




# St. Thomas More

## Parish Council Minutes

### Monday, September 19, 2022



- I. Opening prayer 🙏 - Father Brad reflection on today's gospel
- II. Those in attendance ✅ - Joe Hobbs, Tom Clinton, Julie Turok, Connie Poat, Naomi Becker, Lynn Baker, Jeri Duong, Terry Sullivan, Holly Miller, Daniel Miller and Father Brad
- III. Those Absent ❌ - David Leis, Father Basilio, Miguelina Young
- IV. Camille Warden on Parish Picnic Meal - quick review of kitchen volunteers needed
- V. Minutes from August meeting approved 🟩 with 2-5:00pm picnic correction and Terry not Teri Sullivan
- VI. Ministry reports - see attached for further ministry report details
  - 👥 Social Concerns - Tom Clinton
    - Daughters of Isabella (From Tracy Crawford, Regent) - been very busy with helping K of C Fish Frys and donated moneys earned to 7 plus organizations and deanery churches; helped with KofC Barbecues and donated money to help St. Mary library, Hope Unlimited Gala and Red Cross; they also have fun like Bunco night, Family picnic and MAKE parties; they are sponsoring a Women's Retreat; they pray the rosary before meetings and have Mass for deceased loved ones; encourage practicing Catholic women to join
    - Jill Langston reporting - no bereavement committee at this time; Elizabeth Meals - Lori Meredith contact; Transportation to Mass program going well but only 1 person at this time
    - From Suzanne Warren regarding St. Vincent DePaul - serving McCracken County since 1937; they have a Helpline and offer food, clothing, and financial assistance to those in need; they have feed 3,389 people, we have spent \$8,966.35 on buying groceries and meat. We have given clothing to 2,374 people; assist people financially with utilities, rent, and medical bills we have spent \$158,513.61; Our budget store is a major source of our funding; . Over the past 11 months, we have received \$61,041.98 in outside donations. We recently had to cut back on the amount of financial support we offer each family, because we are seeing so many more presently; they have a wonderful store manager, 3 other part time employees and 25 volunteers; they have outgrown their space and have purchased the property next door and praying it is God's will to add to the building; we assist everyone and see Jesus in everyone ... neighbors is need

-  Spiritual Enrichment - Julie Turok
  - Lori Meredith - Tuesday Bible study added a fellowship time as well
  - Adoration is a concern many openings
  - Rosary garden - dying box woods need to be replaced
  
-  Music and Worship – Connie Poat
  - From Kelly Groves - Director and Coordinator of Music Ministries
  - Sacramental Preparation -
  - First Reconciliation/First Communion - currently 32 Communicants; First Reconciliation on December 3rd and First Communion on April 30th English and Spanish Mass
  - Confirmation - currently 25 Confirmati; Confirmation on March 26 with Bishop Medley
  - Music ministries -
  - Adult Choir - currently 24 members, group is open to ages 14 and up
  - Youth choir has begun - currently 16 singers, open to children ages 5-13
  - Resurrection Choir - The Resurrection Choir is currently available to sing for funeral liturgies.
  - Cantors - Several of our parish cantors and choir members attended a chant workshop at the newly restored Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Bowling Green. The workshop was sponsored by the Office of Music for the Diocese of Owensboro and presented by Fr. Tobias Colgan, OSB.
  - Instrumental Music -
  - Bell Choir - Basic knowledge of music theory and music sight reading skills are essential in order to be a part of this ensemble
  
-  Religious Education and Formation - Lynn Baker
  - Children's Liturgy - Mary Katz has volunteered to lead Children's liturgy and there are many volunteers to help each Sunday.
  - Sacramental Prep for Baptism - During the month of August there were 6 Baptisms.
  - Faith Formation - Ging Smith - Volunteer Catechist training occurred in August. There are 130 registered students, last year was 137. There are 28 volunteer Catechist with 2 new board members. Update Your Faith While You wait for parents while students are in class. Many events planned and . **St. Maria Faustina Kowalska is the** Faith Formation Saint for the year.
  - RCIA - Steve Shoulta - Since May we have had 5 new inquirers. This is now a year round process with no specific beginning or ending dates.
  - St. Mary's - Monica Hayden - We have about 420 students enrolled, an increase over last year. We have six new teachers who are already making a positive impact. We recently added 21 new Smart Boards. Using our EANS funds we were able to purchase new textbooks, computers for teachers and students, and provide almost all of the school supplies. Our Seniors went in a retreat to Gasper River. The new gym construction will be starting soon. Our auction is scheduled for Nov 11-12.

- 🤝 Parish Life – Jeri Duong -
- Coffee and Donuts - Mari Lurtz - we are back to having the hosts pick up the donuts at Red's Donuts. Munal's Donuts didn't work out. Checking on time when clean up should start think it is 10:45am.
- Cub Scouts - Steve Shoulta - we have recruited 13 scouts. Popcorn sales not as good due to inflation higher prices. Getting more back to normal from last year.
- Dinner for 8 - Beth Walker not had since COVID giving it one more year.
- Office volunteers - Jill Langston - have volunteers from 11am-1:00pm
- Over 50's Group: Jill Langston
- The Over 50's group doesn't have anyone in charge, but they meet the first Tuesday of every other month.
- Special Meals/Receptions: Jill Langston

We only have a few volunteers that signed up to help with this ministry. The only events we have had were Corpus Christi and Benediction.

- Celebrate Your Marriage: Jill Langston

We do not have anyone heading up Celebrate Your Marriage currently

- Couples in Christ was Lori Meredith and Kathy Willett. They have not been active in a while.

- Parish picnic was or will be covered tonight

- Grounds Committee: Jim Sanders and Robert Russell

The committee was able to complete the fertilizing, seeding, aeration, treflan and trimming the whole campus including Fathers and Sister Lucy's Home.

Second item to think about is whether our team would take on the work of spreading ice melt material over the campus sidewalks and parking areas as required - Jim can explain more detail in October when we get together again to plant the Bulbs for Easter. We would get the additional spreaders needed and keep the material in the basement as needed.

New member to the committee is Ben Thompson, welcome him.

- 💕 Family Life Ministry – Terry Sullivan
- Revamping program need ideas and many prayers very important Ministry
- Prayer champions for middle and high school youth
- Soccer day for middle school youth led by Father Basillio
- Bowling night for high school Lee by Father Basillio

- 🙌 Stewardship – Holly Miller
- No stewardship committee yet

- 🔊 Communications – Daniel Miller

- From Clayton:

Everything is going good overall. I have the livestream back up and running. We will need to start looking into a new camera. I'm using my camera as of now. Our original camera finally broke after being used so much during the last 3 years.

Social Media is going strong. Facebook and Constant contact are our best communication with the parish. I'm also doing Instagram for the students since they wanted that.

For the website I have been updated every once in a while but don't feel it reaches as many people as Facebook and constant contact.

Also work has been picking up since we are doing more event etc. So creating flyer and communicating with the parish is going great. Any feedback is welcome.

- From Jill:

Are looking to release new directory next year, but no date set. More to come...

- 💰 Administrative and Finance – Joe Hobbs
- bottom line doing great income exceeds our expenses

VII. Craig Willette - Deacon candidate presentation

VIII. Picnic discussions

- Julie - called Community Kitchen contact not sure what needs are yet
- Connie - Homemade Band Jam confirmed
- Naomi - sending emails if help is needed in Picnic area, ordered prizes, inflatables, coordinating with Camille Warden
- Lynn - using past Bingo caller and cards
- Jeri - contact Eileen to get cakes donated and some Jeri will buy
- Terry - coordinating Youth volunteers
- Holly - coordinating Adult volunteers for the games and activities
- Decided on no hayride this year, voted on keeping wine/beer garden

IX. Questions raised

- Why do we use fake flowers?
- Why do we not use Parish cantors for funeral services?
- What time does coffee and donuts shut down ... shutting down too soon?

X. Pastoral Council - meeting moved to October 10th due to Parish Fall Festival Picnic