St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Agenda

May 14, 2020 via zoom.us

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm; General Meeting

Call to Order: 6.32 pm

Members in Attendance: Father Chuck Adam, Annalee Bartels, Pam Bourjaily, Tracy Clapp, Dimy, Doresca, Ann Elsbecker, Karen Hanson, Ann Houlahan, Spencer Knight, Mick Langguth, Keith Less, Barb Lopez, Leigha Rios, Shirley Schneider, Norma Ward and Katie Schneider as a guest.

Opening Prayer – let's use the prayer from Bishop Zinkula that he has asked the priests to add to the Good Friday Prayer

Almighty ever-living God, heal those who are ill, comfort those who mourn,

give solace to all who are afraid and alone, and protect those who are providing medical care.

Make us instruments of your peace among our brothers and sisters.

In your mercy, alleviate our fears and eliminate this scourge,

so that we may come together again to give you praise and to build your Kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1. Items of Business
   1. Katie presented the 2020-2021 St. Thomas More budget that was approved by Finance Council on May 13. Pastoral Council members discussed and Katie was going to get back to the group with additional information. Please send email to Katie if you have other questions.
2. Review and approval of the amended April 2, 2020 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Comments from Father Chuck Adam and Commission members:
   1. Growing More in Faith Campaign Update: Father reported that the campaign is on hold for now.
   2. Father offered a kudos for the Knights of Columbus in collecting donations for the Food Pantry in the parking lot of the church the last two weekends.
   3. St. Thomas More will have a seminarian assigned for the summer. He will be a 1st year theologian at Chicago Mundelein Seminary. His name is Dane Dickinson. He will start Tuesday, May 26, 2020.
   4. The group had questions and comments about parking lot.
   5. Shirley shared information from the Faith Formation commission meeting. Norma will send report via email to members.
4. Iowa Bishops’ Press Release on Church Status 4-28-2020 (attached to email) and our reactions: <https://davenportdiocese.org/news/iowa-bishops-press-release-on-church-status-4-28-2020>

Father summarized the Bishop’s message. Members discussed what the capacity of the church would be with social distancing. Estimation: decrease by one third or perhaps 25% of 500, so excluding the spacing for families that sit together, we would have to have 3 chairs in between “member units”. Note that this estimation does not include the seating in the lower level.

1. Other Business:
   1. News from Regina Board of Education (BOE) (Janan Rustan): -REGINA online school is going great. The teachers and administrators have done a wonderful job!   
      -Alan Opheim has retired. We r looking to fill in the gap by hiring a business manager at this time. Administrators have added responsibilities at this time.   
      -Construction is ahead of schedule.   
      -Meitler is making their final recommendations for assisting REGINA with a strategic plan this Month.
   2. Ann E.: how do we collect the accomplishments of the Pastoral Council 2019-2020? She asked that the various commissions representatives send their accomplishments to Ann E. via email.
   3. Pastoral Council Election—Current list of Candidates: Keith Feldmann, Karen Grajczyk, Matt Lopez and Leigha Rios. Sam Aitchinson is replacing Annalee Bartels; Spencer Knight has agreed to a 2nd one-year term as a youth representative and Jason Wagner as the Regina Board of Education representative.
   4. Proposal was made and approved to appoint the current list of Pastoral Council candidates for a three-year term, effective July 1, 2020 and invite them to our June transition meeting. We will not have Pastoral Council Elections this spring, 2020. This is line with what other parishes are doing and what works best for the exiting members of our Council.
   5. Pam request the members to please think about officer positions and send your name to Pam (who is going to be the next president of the 2020-2021 Pastoral Council) or Father Chuck prior to our June Transition meeting. Editorial note from Norma: If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please be sure to check with them first. 😊
   6. Status of parish pictorial directory—Barb will ask Judy Frits (Church Life/Home Life) and report back to the Council.
   7. Father is going to start baptisms on Saturday with only parents and godparents attending. Mary Paulson has been coordinating this sacrament.
2. Next Parish Council Meeting: June 11, 2020. (Also tentative New Member Orientation)
3. Meeting adjourned: 7:17 pm.
4. Father Chuck prayed the closing “Prayer for a Pandemic”

May we who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors, remember those most vulnerable

May we who have the luxury from working from home, remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close, remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips, remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market, remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home, remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen