

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**Finance Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 28, 2025**

**Members Present:** Fr. Ryan Harpole, Bayne Million, Kathy Kemp, Steve Thornton, John Winstead, and Chris Vowels

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests:** Sharon Luster

**Call to Order**

Father Ryan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with an opening prayer.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

The first item on the agenda was a review of the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes as prepared by Chris Vowels. With no further discussion or corrections, John Winstead made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Steve Thornton. The Council unanimously approved the November meeting minutes.

**Review of Financial Statements**

The Council next reviewed the December 2024 financial statements and notes prepared by Sharon Luster, Finance Director. At the end of December, the Parish had approximately \$297k in its general funds and \$1.344M in Renew funds. Notable items from the December financial statements included:

- Collections for both regular and Renew offerings were higher than average due to one-time/year-end donations.
- Quarterly interest income of \$746 received from the Diocesan savings account.
- Quarterly investment gains/losses recorded from the Diocesan endowment fund.
- Choir expense higher due to Christmas Mass musicians.
- Altar Society expense includes \$2.7k in new vestments.
- Renew II expenses were \$237k, which will be reclassified to the balance sheet as an asset.
- Other expenses of note included Lessons & Carols concert musicians, 2024 property taxes on the recently acquired properties (will be tax-exempt beginning in 2025, and staff Christmas bonuses.
- Net income for the month was about \$137k (after capitalizing the Renew II project expenditures) compared to \$128k last year.

Following a motion from Mr. Winstead and a second from Kathy Kemp, the Council unanimously approved the December financial statements.

**Renew Updates**

Various aspects of the Renew Phase II Project were discussed:

- Construction of the Parish office building is progressing according to schedule.
- No loans/funds have been borrowed from the Diocese as of yet.

- Collections of the Renew II pledges are coming in as expected.

#### **Other Business**

- The Council discussed the annual Diocesan Disciples Response Fund mandated fundraiser. The Diocese may also assess parishes collectively a total of \$3M-\$6M for new apartments for retired/senior priests. The Council decided a recommendation should be made to the Deanery that this initiative should be included as part of the Disciples Response Fund as opposed to a separate assessment.
- The Council discussed potentially supporting St. Joseph Interparochial School at a higher level due to increasing costs (approximately \$120k) and relatively lesser support from Holy Spirit. As there is excess capacity in the school and the fact that most of the increased costs are generally fixed expenses, increasing student enrollment would be an effective way to defray the required additional funds.
- Members of the parish community are exploring the potential of opening a new Catholic high school in Bowling Green. The name of the high school would be the Chesterton Academy of Bowling Green, with an anticipated start date in August 2026. Father Ryan and Chris Durbin will be going on a fact-finding mission in Chicago to visit another Chesterton Academy affiliated campus.
- An over-50 potluck dinner will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025 immediately following the 4:00 pm vigil Mass. A charitable endowment fund presentation will be given by Tom Lilly from the Diocese and Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky, Inc., along with a financial/estate planning talk given by Bryan Basinger.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The Finance Council set its next meeting for Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 6:00 pm (subsequent to the meeting, the date was changed to Monday, March 24, 2025).

#### **Adjourn**

With there being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chris Vowels  
Secretary