

Minutes of the St. Ann Pastoral & Finance Committee
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.
St. Ann Parish Center

Members Present: Craig Hohlfeld, Timothy Sollman, Teresa Nordell, and Paula Hellstern.
Absent: Bill Madison and Carol Wozniak.

- I. Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Craig Hohlfeld.
- II. Deacon Steve Led the committee in prayer.
- III. Deacon Steve provided the committees with the current balance sheet as of May 3, 2023. The balance sheet shows \$5,621.13 in the general checking account with \$25,144.39 in general savings. The Perpetual Care account has a balance of \$31,154.33 with \$3,074.10 in the cemetery maintenance account. There is a balance of \$30,111.34 in the Mission Diocese Investment account. Total Liabilities and Equity is \$97,871.13.

IV. Cemeteries:

- 1.) Deacon Steve advised the committees that Jim Kasper has expressed that he no longer wants to remove snow from the church sidewalks and that he is stepping down from his role of Sexton and mowing of the cemeteries. Deacon Steve reported that he has talked with Charlie Carlson about taking over the role of Sexton for the St. Ann cemeteries and that Charlie is willing to take care of the mowing of the cemeteries as well at a cost of about \$400.00 per cut of the four cemeteries and the church lawn.

Tim Sollman advised in his conversations with Jim Kasper that he is still willing to be Sexton and will continue to mow lawn at the church. Tim also advised that he and Jim had talked with Jon Robinson of Right Turn Lawncare about mowing the cemeteries, and that he can do it at a cheaper rate. Deacon Steve advised he would speak with Jon Robinson about mowing the cemeteries. Tim provided Deacon Steve with contact information. We will still need to find someone to remove snow at the church in the winter months.

A discussion was also had about finding someone to work with Jim Kasper about taking over the role of Sexton when he is ready. A couple of names were discussed, and Deacon Steve advised he would talk with them and see if they were willing.

- 2.) Deacon Steve suggested that cemetery plot sales be adjusted for all St. Ann cemeteries with the goal of having cemetery plot rates consistent through all

cemeteries within our cluster of parishes. Deacon Steve advised our rates are low when compared with other Catholic parishes in our region. He has reached out to several parishes regarding rates and found their rates to be between \$600 and \$1400.00. An increase in rates will provide needed income to help maintain our cemeteries as costs have risen. Deacon Steve advised he is approaching the other parishes in the cluster to increase rates to \$525.00 per plot initially. With the substantially increased number of people using cremation services, the ability to place two cremains in one plot is having an additional impact on sales.

Motion by Teresa Nordell, second by Tim Sollman, to increase the rate of cemetery plots in all cemeteries to \$525.00 effective July 1, 2023. Motion called and approved unanimously.

- 3.) Deacon Steve also suggested that we remove the distinction between member and non-member when selling cemetery plots. There is often a debate regarding who is a member and who is not. Many people claim to be members based on family history within the parish although they are not registered members. In discussion with other parishes in the diocese, Deacon Steve has learned many have removed this distinction to avoid such disagreements and to simplify sales.

Motion by Tim Sollman, second by Craig Hohlfeld, to remove the distinction between member and non-member when selling cemetery plots. Motion called and approved unanimously.

- 4.) The committees also discussed the current split of cemetery sales to the Perpetual Care account and the Cemetery maintenance account. Diocesan policy states that a minimum amount to be placed in the Perpetual Care account is 15% or more of the cost, but not less than \$25.00 per plot. The current practice is to place 75% of the sale into perpetual care and 25% into cemetery maintenance. After discussion it was agreed that these percentages should be adjusted due to the increased cost of cemetery maintenance.

Motion by Tim Sollman, second by Craig Hohlfeld, to set the split at 25% of all cemetery plot sales will go to the perpetual care account and 75% allocated to the cemetery maintenance account. Motion called and approved unanimously.

- 5.) The committees also discussed what the limitations are per plot regarding occupancy. The current standard is 1 full body and 1 cremains, or 2 cremains per plot, resulting in the ability to place two persons in one plot, apart from 2 full body placements. It was also suggested that any Tombstone placed on a plot must not exceed the width of the plot.

Motion to the above made by Tim Sollman, second by Teresa Nordell, and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

- V. Motion to Adjourn – Motion to adjourn was made by Craig Hohlfeld and seconded by Tim Sollman. Motion was called and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Dcn. Steve Linton
Parish Life Coordinator