

St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Minutes for October 29, 2019

Members Present: Fr Frank Baumert, Betty Piskorski, Liz Fox, Monica Mora-Handlos, Abby Skradski, Joe Pesek, Barb Boettger, Connie Gewinner

Members Absent: Karen Fogarty, Travis Washington

Guests: Minh Trahn

Fr. opened the meeting with prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON ROOFING PROJECT: It's getting there. Moving along nicely. Contour looks good.

WOMAN'S BATHROOM: Drains are clear. A snake was run in both directions. A camera was put down the pipes. Pipes are in good shape. Thought was maybe the pipes were clogged. Next thing is to try a higher volume flush. It's a work in progress.

PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: The Parish Council is on for organizing this event.

NEW BUSINESS

MORE DI GRAS: Fr announced we have new chairpersons who have new hopes and plans for this event. They have a potential date. They want to meet with the Parish Council.

CALENDAR CLUB: This will be handled same as in the past. Calendars will be sold before and after weekend Masses by the Council members beginning the weekend of November 16/17 and will continue until the end of December (calendars will not be sold before the 8:00 Sunday Mass.) Calendars may be purchased at the Scrip table Nov. 2/3 and Nov. 9/10. We will get our calendars/money bag from the Scrip salesperson.

This fund raiser has fallen down in sales. Thoughts – it may be due to declining Mass attendance. We could do a better job of promotion.

Calendar Club Sales for Council Members:

Nov. 16/17 Sat. 5:00pm Betty/Karen, Sunday 8:00am Joe/Connie, 10:30am Liz Fox

Nov. 23/24 Sat. 5:00pm Betty/Karen, Sunday 8:00am Barb Boettger, 10:30am Liz Fox

Nov. 30/1st Sat. 5:00pm Betty/Karen, Sunday 8:00am Joe/Connie, 10:30am _____

Dec. 7/8 Sat. 5:00pm Betty/Karen, Sunday 8:00am Barb Boettger, 10:30am Abby Skradski

Dec. 14/15 Sat. 5:00pm Karen/Betty, Sunday 8:00am Connie/Joe, 10:30 Liz Fox

Dec. 21/22 Sat. 5:00pm Karen/Betty, Sunday 8:00am Barb Boettger, 10:30am Abby Skradski

Dec. 28/29 Sat. 5:00pm Karen/Betty, Sunday 8:00am Connie/Joe, 10:30am Liz Fox

MEMORIAL MONEY: Families whose loved ones have passed and would like to donate memorial money for their loved ones to be remembered, have asked Fr Frank for ideas of specific items or needs the church may have. Fr asked the council for some ideas. So many things have already been done during our recent renovation. These would be some items in addition to the Endowment Fund:

Flower gardens and care

Christmas trees and decorations

Interactive Nativity Scene – meant for children to interact with. It will be placed in back of church or in the cry room.

Easter Candle Stand

School Scholarships in addition to the Educational Endowment.

The council will look at the Parish Survey to see if any suggestions are highlighted in there.

PRIESTS DEANERY MEETING WITH THE ARCHBISHOP: In the next 5 years 6 priests will be retired from 17 parishes. Fr Jeffrey Lorig, director of pastoral services for the archdiocese, is now working with parishes and deaneries as they assess demographic trends, facilities, funding, staffing and the organizational structures needed to achieve the archdiocese's pastoral vision and priorities while adjusting to the declining number of priests and lay faithful.

Due to the decline in priests, changes will need to be made.

68106 - In our zip code we currently have the lowest percentage of people under 18 and the lowest Latino population in our deanery.

68107 -Has the highest population under the age of 18 as well as the highest Latino population.

68108 -Has the highest poverty level.

All parishes are experiencing declining attendance at weekend Masses. We would like a solution before Christmas.

Fr Lorig will meet with Fr Frank next week. They are working with deadlines for solutions.

Fr Frank spoke candidly with the council on future outcome of our parish. He spoke of what is happening in rural areas. Fr Lorig will be looking at the situation in this area. We have a thriving school which is a benefit to us but declining Mass attendance. Fr Frank says, "We need our school Catholics to become Parish Catholics."

PARISH MISSION: Fr asked whether we had a Parish Mission in past years. He may do one during Lent this year. It will be for three nights in conjunction with our Communal Penance Service.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

Fr closed the meeting in prayer.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Gewinner*

