

Finance Council Meeting Minutes 2-26-25

Members present: Fr. Philip Erickson, Lisa Baxter, Judie Greiner, Carol Holliger, Bob Schroeder, Rick Reinert, and Jeff Korfhage

Father Erickson opened the meeting with a prayer.

After discussion, the third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM was established for the meeting cadence.

Financial reports - Members confirmed they had received them. No questions. Lisa reported St. Elizabeth had received a \$30K bequest and a \$10K gift. Utilities were going up. This included plowing, snow removal, etc.

The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed. Fr. Erickson brought up a paragraph that seemed to indicate that the Finance Council was not discussing the issues outside the meeting. Judy reported that she talks to people outside the meeting. Main point is that the report in the bulletin on collections is only a small picture of the parish finances.

Discussion of what is in the bulletin. Proposal to show total income vs. total expenses. This would be done monthly. Lisa agreed this could be provided.

A financial council person will write an explanation of what will be included in the report. Bob Schroeder agreed to write the document.

A bi-yearly balance sheet and income statement will be included as a bulletin insert.

Father reported that communion count data has been collected for the last 6-9 months. Trend shows slight increase at all masses with the exception of the Sunday 9 am Mass at St. Elizabeth.

April Fund raising discussion - Requires 30 days to get license. No advertising can be done until license obtained. Due to these factors, the planned Night at the Races for April will not take place.

Fall Fund raiser - The Finance Council will discuss outside this meeting and advise next steps. Council was advised to keep it simple and easy. Start small and build each year. Need to establish a team. First fund raiser will be a Split the Pot. Could potentially have a reverse raffle in the coming years.

Percentage of expenses between the two parishes after St. Therese closes will need to be finalized. The Finance Council will discuss and make final recommendations. Could be adjusted year to year if conditions change.

Fr. Philip will compose two letters concerning the closing of St. Therese. One will be a recommendation to the Archdiocese. As pastor, he has to make the decision and "pull the trigger." The second will be a timeline of the events and an explanation of why the decision is being made. The letter to the Archdiocese will include a proposal to give the building and the land to the Ukrainian Catholics and it become an Eastern Rite Parish. Latin Catholics could attend and fulfill their weekly obligation. A petition will be filed outlining the concern for the building after the closing of St. Therese from a historical perspective.

Roberts Hall - Two biggest issues are the roof and the tuck points. Expenses cannot be kept up. Fr. Phillip stated that, for now, we will hold the property and have further discussion.

Archbishop Shelton Fabre visit - Will be at Our Mother of Sorrows at the 10:30 Mass on 4/27/25. A reception will be held in the cafeteria after the Mass.

Lisa report - Reminded us to be careful what is included in the minutes because they are read by people.

New Accounting software - The CEO of the software firm was at OMOS on 2/12/25. Some progress made, but will need to go back two years to update records. The speed of the system will continue to be an issue. All activity is slower than it was before the switch to the new software.

Finance Council agreed to sell one picnic wheel and four boards for \$170 to group that approached Lisa earlier.

The meeting was closed with a prayer at 8:15.