

## **St. Thomas More**

### **Parish Council Minutes**

**January 20, 2020**

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

**Members Absent:** Frank Bosh, David Riley and Richard Vieitez

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Brad

No changes were made to the November minutes.

**Announcements:** Frank Bosh has a new job assignment and will not be able to attend future Parish Council meetings but will still give ministry reports.

**Old Business:** There was a scheduling conflict with the Discernment dates so the new dates are May 4 and May 18.

Joe Hobbs followed up on security measures. Doors will now be locked during Mass times. Fr. Brad made the announcement that the doors will be locked at 5 minutes after Mass time. You can access the keypad on the side door to get in or an Usher can let you in front door once they are locked. The front doors will be replaced soon and they will also have the keypad for entry. There will be an upcoming meeting for anyone that would like to be an Usher or to watch the doors during Mass. In that meeting, you will also learn threat recognition and what to do in an emergency situation. The main focus is to keep the Priest and Parishioners safe. Anyone interested in participating in that meeting should contact Steve DuPerrieu. ADS is coming out to install security cameras. The Sanctuary, Chapel and office area will be covered areas. The costs were approved by the finance committee.

**New Business:** Tom announced the special meals/ receptions ministry will be decorating for the first appreciation breakfast of the year on February 1. They will be hosting a reception for the Rite of Sending with the Bishop and the Parishes of our deanery on February 23. There has not been a picnic planning meeting yet, but the picnic is scheduled for Sunday, October 25. There is some discussion of changing the start time for the picnic to earlier in the day. We would have to do a bilingual Mass for the Hispanic Ministry at the 11:00 Mass, then the picnic would start immediately after. The Scouts reported that with reduced popcorn sales and increased registration fees, it reduced their operating funds by about \$1700 from this time last year. Fortunately, there was a good cushion from 2018 popcorn sales. There are now 21 registered scouts. Scout Sunday will be at the 11:00 Mass on February 9. This year marks a milestone of 110 years of Boy Scouts in America. It also marks the 11th consecutive Scout Sunday Mass. The Cub Pack will have a luncheon in the Parish Hall providing chili, soups and hot dogs. There will also be a short presentation from a local karate instructor to complete some

of their rank requirements. The scouting birthday celebration will continue on February 11 as they have their annual blue and gold banquet. They will have some scouts with presentations of their rank achievements. The Pinewood Derby is set for March 14 in the Parish Hall. Howard Grief with Mt. Carmel cemetery reported that the new Garden of Angels is about 75% complete. The old Garden of Angels is about 30% complete. They hope to have all completed by May.

Kathy reported that the Celebrate your Marriage dinner and dance is set for February 8. Childcare will be provided. Naomi suggested a married couple retreat prior to dinner and dance for the upcoming year.

Jeff reported for the first six months of the financial year (7-1-19 to 12-31-19), collections have exceeded expenditures resulting in a surplus. The stained glass project is moving slowly, primarily because of deciding which windows will be replaced and what colors and themes would look best in Our Sanctuary. The outside Stations of the Cross continue to move forward slowly. The work of Sister Lucy's home has mainly been completed at a cost just over \$50,000. New projects include efforts to improve security such as new signage, security cameras and the replacement of front doors with security coded locks. They are also in the process of upgrading and replacing the lighting in the Sanctuary. New Stations of the Cross for the Chapel are being funded by individual donors.

Theresa announced that Cathy Trussell has resigned from Bereavement. Melisa is working on finding a new coordinator. Elizabeth meals are not preparing any meals at this time. The funeral meals committee has said that Parish Hall has been unkempt. After people use the Hall and kitchen area they are not cleaning it properly. Eileen is now working and will not be available as she always was but will still get volunteers to work funeral meals when she is not available. We are still in need of people to help with transportation.

Miguelina announced that Sister Sanchez went to Mexico for health reasons. They are not for sure if and when she will return. They need help with someone to teach bible study. They are working on getting another Sister from Mexico but it is a time consuming process.

Naomi announced that the Family Life Ministry is looking for ways to get teenage youth involved with the Ministry and Second Sunday Mass. Lots of teens attend Mass but do not attend youth meetings. They are working on having a bible study for parents while kids are at youth meetings.

Joe reported that rotation is coming up in June for the new Stewardship Council. The SC term is also three years. The mission statement of the Council is "*To encourage Parishioners to grow together as Disciples of Christ through our Catholic Faith*". They will be having a Ministry appreciation breakfast on February 1.

They will implement coffee and donuts and wine and cheese greeters. There will be a meeting with the welcome committee to determine the best way to organize. Andrew Tritle volunteered to coordinate this addition.

There will also be a Ministry leader breakfast. Stephanie Sheppard and Krista Lea volunteered to lead this project. A date has not yet been set.

Kelly Groves is working on adding a youth member to the Stewardship Council.

There was a Parish wide Christmas study. The final session is January 16. There is an Exodus 90 spiritual exercise for men. They meet at 8:30pm on Sunday evenings.

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Brad

The next meeting will be February 17, 2020 in the Sacred Heart Room.