St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2020

6:30-7:30 pm General Meeting

Members in Attendance: Fr. Chuck Adam, Pam Bourjaily, Ann Elsbecker, Karen Hanson, Ann Houlahan, Spencer Knight, Mick Langguth, Keith Less, Barb Lopez, Shirley Schneider, and Norma Ward.

Members Excused: Dimy Doresca, Tracy Clapp, and Leigha Rios.

Members Absent: Annalee Bartels.

**Call to order**: 6:32 pm

**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 does the builder’s 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, inspire us by the generous example of those from previous generations who have passed the faith on to 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**: Approval of the November 14, 2019 Pastoral Council meeting minutes with the omission on pg. 2, item D.
2. **Comments from Father Chuck:** Thanks to Keith and Aaron for helping with parking at the 4pm Christmas mass. Father reported there were 1160 in attendance. Grounds crew is waiting for the ground to get hard so they can drive on the ground to complete the tree removal. Bishop Zinkula takes the following information to the Pope in Rome. December 31, 2019 sacramental summary of the St. Thomas More parish was shared with the members:
   1. 1377 households,
   2. 118 total new Catholics,
   3. 94 infant baptisms (includes UIHC and STM sites),
   4. 95 First Communions,
   5. 88 Confirmations (includes high school and adult)
   6. 12 marriages, and
   7. 13 funerals.
3. **Mission Statement Revision Update**. Pam submitted a draft mission statement from the Worship and Spirituality Commission. Members discussed and voted to unanimously approve.

*St. Thomas More Parish strives to be a Parish for All Seasons. We are committed to being an inclusive parish, to help ALL, in whatever season of life, to grow closer to God through engaging liturgies, support of family life, strong religious education and a keen awareness of social justice.*

1. **Growing More in Faith Campaign Update**—Father Chuck reported that 46% of the households have contributed to the campaign, but that leaves about 1/3 of our households that are not contacted. Two more “phone-a-thons” will be scheduled. The goal is for every household to be contacted. In addition, we need to hire a liturgical consultant to educate the parish and the Pastoral Council about next steps. Current chart (as of Jan 9) indicates we have $1.4 million (and we need $4.2 million to start). Keith Less provided some fund raising ideas from the Knights of Columbus, but Father asked that they would hold off until everyone in the parish has been contacted.
2. **Brainstorming**—where would we like to go as a Council in 2020?
   1. Pam suggested we need to emphasize our “welcoming” activities. And have more PC members involved with the welcome activities as well as the dates of the Welcome Meals.
      1. Saturday January 25th after 5:15
      2. Sunday April 26th after 11:00
      3. Sunday July 26th after 8:30
      4. Sunday October 25th after 11:00
   2. The idea of a “Parish Picnic” and possible dates were discussed. Church Life/Family Life Commission was going to contact Maricarla to check on viability of Sunday, May 31 or June 7 as a possible date. Father noted May 31 is Pentecost Sunday and that June 7 would be a better date. Father proposed to center the parish picnic on a “Talent Show” or a youth “band” in lieu of a “Musical” to give Judy the option if she wasn’t planning on a musical this spring. Keith suggested getting all the commissions involved.
   3. Brief discussion about the *Catholic Messenger* and the need for households to pay for the subscription.
   4. Please save the April 9 date for Holy Thursday when the Pastoral Council members wash the feet of the parish.
   5. The task of getting a speaker for next year was given to the Faith Formation commission.
   6. Suggested date for Pastoral Council Elections is May 2/3, 2020. Norma will confirm with Janet Steenlage of Worship and Spirituality and ask Maricarla to put it on the parish calendar.
3. **Items from Pastoral Council members:** see previous
4. **Commission Meeting Minutes/Reports**:
   1. Church and Family Life
   2. Faith Formation
   3. Regina BOE
   4. Social Action
   5. Welcome Committee
   6. Worship and Spirituality
5. **Other Business:** none
6. **Next Meeting—February 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm.**
7. **Closing Prayer**—Book is “Out of the Ordinary” By Joyce Rupp: prayer:“ Standing At The Gates of The New Year”, read by Ann E.
8. **Motion to Adjourn:** 7:23 pm