

St. Thomas More

Parish Council Minutes

October 21,2019

Members Present: Jeff Case, Keith Cash, Tom Clinton, Joe Hobbs, Theresa Owens, Jennifer Todd, Richard Vieitez, Fr. Brad Whistle, Kathy Willett, and Miguelina Young

Members Absent: Naomi Becker, Frank Bosh, and David Riley

Opening Prayer: Fr. Brad

No changes were made to the September minutes.

Old Business:

Joe Hobbs is in contact with Steve Duperrieu about Campus Security. All things discussed at this time are just ideas. As a Church, We just want to make sure We are prepared for any emergency situations. There are already evacuation routes in place that we use for severe weather. Some of these plans would be the same if there was ever an active shooter situation. Some ideas were locking the doors during Mass times. Another idea is to get security cameras for the doors and parking lot with signage saying the campus is under surveillance. We just want a safe place for Our members to come and Worship God and feel as safe as possible while doing it.

New Business:

The 2019 Parish Picnic was a huge success! There was lots of great feedback. There were lots of people in attendance and lots of volunteers. Thanks everyone for the hard work. Some ideas on improvement were to maybe come up with a plan to split up the eating time into different slots so that everyone was not waiting to eat at the same time. Another suggestion was to get a translator for Prayer and instructions on eating and game set up.

Kathy reported that The Couples in Christ bonfire will be October 25. They are working on setting a date for the annual Christmas progressive dinner. The Young Couples Pumpkin hunt is also October 25. They are planning an escape room/ dinner for January. The grounds committee planted bulbs on October 19.

Tom reported The Rosary Garden Keepers had their 4th annual membership drive on September 28. On October 12 there was a Rosary Rally at Dolly McNutt Plaza. The garden keepers do not sponsor the rally but members are encouraged to attend. The next meeting is November 2 and then they will break until March.

They are still looking for office volunteers, especially over the noon hour.

The over 50 potluck was in October and about 30 people attended. There is no assigned leader for the potluck or organized program. Major fall cleanup for Mt. Carmel Cemetery is October 26. The Faith Formation group is committed to clean up in the original Garden of Angels. Extensive expansion of the garden is under way. The back wall has been placed, with hope for a formal dedication in the late spring. Major contributors to the project are Lourdes and Baptist Hospitals. The Parish has made a contribution and the Knights of Columbus Council 11591 anticipates also contributing financially. The garden will be dedicated to Sr. Lucy Bonifas, who was instrumental in getting the original plot started.

There are 31 Scouts in Boy Scouts this semester. They just wined up their popcorn sales. The sale of popcorn at the Church was almost \$1,400. Steve Shoulta said they are happy with the support from St. Thomas More. Special meals and Receptions will be decorating for the appreciation breakfast and will be serving and setting up for the All Souls Day Service Reception.

Theresa announced that the Bereavement members had a meeting with Widows and a guest speaker, Andrew DuPerrieu. They are getting prepared for The All Souls Day Mass on November 3.

Richard reported that Patrick Kerr had been working on our Church website getting it to a more secure state. They were working on flyers and graphics for the picnic. They will continue weekly email updates that go out on Fridays. They are still promoting the new app with pew cards.

Joe announced that St. Thomas More received an award for Our Stewardship video at the International Catholic Stewardship Council Conference. Melisa, Director of Stewardship and Ministry accepted the award.

Miguelina reported there are 32 members in the Choir that are at 9:00 a.m Sunday Mass. They play the handbells twice a month. There are 26 members in the Youth Choir. They will be singing on October 27. Liturgical training will begin soon. They are also starting Hispanic Bible classes. At the 1:00 Spanish Mass they collected money to help a member whose wife was in the hospital, to help with bills. On average there are 60-70 members at the Mass.

We were asked suggestions for keeping the nursery or transitioning the few pews in the gathering space to a cry room. It is hard to find workers for the nursery at all Masses. There has to be two workers, they have to be 21 and must have safe environment training. We agreed we should rope off pews in gathering space for cry room if needed. People are also welcomed to go in the Hospitality room were Mass is played live on tv.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Brad

The next Meeting will be held on November 18, 2019 in the Sacred Heart Room.