into getting some of the area's top chefs to be judges. She is also looking into possibly getting some fun and unique prizes for the winners.
- We will have most of the same children's and adult activities (jumping castle, mini golf, crazy hair, dice game, relay races, spaghetti O eating contest)
- The perennial plant stand went over so well last year that we will be doing it again. We will be asking parishioners once again to donate perennials from their gardens. We will also have some annuals.
- The Germain family has agreed to do the May Fest music for mass.
- The Knights of Columbus will be taking on the live auction. We will be doing an early auction bill this year. Two years ago we had this and all of the bidding was higher that year.
- The Wally Laumeyer family will be our auctioneers once again.
- We will have a raffle once again.

The Night Before May Fest – May 15

- This will be a social evening for all - in the multi-purpose room at St. Mary's
- There will be a 500 card party – Doris Mitchell will be heading this up with help from a few other parishioners
- We are hoping Work Camp can serve brats and other – waiting to find out if this is possible
- Family Movie Night has changed to this evening as well

The Social Ministry would like to hold a 500 card party every month for parishioners, CF families and St. Mary's School families. We are however looking for someone to head this up. If you know of anyone who may be interested please call Tanya.

**Parish at Large** – Eric Crandall/Jim Tilly – no concerns; no action.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place May 28, 2010, 6:30 p.m., IC Education Conference Center. Fr. Jim closed with evening prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Theresa Skramstad - Secretary