Minutes:Joint St. Mary Parish Council and Finance Council Mtg, September 10, 2026; 7:00pm; St. Joseph Hall, Elkader;**(subject to approval next mtg)**

1. Opening Prayer was said by Fr. Huber

2. Roll Call: Present: Beth Sadewasser, Lois Bries, Larry Wille, Jim Schlueter, Jessie Young, Austin Greve, Sharon Keehner, Fr. Huber, Lisa Kies Absent: Erin Schmelzer, Tom Augustyn

3. Agendas were approved with addition of update on Pastorate Commission meeting.

4. Minutes of previous meetings were approved.

5. Communications/Guests – none

6. Executive report –Fr. Huber shared some information about investing funds in Catholic Foundation and indicated it may be a good fit for cemeteries as well as parishes; Sharon to look into it; He also encouraged the council to look into air conditioning the rectory which would make it more appealing for priests to want to live in the rectory – window units are very inefficient; central air or perhaps split units. He also indicated the vestments should be updated; approx. $2000 for eight vestments in the various colors;

7. Liturgy report—no report.

8. Stewardship report – will use on online platform called Zeffy for the bidding; will put the refrigerator in the pie room on the auction and also the card catalog from the old school library; Jessie made a motion that the fall fundraiser proceeds be used for improvements to the old school building; 2nd by Larry; all in favor motion carried.

9. Parish Life report –no report

10. Social Concerns report –no report

11. Faith Formation report – no report

12. Finance Committee

a. Bat Control: need 100 ft lift to get to the place where the steeples join the bricks; Jim to get with Jaeger Associates—ask them to come with a drone and take pictures of that area;

b. Signage – needs to be put up

c. Parking lot line striping – no striping in the area where the basketball hoops were – last Sunday people parked 3 deep(they have it figured out without lines); nearby city lots were not full; Fr. Huber suggested having a couple of parking spaces reserved for families with young children; Motion by Jim/2nd by Jessie to pay for parking lot striping with money from the soccer field sale.

d. Ramp for church basement – neither of the 2 companies that were here recommended a ramp – too long to be feasible in the area; suggest a platform lift but they do not sell/install them; they were going to provide names of companies to contact. Larry suggested using the sacristy door on the north side of the church – that corner needs rock work – thinking about taking that entrance down to grade level and then installing a ramp into the pie room; Looking into these options;

e. Electric and water meters for rectory: water meter will cost $685; waiting on electricity estimate.

f. Soccer field sale money $112,558.80 was received and put into a campus improvement fund;

g. Rectory Roof Loan of $25,000 plus $197.54 interest was paid off with $4986.73 coming from annual proceeds of the Dorothy Wilson trust and the balance from the soccer field money.

h. Pastorate Items:

i) Expenses, our share based on budgetary numbers is $3162.37 and is due at the first of the month. Since the pastorate health insurance/retirement invoice of $27,600 is due and not enough funds have accrued, each parish was asked to contribute their percentage; our share was $3505.20

ii) Offertory not in envelopes is due 1st of each month; will be monitored and credits given to parishes in 6 months.

13. Old Business-discussed above

14. New Business

a. Kids Kampus – Jessie provided an update on current condition of Kids Kampus building and their desire to use the Parish Center as a day care center; timing would be next summer at the earliest –they need to have an architect come in and look the building over and see what changes would be needed to meet requirements for a day care and then determine feasibility; Kids Kampus does not want to proceed with the architect if the council has no interest in having them occupy the space. Jessie spoke with groups that currently use the parish center and discussed alternative meeting places – old school building and/or 1st floor of convent; discussed deeding the building only (not the land) with stipulation that it comes back to St. Mary's if they decide to sell or relocate elsewhere. Concerns were expressed about the maintenance of the building. Jessie made the following motion: Council is very open to deeding the Parish Center to Kids Kampus. Lois 2nd the motion; Beth, Jessie, Lois were in favor; Jim voted no and Larry abstained; motion carried; Jessie to communicate this to Kids Kampus so they can go ahead with getting an architect in and determine if the building would be a good fit.

b. Pastorate Commissions Update – Sharon reported the pastorate will use the accrual method of accounting; she encouraged everyone to support the fundraisers in our pastorate as they are able.

16. Next meeting Sept 28 at noon for Finance and 6:30pm for Parish Council at St. Mary Parish Center. Next quarterly meeting with Fr. Huber will be November 17th at 7:00pm, St. Joseph Parish Hall, Elkader.

17. Motion to adjourn made by Lois/2nd Sharn; all in favor; motion carried; adjourned 8:20pm