

## St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Minutes for February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Members Present:** Fr. Frank Baumert, Betty Piskorski, Joe Pesek, Barb Boettger, Travis Washington, Karen Fogarty, Connie Gewinner

**Members Absent:** Abby Skradski, Liz Fox, Monica Mora-Handlos

**Fr. opened the meeting with prayer.**

### OLD BUSINESS

**NEW PARISH HALL/GYM:** Still in the planning stage. We went over some of our options and possibilities; remodeling the current gym into 2 – 4 new classrooms, as well as a receptionist area. We are not sure what all this will entail.

School families are excited about the new gym.

Brings STM up to date - a more viable space for the future.

The necessary space will be more welcoming.

The new gym would be built south of the school.

Discussion was held on the cost – what accounts will be used to fund this project?

Younger school families are more in favor of it.

All funds raised from the More Di Gras will go toward plans for these upgrades. We need to find out just what is feasible.

### GAME ON:

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> Holy Ghost is putting a “Game On” at St. John Vianney. Travis asked if members of the council would like to go see what it is all about. If you are planning on going please let Travis know.

A “Game On” is planned for STM on May 2, 2020 to be held at the DAV. Cost is \$40 per person, which includes a buffet before the game, drinks. It is a “grown up night.” This one is not set up for children. There may be one designed for kids in the future.

**PARISH DINNER:** Went OK. It was a change from the original menu of chicken, ham or turkey. Fr. didn't have figures on it yet.

### NEW BUSINESS

**JOINT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING STM – HOLY CROSS – ST. JOAN OF ARC:** Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at SJA at 7:00pm. Fr. Jeffrey Lorig will be the president. Fr. Frank asked the Parish Council, our 2 deacons and 2 trustees to attend.

Fr. Lorig will go over the plans. Fr. Salanitro and Fr Benkowski will not be retiring this June but are planning for June of 2021.

This is a reality – all but a done deal.

Fr. Lorig will be the senior pastor this first year with the current pastors in place. He will then get a feel for the 3 parishes; each one as it currently operates before the retirements in 2021.

Fr. Frank said we should have all of our questions answered before we leave the meeting.

We went over some questions that would be advantageous to ask Fr. Lorig:

**What are the plans now?  
Are there alternatives to these plans?  
What was the reasoning and rationale behind it?  
How definite are these plans?  
Who is going to be the senior pastor?  
How will this work?  
When will it take place?  
How are retirements going to work?  
Is this going to be a transition or a sudden jolt?  
Why Our Lady of Lourdes is not involved?  
How will this help or benefit each of the parishes?  
Having Fr. Lorig as pastor - is this going to be a financial burden on the three parishes?  
How are the school weekday Masses going to be scheduled?  
We need to know our options. What is our next step?**

**There will be 6 Masses each weekend. Each parish will have two weekend Masses.  
Each parish will have to pick up the cost of our “supply” priests.  
There will be one bulletin for the three parishes. The individual information for each parish will be included.**

**Fr. Frank gave us multiple positive examples he has worked through in some of his past assignments. He comes with experience in this area. Working together - bringing our strengths to each other is the positive outcome that will come out of all this change.**

**Fr. also said going to a church that is totally full is rejuvenating. This brings more energy to the Mass.**

**It is necessary to come to this meeting with any questions you would like answered.**

**BIBLE STUDY: The first class will be Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:10a.m. in the church. About 50 – 60 parishioners have expressed interest in attending. Fr. said you can follow along at home if you can’t attend.**

**THEOLOGY THURSDAY: Learning more about your Catholic Faith. Bishop Robert Barron video series explaining the Catholic Mass in great detail. Thursdays 6 – 8pm. A meal will be shared.**

**LENTEN MISSION: Fr. Frank will be our speaker for STM Parish Mission to be held March 22, 23 & 24.**

**The subject will be “Everything you wanted to know about the Kingdom but were afraid to ask.”**

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 at 7:00pm.**

**Fr. closed the meeting with prayer.**

***Respectfully Submitted,  
Connie Gewinner***

