**St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

September 12, 2019

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm; General Meeting

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Members in Attendance: Fr Adam, Annalee Bartels, Pam Bourjaily, Ann Elsbecker, Karen Hanson, Ann Houlahan, Spencer Knight, Barb Lopez, Leigha Rios, Shirley Schneider, and Norma Ward.

Members Excused: Tracy Clapp, Dimy Doresca, Mick Langguth, and Keith Less.

Members Absent: None

Opening Prayer - Growing More in Faith” Campaign

God our Father, grant success to the “Growing More in Faith” campaign. The psalmist tells us, “If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the builders’ labor.” Help us to remember that you are source and strength for all we do.

Lord Jesus our Savior, your apostle Paul praised the Thessalonians because their faith was growing more and more and their love for one another was increasing. Bless the St. Thomas More Parish Community as we work to open our hearts and expand our worship space for the future growth of our parish.

Holy Spirit inspires us by the generous example of those from previous generations who have passed the faith onto us. Challenge us by the sacrifice of our patron, Saint Thomas More, teacher and martyr. Inflame us with your love so we may grow more and more into a community that serves you and grows in love for one another.

We pray O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you who live and reign forever and ever.  Amen.

1. Items of Business
2. August 8, 2019 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes were approved as amended.

1. Comments from Father Chuck Adam:
2. Father Adam noted to the members that the Multi-Purpose room was getting busier in the fall with RE classes, commission meetings and Bible studies. Please plan ahead to check the schedule with Carla if you need to schedule a meeting location.
3. Coffee and donuts are returning this weekend with Kim and Karyl McCarty as the new organizers.
4. Father Adam updated the members on last year’s monies returned from the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA): approximately $38,500. There will be an additional opportunity to contribute (via pledge envelopes) after communion on the weekend of September 21/22, 2019.
5. The “new parking lot project” is waiting for approval from the Coralville City Council for the location of the handicap parking spaces. Next step involves put the bid out to contractors. The hope is that we will be able to use the “new parking lot” for masses by Christmas.
6. Father provided a brief update on the “Growing More in Faith Campaign”. Next steps involve sending letters to all parish members.
7. Items from Pastoral Council Members:
   1. Recap of the Stewardship Fair—Father Adam thought there was a good number at both the morning masses and he thanked all those who manned the tables and the youth members who were assisting with popcorn, etc.
   2. The bouncy castle and slide were deemed a great success!
   3. Ideas for next Stewardship from the members:
8. Combine with a meal with the Knights of Columbus.
9. If we do have poor weather, perhaps renting a large tent or move to the Narthex rather than to the lower level.
10. Carla is very busy with compiling the information from the Stewardship forms—she is also contacting the appropriate commission chairs when there are members indicating their interest.
11. Old Business/Reports and Commission Meeting Minutes:
    1. Father outlined some future fund raisers for the NCYC expenses.
12. September 21—parish picnic.
13. October 20 — pancake breakfast.
    1. Shirley Schneider on behalf of the Faith Formation Commission provided totals of the Diocesan program called “Step Out to Serve”. Parishes from the Diocese submitted 9,919 hours of service, of which 279 were youth and 163 were adults. St. Thomas More youth/adult volunteerism from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 2019 was 101 youth and 63 adults for a total of 3,088 service hours.
    2. Shirley also reported that Religious Education started September 15/16. Total number of students will be available at next month’s meeting. Shannon is still looking for catechists so spread the word.
    3. Father added that Right of Christian Initiation of Adults is starting in October.
    4. Welcome Committee meeting is finalizing the template for volunteers to use when calling/following up with new members.
    5. Barb Lopez distributed a Stewardship Prayer from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church they visited during their vacation in Kentucky. She is going to seek approval to use the prayer from the church. Members thought it would be the Worship and Spirituality commission that would review the prayer and consider how it could be incorporated at St. Thomas More. If approved as presented to use during STM Masses, she will seek approval from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.
14. New Business:
    1. Growing More in Faith Campaign Updates—rescheduled to next month.
15. Next Parish Council Meeting: October 10, 2019 at 6:30 pm.
16. Closing Prayer: Prayer from St. Thomas More read by Ann Elsbecker.