

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church  
Finance Council Minutes  
November 19, 2018

The meeting opened with a prayer

Fr. Bob explained to the council members about confidentiality. All the members signed confidentiality agreements. The agreements are on file in the parish office in the fiancé council members file.

The council discussed the need to appoint a chairperson and secretary. This was tabled to give the members time to discern and think about these positions and the council will select a chairperson and a secretary at the next meeting.

The council reviewed the October 2018 financial statements for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. The financial statements for Mary Magdalene mission church will be reviewed at the next meeting. Fr. Bob explained some of the extraordinary expenses that have occurred since his arrival. The council expressed concerns about the heating and air conditioning and thought that changing the thermostats to programable units would be a way to save money. Fr. Bob will check into this and report back to the finance council. The council agreed that the financial statements were in order but that it would be helpful to have a comparison view of last year's budget to this year's budget. This will be addressed in the next set of financial statements.

The finance council approved the going forward with the air conditioning projects in the parish center (the old school building) and in the rectory. The amount approved was \$25,366.00. It was also noted that because the council had not met previously that Fr. Bob has already wrote to Bishop Hartmeyer and has received permission for this project. The money to pay for this project will come from the sale of stock in the parish's stock portfolio.

The council then had a conversation about the landscaping around the parish facilities. A company has been contracted and has begun to do the work. Fr. Bob will meet with the company representatives to give better direction as to how the grounds need to appear. This is an ongoing project. The cost for these projects ought to be around \$1,000.00. The money for this project will come from the funds available from the now defunct Ladies of Lourdes account. The rest of the

money will come from other various parish organizations. All groups will be asked to contribute to the beautification of our parish grounds.

The council then entered into a conversation about the interior church lighting. Attending Mass is like attending Mass in a cave. The interior of the church building is very dimly lit. A lighting consultant has been contacted and they are working up a proposal to brighten up the inside of the church. The proposal from the lighting consultant will be delivered soon. This is an ongoing discussion.

The members of the council discussed the parish's stock portfolio. Currently all of the portfolio is invested in one stock. It was discussed that we ought to look into diversifying the portfolio. A discussion ensued as to what we want from the investment portfolio. It was decided to invite a representative from Morgan Stanley. Fr. Bob will extend an invitation to our representative from Morgan Stanley.

The council then discussed the Sunday collection and counting procedures. It was determined that the parish is not currently following Diocesan guidelines. A new protocol was established and training with the ushers and count team will be necessary. New tamper resistant security bags have been purchased and will be implemented as soon as training can happen.

The council then decided it would meet 6 times a year. The next three dates are January 9, 2018, March 13, 2018 and May 5, 2018. All meetings will take place in the parish office at 7:00PM.

Faithfully Submitted

Fr. Bob Benko OFM Conv.  
Pastor