**Pastoral Council Meeting**

**January 30, 2017**

Members present: Mike Crider, Andrew DuPerrieu, Dianna Hand, Stacy Jones, Pam Malast, Lisa Logsdon-Seay, Amy Sullivan, Miguelina Sunderland

Fr. Brad present

Members absent: Lori Hatton, , Bill Murphy, Tomi Zaninovich

Opening prayer from Fr. Brad

Minutes from November meeting approved

**Guests:**

1. **Sound/Choir Update –** Jim Hess gave an update on the sound system improvements. There has been extensive work on the sound system, changing from an analog system to a digital system. The microphones can now be controlled from an IPAD. One of the new amps is oscillating, causing a high pitch sound on the right side of the church. This is under warranty so will be fixed or replaced in the next week or two. There has also been changes to the choir, moved the risers which is helping with the choir projecting. Also, the cantor will be elevated to help with the sound. The architecture of the building does not help with the effects of sound travel, but hoping that moving the choir and elevating the cantor will help in the sound.
2. **Hope Unlimited –** Lori Meredith and Nicole Farley, Executive Director of Hope Unlimited Family Care Center gave an update on all of the services provided by Hope Unlimited. Hope Unlimited started 28 years ago as a crisis pregnancy care center. Today, Hope Unlimited supports the entire family, from pregnancy testing to parenting classes; full OB Clinic that can follow from pregnancy test thru to delivery; STD testing and treatment. In the Learn to Earn program, expectant and current parents can earn Hope Bucks to spend at the Hope Unlimited Community Thrift store for baby/home supplies. There are currently two locations: 1101 Jefferson Street in Paducah, and in Metropolis, IL. The Metropolis location does offer pregnancy testing, but does not have a full OB department.

**Old Business:**

1. **Mission** - Fr. Brad is waiting on an email confirmation from Sr. Cheryl regarding the mission. He is looking at having a 2-night retreat, on Sunday and Monday the 1st week of Lent.
2. **Severe Weather Training** – Received an update that training for the Ushers is scheduled for late January, but have not received confirmation from Melisa. Planning on having a test in March. The TV monitors are up and running and ready to go for severe weather. There is a PowerPoint presentation to train the Ushers.
3. **West Kentucky Article Update** – Article has been submitted to West Kentucky Catholic, with some changes made by Deacon Terry.

**New Business:**

1. **Discernment Update** – Bill has volunteered to head the Discernment process. Decided that the 1st informational meeting will be held Monday, May 8th with the final Discernment on Monday, May 15th.
2. **Heat in Church** – Several parishioners and visitors have complained about the temperature of the Church, mostly during the very low temperature days. The heating system in the church is poorly designed, especially when the temperature drops to single digits. Per Steve, the cost of replacing, or adding an addition to the HVAC is high, but may need to be replaced soon as it is 20 years old now. Sr. Lucy had inquired about weatherizing the space/adding weather stripping. There is lots of glass in the church, which also makes it harder to heat. Discussed keeping the interior doors to the sanctuary closed on very cold days to keep cold air outside.
3. Andrew had a request from a parishioner for more diversity in the music at Mass. Andrew will get with Jim to discuss further.

**Ministry reports**:

* 1. **Finance Committee** – Mike is going to check at the next Finance Committee regarding an update on a new Key/Keypad system for the Church. This is something that is on the list, but how to move it forward, and how long does the process take.
  2. **Jubilate** – Sang at the Christmas Mass, currently taking a break.
  3. **Altar Society** – Elections were held. Eileen Segabarth elected President.
  4. **Transportation**- New schedule distributed.
  5. **Bereavement** – Delivered around 40 Christmas ornaments in memory of parish members or their loved ones who died this past year. Received a lot of positive comments on the ornaments and the cards that the committee sends.
  6. **Stewardship of Giving** – Will be taking place during Lent. Melisa is working on a timeline to begin bulletin messages, Prayers of the Faithful and other support type things. The Stewardship Council met on January 12 and made some recommendations from Stewardship of Prayers. They liked the new booklet and the monthly prayers, but asked if the prayer could be a regular part of Mass. Father Brad has agreed to have the prayer read either at the beginning of Mass or after the Prayer of the Faithful. He and Jim Hess are discussing and it will begin soon.
  7. **Stewardship Council** – Continuing with the study of ‘Stewardship: Disciple’s Response’ (the USCCB pastoral letter on Stewardship), as well as conducting an internal review of stewardship in our parish currently. If anyone has any suggestions, please feel free to let anyone on the council know.
  8. **Communications Update** -

The new website is live and seems to be working well. We are still updating content every day and adding and rearranging things but it all seems to look pretty good. We have added a parish registration form in the last few days and have updated the Stewardship of Prayer pages and some of the ministry pages. We will continue to update content.

Coming with Stewardship of Giving during Lent, we will launch our companion smart phone app. The app pulls from the website and includes the new online giving platform. The online giving piece gives so many more giving options including recurring giving, giving by bank draft or debit/credit card and more. It seemed logical to launch the phone app during Stewardship of Giving in part to move folks to online giving which is much easier for the office, accounting wise, and easier for the parishioner as well. More on our overall electronic communications efforts as they develop.

The new monitor in the gathering space is up and running. We are limiting what we promote on the monitor to around 5 slides so as to not be intrusive. At any time the monitor can be turned off for example, during a funeral visitation. We will update the messages every week on the monitor. We have a few kinks to work out with the computer running the monitor. Last weekend, the computer ran a windows update and then of course restarted so the slides weren’t running. We are installing a software patch this week that will restart the computer every morning and automatically load the slideshow.

Once we have the billboard monitor running the way we want we will load the weather app. The app should ‘overtake’ the slideshow in the event of severe weather and then when the threat is over, move to the background again.

We are looking at other options for the monitor as well including switching it to the camera feed during Mass itself so that those sitting in the gathering space aren’t looking at slides but at Mass. There are few technical challenges to this that we will be working through.

The winter issue of our mailed and printed newsletter The Word is in the process of being written now and will be mailed the middle to end of February to arrive before Ash Wednesday. This issue will have plenty of photos for Christmas and then include the Lent and Easter schedule.

Bill Murphy has written a great article about giving in the community with a focus on what we do here at Saint Thomas More and our relationship with Paducah Cooperative Ministry. We have submitted it to the West Kentucky Catholic and we will include it the newsletter.

Closing prayer by Stacy Jones

Next meeting set for February 27, 2017 at 6:30pm.