

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, April 28, 2025 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order - by John Zody

II. Opening Prayer - 7:04pm

III. Roll Call:

Fr. Dana	(P) A	Brian Serpan	P (A)	John Zody	(P) A
Peggy Seibel	(P) A	Gary Luea	(P) A	Gary Haas	(P) A
Allen Weber	(P) A	Curtis Weber	P (A)	Nancy Cunningham	(P) A
Patti Park	(P) A				

IV. Additions to Agenda: Auction update: Brief discussion took place that we raised over \$127,000, budgeted over \$300,000. The totals are not included in this month's financial reports as most of the income was taken in in April. The Special Item brought in a little over \$22,000 which isn't enough to complete the parking lot project, but a start. The estimated amount needed is \$100,000. Fr. Dana mentioned that he'd like to send out a mailing to remind parishioners and friends of the parish about the Pledges and let them know that giving towards this project is important.

V. Correction and approval of March 24, 2025 minutes: Reviewed. No Corrections. Passed by consciences of the group, no vote taken.

VI. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti: Staff Update:** Fourth teacher, Payton Eck turned in her resignation letter a couple weeks ago, effective at the end of the school year. She will be staying home with her new baby that is due this summer. Sarah Eck has agreed to teach PreSchool and Kyleigh Allen has agreed to take on the next classroom available, whether that be the 4th grade or another one that may become available. **Building Project Updates:** The dishwasher in the kitchen went out last week. Cletus called Hobart to come by to see what is needed for the repair. As of now, they have a temporary fix until the part comes in. **Race for Education 2025** raised just over \$20,000! We have (2) quotes from INAlert (cloud based vs. not) and (1) from GBTA (no cloud based) for new camera systems. Mrs. Park had Craig Seibel look over them and compare which would be the better option. He believes the INAlert "no cloud" would be best for our school since we already have some of the updates that would be compatible with their quote. Last year's Race for Education Project benches have been ordered. Leon's Welding will be making them. Each of them will have some sort of scripture and graphic on them. We hope to have them installed by the beginning of June. **Deacon Kade Megaffin** visited last week in the 6th Grade room! He was able to stay for most of the day, eat lunch with the students and visit all of the classrooms! It was great to have him in the building, answering questions about the seminary and becoming a priest! **The 6th Grade Class Clean Up Day** took place on Holy Thursday. The class cleaned up areas around the playgrounds, church and even planted flowers in the front of the church. They installed a solar light in front of the Blessed Virgin Mary statue to be seen at night. They hope to continue this project next year. Last Friday, April 25th we had an **In-service/Work Day** where we discussed Wiesner Grant for next year, Virtues for next year and were trained on how to use the LifeVac in case a student chokes during lunch. **First Communion** was held on Sunday. We had 10 students from St. Mary's and 2 from Washington Grade School. The **Hays Arts Council Writing Awards** was on Sunday afternoon where St. Mary's was represented with 16 students!!! This was the most out of all schools participating! **Upcoming Events:** The Finale for Famous Figures will be this Friday at Beach/Schmidt at FHSU. We have 2 students participating. The 4th Grade and 5th Grade students will be attending to watch the finalists. USD 388 is letting us catch a ride on the bus with them as long as we meet them at WGS before 8:00am! On Monday, May 5th, Chief Avery Smith will be training students on bike/scooter safety! Students in 2nd-6th grade may bring their bikes or scooters. On May 9th, Olivia Eck will be Principal for a Day. She was chosen by Leonard Schoenberger who purchased the special event from the Auction! He will be assisting her throughout the day and has asked to celebrate his birthday with the entire school that day as well! Tuesday, May 13th we will host the 6th Grade Promotion Mass at 8:10am followed by a reception for the parents and students in the cafeteria.

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Wednesday, May 14th is the last day of school. We will have Awards in the morning followed by lunch and a competitive game of Volleyball with 6th Grade Class verses their parents.

- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** Not enough in attendance to hold a meeting in April, however they did review upcoming events and things to consider for next year. They hosted a “Chocolate Bar” selling the remaining chocolate bars at the Spring Music Concert, totaling \$443.00. They also presented not one, but two, Home & School Scholarships at the concert. Those awarded were Isabella Eck and Alyssa Rome. Next meeting will be May 12th at 6:00pm.
- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** Nothing new was discussed. Annie Bollig has joined School Council again. Next meeting will be May 12th at 7:00pm.
- d. **Liturgy Report – Emily:** **Liturgy Report – Emily:** *First Communion* was this past Sunday with 12 students. *Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer Service* took place this past Sunday as well. We will be having the *High School Graduation Sending Forth Mass* on Sunday, May 4th at 9am Mass. *No Coffee & Donuts* in May due to Graduations and Mother's Day. *Mother's Day* is May 11th – special blessing each Mass. The *6th Grade Promotion Mass* will take place on Tuesday, May 13th at 8:10am Mass. *Cedar Bluff Lake Masses* will begin on May 18th and will continue through the weekend after Labor Day weekend. *Memorial Day Services* will be on Monday, May 26th with TBD per VFW schedule (usually around 9/9:30am). *Ascension of the Lord* is not a holy day of obligation, we will celebrate it during the weekend Masses.
 - a. **Totus Tuus (July 13-18):** To give Parish Council a heads up about the upcoming Totus Tuus, we have held a potluck on Wednesday night for parishioners and Totus Tuus team to gather together. Out of all my years leading Totus Tuus, I have had maybe 2 potlucks be successful. So, I'm thinking, because it is the 2nd Sunday of the month, and we already have Coffee & Donuts planned, what about doing a Breakfast Gathering/Potluck? I'd like to move the event over to the school cafeteria (construction pending) to allow enough room but invite parishioners to bring breakfast items to share and get to meet our Team along with maybe encouraging more young students to participate in Totus Tuus (average about 30-35 students).
- e. **Parish Education Report:** Last Day of Classes is this Wednesday, April 30th. Judy Schuler is treating the students will Frozen Frog Snocone coupons along with certificates for those who had Perfect Attendance! YDisciples held their last gathering of the school year last Wednesday evening complete with BBQ and Bingo! The Confirmation students were also in attendance. At Easter, we welcomed four members into the church. Fr. Dana also wrapped up the Lenten Formation Sessions of “Search” this past Sunday. We had 5 parishioners attend.
- f. **Maintenance Report:** Cletus will be starting to demo and get ready for the remodel of the school cafeteria bathrooms as soon as school is out. He and Charlie Kinderknecht are teaming up to pay for and replace the heating unit in the Preschool classroom and possibly the Library as well. Fr. Dana spoke to Luke Karlin to start shingling the convent. They will hopefully get to that very soon. He will also be fixing/replacing the broken window at the attic. Fr. Dana also met with Eric Augustine from High Plains Roofing to see what our next steps are and a time frame to complete the rectory roof. His bid to repair was a little bit higher than original as he'd like to make it better than before. Father would like to do some remodeling to the north sacristy (flower room) by closing up the door and window on the north wall, possibly install a drop ceiling and add more lighting. He has ordered some storage cabinets to help get some of the decorations off the floor. The cement steps on the east side of the convent were “red flagged” during the Catholic Mutual visit last summer. They will need some attention of repairing very soon. Fr. Dana also mentioned about doing something new with the rectory's entrance stair but unsure of what to do yet.
- g. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout) Father mentioned everything budget-wise is good. Auction totals are not in this report as most of it was deposited in April. He signed up for a webinar “ISPD” a Catholic School & Parish based program for ideas on funding your school/church in a tough economy. He invited

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the council members to join him if they are interested. The idea is to be able to fund “transactional”, which is what we are doing now, everyone gives as they can and “relational”, which is developing relations among those who are passionate or take interest in your cause. John made the comment that he believes it would be a good idea to get the Finance Council back on board to go over the finances on a quarterly bases instead of the Parish Council deciphering over the numbers presented.

VII. Unfinished Business: None

VIII. New Business:

- a. **Church Security (Gary L.):** Before Easter there was a semi parked in the church parking lot. Gary's concern is that our parking lot is not designed to withhold that type of traffic and suggested that we put up a sign saying ie. “no authorized semis allowed”. Along with this event, there was a gentleman who attended Mass that Saturday evening who made a few of the parishioners who generally sit in the back of church a little uneasy as he kept moving around the church, never stayed seated in one spot. Gary did call the Ellis Police Department to have the semi checked out, but no one “answered” the knock when the police officer arrived. Gary suggested that maybe the choir loft could have a locked door, whether it is a key entry or a key pad just for precaution and safety of our church. This will be something we look into.
- b. **Parish Representative for Chair Lift at EHS Alumni Banquet 2025:** Due to the construction of our restrooms during the summer. We have many events happening within the school, one being the Ellis High School Alumni Banquet & Dance is on May 24th, 2025. They have been made aware that the bathrooms will be under construction and that if guests need to use the restroom they will need to travel upstairs. EHS Alumni asked if the Parish would appoint someone for the evening to run the lift, in the case that some guests are unable to use the stairs. Emily asked the Council if anyone would be willing to be that parish representative. No one volunteered at this time. An idea of splitting up the evening into shifts to help find volunteers. ***We will also need volunteers to run the bar for the afternoon/evening as well.***

IX. Father's Comments: None.

X. Parishioner Comments: None.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Closing Prayer: 8:16pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer.