

St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Meeting

August 10, 2017; 7:00 pm Final

1903 Call to Order

Members in Attendance: Father Chuck Adam, Pam Bourjaily, Tracy Clapp, Ann Elsbecker, Ann Houlahan, Keith Less, Bill Mausser, Cathy Nepola, Larry Posey, Leigha Rios, Kim Schmitz, Norma Ward,

Members Excused: Grace Christopher, Charles Heine

Members Absent: Riley Brunk

Guest: Shannon Duffy, Judy Duncan

A. Sunday Scripture reading and prayer provided by Norma Ward

B. Review of June 1, 2017 meeting – The following changes were recommended:

Pam asked for clarity on the action item from Tom's Persoon's presentation – "We may be the only bible people extending an invitation of involvement." Therefore, we as a council need to develop our definition of Evangelization then have each of our commissions review and update their mission statements to reflect our new vision.

Motion for approval by Pam, seconded by Leigha to accept council minutes with future amendment being identified by Pam. Vote, all in favor, no nays, and motion carries.

Announcements

Norma shared a thank you card from Bishop Zinkula thanking us for attendance and our gift of wine with a special label with STM address on it that also included STM mission statement. Special thanks to Katie Schneider for putting this gift together. It was unique.

C. Meeting Business

1. Introduction of all Pastoral Council members

Discussion: Round table introductions occurred with each member answering the following question - "Why did you want to serve on the Pastoral Council?" It was observed based on our responses that overall, we each had a similar want to serve because we all envision something more for the future of STM. Also many members expressed wanting to "give back" to STM.

Action: Welcome past and new members. Until we all learn each of our names, Norma will bring name tags for use at each of our meetings. **(closed)**

2. Calendar for Pastoral Council meeting 2017-2018

Discussion: Norma shared the 2017-2018 Pastoral Council meeting dates with the council. There were no major conflicts identified with meeting the second Thursday of each month at 7 PM.

Action: Informational **(closed)**

3. Sunday Scripture and prayer assignments.

Discussion: Norma passed around the Sunday Scripture and prayer assignments for 2017 – 2018.

Action: Informational **(closed)**

4. How to access Sunday Scriptural readings

Discussion: Norma shared that we can go to United States Conference of Catholic Bishops www.usccb.org/bible/reading. You will select the date from the calendar and the First reading and Gospel will come up to use.

Action: Informational. If questions, please send an email to Norma. Next month's reading will be provided by Keith. **(closed)**

5. Religious Education Director introduction and presentation; Shannon Duffy.

Discussion: Shannon Duffy introduced himself then shared an overview with a time line of his activity since joining STM. Council reviewed and asked questions related to this information.

He then reviewed his potential goals for 2017 – 2018, which centered mainly on getting to know people and roles. He hopes, based on his observations, to make positive constructive changes to the Faith Formation program. He envisions branching out to young adults and middle aged adults. Norma will provide both Shannon and Fr. Adam with STM age demographic information obtained this past year. We hope this would be a great starting point in identifying our community's unmet potential as it relates to Faith Formation as this has been an identified need from the council during this past year.

Fr. Adam asked how many commissions presently serve STM. Norma shared the information and will forward to both Shannon and Fr Adam additional information along with our Mission, and Bylaws for Pastoral Council.

Action: Informational. We look forward to future collaborations with Shannon as we develop our future. **(closed)**

6. **Fragrance request.**

Discussion: A parishioner approached Norma requesting assistance in controlling the use of perfumes and after shave fragrance during Mass. This individual has a severe reaction to certain scents and wanted to know what might be done.

Council discussed and although we can post and/or publish in the bulletin or in signage a request to refrain from the use of excessive fragrances, the elimination of this problem might not be possible. We might suggest that this individual sit close to the in floor air/heat registers in order to minimize the scent though improved air circulation. Although this is clearly identified, we might assist this individual in locating these areas within our church and then communicate this information to other parishioners that might be affected with a similar problem.

Action: Norma will talk with this individual to see if a compromise might be identified. **(open)**

7. **Opportunity for PC members to upload photo/names to STM website**

Discussion: During past council meetings as a way to increase visibility of our members, it was suggested that we obtain and upload Council member pictures to our website as well as possibly develop a photo board for Narthex display. It continues to be the consensus of the group that this is a positive thing to do.

Action: Norma will work to get the picture process started before our monthly meetings. She will email to let members know when it is their turn for photos. **(open)**

8. **Spotlight Sunday Liaisons Request**

Discussion: Norma asked Council members to please ask their commissions to be sure to have a date in mind for their "Spotlight Sunday" coming up this fall to recruit new members. This also involves the development of a "Mission Statement" for those that haven't done so in 2016-2017. Please use the Social Action/Social Justice commission goal as a great example.

Action: Informational **(closed)**

9. **Summer Travel Bulletins**

Discussion: Norma had requested that if council members travel this summer to please pick up local bulletins so we might assess how other

parishes present and publish information. Several members brought back bulletins for review. Some had information that was presented very well. Norma will filter through the bulletins and report back information.

Action: Informational for now. We will revisit when appropriate. **(closed)**

D Reports – provided by email

1. Church/Family Life Meeting—no reports for summer 2017
2. Finance Council Report—FY18 budget presented and approved at 6/1/17 meeting
3. Regina BOE Update
Persisted questions surrounding Regina Council attendance and the limited information provided in the report. Norma shared that the Regina representatives although elected by popular vote are not voting members of Parish Council; therefore they are not required to attend.
4. Religious Education—live presentation by Shannon Duffy
5. Social Justice/Action Meeting Minutes for June 4 and July 9, 2017
6. Worship and Spirituality Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2017
7. Youth Ministry Report—Michelle Montgomery is going to provide us a report at the next meeting in order to include information from their Kentucky trip!

Next Month

Please review June 1 meeting minutes and discuss our long term and short term goals for 2017-2018. Ideas may include:

1. Welcome Team—how do we define evangelization?
2. Greater visibility of Pastoral Council members—own our membership.
3. How do we strengthen the communication between/among commissions and parish office staff?
4. Sunday Scripture reading and prayer assignment for next meeting, September 14, 2017 is Keith Less.

D. Closing Prayer—Norma provided stewardship prayer (handout)