

St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Minutes

August 22, 2017 Meeting

Members Present: Fr. Hunke, Liz Fox, Monica Mora-Handlos, Kelly Sobetski, Travis Washington, Abby Skradski, Joe Pesek and Connie Gewinner

Members Absent: Betty Piskorski and Emily Boisseree

Guest: Sean McMahon from the Steier Group

Opening Prayer: Fr. Hunke

OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Campaign: Our guest was Sean McMahon. He gave us a brief background on himself and on the Steier Group whom he represents. The Steier Group is a National Catholic Fundraising Firm. He explained a Capital Campaign; all the planning and preparation that goes into it. Is it indeed feasible? He stated that STM is wonderfully positioned to have a Capital Campaign - we have a very doable set-up. Some of the items he went over with us were:

- a) Five Week Planning Study, a Feasibility study – services needed to implement a campaign. For four weeks we would have one person from the Steier Group here on site to keep us on track with the study. One hundred families from the parish would be selected to meet with the representative to go over the needs for which the campaign is requested. How much will each family be willing to pledge to the campaign over a 3 year period? Surveys will be mailed out to the remaining families in the parish. We want everyone's input. Currently we have around 1200 families. The things we are planning to do are visibly needed; lighting, carpeting, bathroom remodeling and some heating and cooling issues, as well as possible modifications of the Divine Mercy Shrine and the cry room.
- b) Our pluses are: STM parishioners have a lot of pride in the parish, we have no debt and we have good stewardship activity.
- c) The Feasibility Study would begin late October/early November. We hope to launch the campaign in January/February of 2018. It can last 14-16 weeks. The timeframe is good since we have no debt. Fr. Hunke had a preliminary meeting with the Leo Daly firm. The cost could run from \$450,000 to \$1,000,000.
- d) We need to be pro-active with our worship space. The question is: What is best overall for our parish?

Parish Organizational Fair: It was decided that Joe Pesek would be the point of contact for organizing and scheduling of the parish groups to highlight their ministries in back of church.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **School News:** On August 21, 2017 the seventh and eighth grades from all five consortium schools boarded buses to Tecumseh, NE to view the eclipse in its totality.

Abby Skradski reported the first Home & School Meeting went well having the largest group ever in attendance. This year St. Thomas More School's enrollment is 480. Abby asked Fr. if we could add something special during Mass on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe to recognize our growing Hispanic population. One idea was to read the beautiful story of Juan Diego. Fr. agreed. Abby will work with Mr. Davis on this.

- 2) **ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL:** Last year's appeal was \$47,000. This year it is \$42,000. The Ignite the Faith campaign is coming to a close. The timing is right for a Capital Campaign.

- 3) **BIBLE STUDY:** Connie Gewinner was in contact with Deacon Tom Burton from Holy Cross. He gave her all the information on the Bible Study as well as a flyer for the bulletin. The study will be on "Moses & The Torah." It will begin the Monday, Sept. 18th at 6:30pm and on Thursday, Sept. 21nd at 9am. Fr. agreed to a bulletin announcement as well as a flyer on the weekend of Sept. 2/3 to promote it. Connie will take care of this.

Our next meeting will take place Tuesday, Sept. 12 in the parish office. Sr. Pauline Swandt, our new Pastoral Assistant, will be our guest.

Closing prayer: Fr. Hunke

Respectfully submitted by Connie Gewinner