

St. Thomas More Pastoral Council minutes  
February 21, 2022

Father Brad opened the meeting with prayer

In attendance were: Father Brad Whistle, Dr. Jeff Case, Richard Vieitez, Jeri Duong, Lynn Baker, Miguelina Young, Joe Hobbs, Julie Turok, Naomi Becker, David Riley, Tom Clinton and Daniel Miller

Absent was David Leis

Minutes from November 2021 and January 2022 were approved.

Council discussed and offered input on the first Synod session held at St. Thomas More Discussion was held regarding better access to parish financial information by members of the church. Jeff will look into the matter with finance council

Discussion held about mixed reaction to feasibility study and mixed reaction from those who spoke with council members.

Discussion about access to Catholic information by children and mixed information available. Catholic Answers suggested as one of the best sources, along with Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Ministry reports:

Joe Hobbs report from Ashley Hayden ... As of yet, the Stewardship committee has not been meeting since I took office in June, mostly because I was trying to familiarize myself with all the responsibilities and workings of events before distributing them among a committee. However, I am considering trying to revive the committee, possibly in the next month or so. We only received about 1/8th of the Time/Treasure/Talent surveys that we sent out to the parish.

Daniel Miller presented this Social Concerns Update:

Coffee and donuts- Currently have 19 families participating in coffee & donuts. The events have seen a decline in the past few weeks, but hopeful that it will pick back up as weather improves and COVID continues to decline. Munals is delivering 12-14 dozen each week. Recent cancellations have been due to COVID.

Events such as ministry appreciation breakfasts, Celebrate Your Marriage and SoupORBowl (Superbowl themed event) were canceled recently due to health concerns.

Social Events in Planning include, Lenten Lunch-Ashley will be speaking with Father Brad and is targeting a single lunch for likely the end of March.

Easter Egg Hunt- Family Life Ministry would like to plan an Easter egg hunt for Saturday, April 16. Light brunch, Easter Bunny will be there. Most events will take place outside and spread out.

Though absent, David Leis presented the following report via e-mail.

Altar Society – Eileen Segebarth, no report.

Homebound – Ashley Hayden, to be determined

Music – Kelly Groves ...

STM Adult Choir

We have also resumed our St. Thomas More Choir to sing for Sunday liturgies. There are currently approximately 25 members in the St. Thomas More Adult Choir.

Resurrection Choir

We will also resume our Resurrection Choir to sing for funeral liturgies. There is no audition or singing experience required to be a part of this important ensemble.

Cantors

We currently have 12 cantors for the English Masses, three cantors for the Spanish Masses, and four Seasonal Cantors who are in college and sing for Masses during school breaks such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and summer.

We hold cantor workshops quarterly to train and instruct cantors including liturgy guidelines and vocal technique in a group setting.

Bell Choir

The bell choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. Basic knowledge of music theory and music sight reading skills are essential in order to be a part of this ensemble.

Bell choir is coordinated by Kelly Groves and conducted by Derrick Anderson.

A professional doctoral student from MSU has been hired to play for Easter Sunday Masses.

From Lynn Baker Steve Shoulta report: We have two ladies who will be preparing for Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. There are several rites that we do during Lent to help prepare them for the sacraments. One lady has a six-year-old son who will be baptized. Another lady who began in late November will have the Rite of Welcome at some point in early Lent.

We have a new inquirer lady who comes to us from a non-Christian background. She has two sons who attend St. Mary and both are also in the Cub Scout Pack, so she has had some exposure to Catholic culture over the past three years or so. Right now, she is an inquirer in the strictest sense and we will work with her to provide the foundations of salvation history from the Old Testament forward. She will be encouraged to ask as many questions as possible. I expect that this will be good for all parties. We all need to review our foundations from time to time.

Kelly Groves reports: Sacramental Preparation

First Communion sessions were held in person on Monday, January 17 and Monday, February 7 from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. for those students who have completed First Reconciliation. The final session will be on Monday, March 14. The class will attend 6 p.m. Mass together, followed by a Q & A session with Fr. Basilio. They will be gifted with blessed scapulars. The sessions are taught in the Parish Hall by Kelly Groves who is currently pursuing a Masters degree in theology from Saint Meinrad with a focus on sacramental and liturgical theology.

Confirmation session was held on Sunday, January 16 from 2:30 p.m.- 4 p.m. The group learned what a Confirmation sponsor's role is and the important role that a sponsor will have for life. Sponsors were chosen by December and will be required to join us for sessions starting in January. (If a sponsor is not able to attend a session,

then a parent may sit in for the sponsor; however, a parent may not serve as a sponsor.)

The Confirmation candidates next session will be on Sunday, February 20 from 2:30 p.m.- 4 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The candidates were given the assignment to write a report about their chosen saint for their Confirmation. The Saint Reports are due during the February session.

We will also participate in the session on The Creed: The Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace from the Y Disciple Confirmation program from Augustine Institute. In this session we will hear about one of the most profound aspects of the Catholic faith. This is how Christ sent his Spirit to dwell in the hearts of the baptized. But who is the Holy Spirit, and how do we actively invite him to do what He was placed inside of us to do?

Monica Hayden, Director of St. Mary School System reports: We had a successful Catholic Schools Week and appreciate the parish sharing the good news about St. Mary. We have started our enrollment process and are busy giving tours to new families. Our goal is to grow the enrollment by 10-15 students.

Ashley Hayden reports Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Children's Liturgy of the Word continues to meet at the 9 a.m. Mass each week. We've steadily had 20+ children come each week. We have 13 volunteers currently on rotation to lead Children's Liturgy.

For Valentine's Day we even made little goody bags for the children that contain crayons, stickers, a Jesus Love You craft and "God's LOVE" coloring pages.

2021-2023 SYNOD:

For the first listening session of the Synod which took place in January, we sent out a constant contact with 32 people rsvp'ing to attend. The attendance was around 60-70. The second listening session will take place Tuesday, Feb. 22 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the parish hall. We will be planning for 100 to attend.

We have already sent out a constant contact email with the link to the participation guide for any parishioners who would like to preview it beforehand.

Adoration:

I received a request from some adorers who come from other parishes to send out an announcement to other parishes (St. Jerome, St. Francis de Sales, St. John) about open hour positions for Eucharistic Adoration. St. Jerome's and St. Francis de Sales replied that they were more than happy to post an announcement in their upcoming bulletins.

Updating Information Cards:

In order to keep our records up-to-date as possible, we ordered and distributed information cards during Masses over the weekend. We have so far received back 352 responses.

Family Life Ministry:

Youth 2000- St. Thomas More will not be sending a delegation to Youth 2000 this year; but, at the request of some parents we will be promoting the event and where youth can get information to attend on their own.

Miguelina Young reported as follows: - Sister Yessica continues leading the Spanish Bible study for women on Thursday at 6:30 p.m., and a men's Bible study on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. .

- Fr. Basilio and Sister Yessica have been visiting Hispanics who are ill or experiencing difficulties.

- Sister Yessica will continue to meet with the Hispanic Lector Ministry on the second Saturday of every month and with the Eucharistic Ministry every third Saturday of every month.

- During Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6 p.m. It will be primarily in Spanish, but can be bilingual if we have any English speakers in attendance. We will not have Eucharistic Adoration group on Friday evenings until after Easter.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

The council will meet again on March 21 at 6:30 p.m.