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

**January 10, 2019 7:00 PM, Final**

7:00 PM Call to Order

**Members in Attendance**: Father Chuck Adam, Pam Bourjaily, Tracy Clapp, Ann Elsbecker, Ann Houlahan, Keith Less, Bill Mausser, Leigha Rios, Kim Schmitz, Shirley Schneider, Norma Ward

**Members Excused**: Grace Christopher, Dimy Doresca, Marijke Nielsen, Tony Ringgold

**Members Absent**: None

**Guests**: None

**A.**  **Opening Prayer** -

**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 inspire 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.**

**B. Items of Business**

**1. Approval of November 8, 2018 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes** - Motion to approve minutes by Leigha Rios and seconded by Keith Less. Vote all in favor, no nays and motion carries.

**2. Holy Thursday-April 18-Foot Washing during Holy Week**

**C. Comments from Fr. Chuck Adam**

**1. Christmas Gift-** Fr. Chuck expressed his gratitude for the Christmas gift from members of the Finance Council and Pastoral Council. It is a small token of our appreciation to him for all that he does Above and Beyond for our parish!

**2.** **Growing Parish-** Our parish continues to expand. Recent census for 2018 shows an increase of 260 people (through baptism and new families). There were 95 new families which is an average of 8 new families per month. December 2017 census showed 1185 families and December 2018 census lists 1280 families. There were 6 weddings in 2018 (same as 2017) and 9 funerals in 2018 (6 funerals in 2017). This definitely points to the importance of the capital campaign for the church expansion.

**3. Adult Sacramental Preparation-**There will be 6 newly baptized adults who will be received into the church for full reception on Sunday, Jan 13 at the 830 Mass. This is the culmination of a new program with Shannon Duffy, director of Religious Education and Fr. Chuck.

**4. Expansion Capital Campaign-** We have received close to $1.5 million in pledges thus far for the Expansion Capital Campaign- Growing *More* in Faith. There have been many nice receptions in parishioner homes and also at the church. These have included a presentation of the expansion, the video, and time for discussion and questions. The added benefit was the chance to get to talk to other parishioners. The parish may decide to extend the number of receptions if it is felt to be beneficial. All are encouraged to attend one of these information receptions.

**5. Annual Diocesan Appeal-** We are $38,000 over the goal in terms of pledges. This will continue to be collected through August 31, 2019. Everything collected over the goal amount will be directly designated to STM.

**6. Closing in on Retiring the Mortgage-** Only $172,000 remains on the mortgage. It is hoped to retire the mortgage in around 6 months. There was discussion of a possible parish wide mortgage burning party.

**7. Vision 20/20 Listening Session-** Around 35-40 parishioners attended the Listening Session with the diocese. Fr. Chuck said that there was good information given. The diocese will compile all the information from all the parishes and present at Pentecost 2019.

**D. Items from Pastoral Council Members**

**1. Approval of Stewardship Form and possible Stewardship Fair-Fall 2019-Bill/Norma-** A few small changes were made to the Stewardship form (Time, Talent and Treasure form). Our newest ministry, the Young Adult Ministry, was also added to the form. Ann Houlahan motioned to approve the final Stewardship form and it was seconded by Norma. The next step is for the form to be sent to the printer.

**2.**  **Welcome Committee-Leigha-** The newly formed Welcome Committee had its first meeting on December 9. Three new members have joined the committee and 3 meetings (Jan 27, March 24 and May 26) have been scheduled. The vision of the ministry is to “connect” with our members, attract newcomers with GREETERS and retain them with WELCOME MINISTERS. We can then integrate them into the parish family by expanding as part of the stewardship opportunity. What other churches do to welcome new members was discussed at the Welcome Committee meeting in December. In light of the Situational Awareness talk in December, if children are used as greeters, they would need to be directly supervised by an adult.

**3.**  **Review of Pastoral Council Election Process-Norma and Kim-DATE FOR ELECTION IS MAY 4-5 WEEKEND-approved by Worship and Spirituality**

**Norma volunteered to be PC member chair**

**Pastoral Council members whose term expires May 2018:**

**Pam Bourjaily**

**Tony Ringgold is finishing Larry Posey’s term**

**Kim Schmitz**

**Bill Mausser**

**Grace Christopher (Marijke has just served one term but is eligible by By Laws to serve a 2nd term should she agree)**

**Chad Hageman (Regina BOE-either talk to Fr. Chuck about serving another term or Fr. Chuck can appoint a new BOE member in discussion with the Regina BOE)**

Norma presented a very detailed timeline of the election process including the recruitment and nomination phase, dissemination of information through bulletin announcements and website. The election weekend will be May 4-5. We discussed the allowing of absentee ballots provided they are returned to the parish office before the election weekend.

**4.**  **Catholic Worker House Meal being served by STM Pastoral Council -Feb 10 -Serving time is noon to 4 PM-**Kim discussed that this would be meal planning for 60 guests (last year it was for 30 to 40 guests). We will be serving sloppy joes, vegetable tray, fresh fruit, cookies and bars, milk and lemonade. All are welcome to help with donations of food or money toward food preparation and to also serve/clean up. Kim will send out a Sign Up Genius in January to facilitate the meal sign up. Thanks to all for agreeing to help with this project!

**5.** **Situational Awareness Training Follow up-** Tony was absent due to work commitment-hopefully followup with Tony will happen at next meeting

The Situational Awareness Training which was led by Tony for about 60 parish staff and parishioners was held in December. It was very worthwhile. It was suggested that the Health and Safety Committee meet with Tony to help STM draft a safety plan.

**6. Development of a Family/Youth Stewardship Form-** It was noted that a Family/Youth Stewardship Form would be very beneficial in giving our Families/Youth more options in which they can serve.

**7. Faith Formation Committee-**There is an increased need to get the Faith Formation Committee established. This would encompass many of the ministries including Bible Studies and RCIA to name a few. If all the different ministries reported through Faith Formation Commission, there would be increased communication.

**8. Communication to Parishioners**- It was discussed how we can best alert parishioners of activities or events that might interest them. Word of mouth and personal invitations are the best ways to invite others. The use of email from the different commissions publicizing their monthly activities has been helpful with Church Life/Family Life. A once a month flyer was discussed but we also don’t want to duplicate the bulletin.

**E. Old Business/Reports and Commission Meeting Minutes** - PC Liaisons share information from their commission meetings:

1. Church Life/Family Life-no meeting in November or December

2. Finance Council Report

3. Regina Board of Education Update

4. Religious Education

5. Social Justice/Social Action

6. Worship and Spirituality

7. Youth Ministry Report-deferred due to activity

**F. 2018-2019 STM Pastoral Council Agenda Timeline**:

**1. Possible Addendum to By Laws regarding terms of Commission Chairs-Spring 2019**

**2. Coordinated May election weekend with Worship and Spirituality- May 4-5**

**G**. **Next Pastoral Council Meeting** -February 14 discussion- Bill will send email to members asking their availability to attend next month’s meeting which is February 14 (Valentine’s Day). If we don’t have a quorum, we will change or postpone the meeting.

**H.** **Closing prayer - Diocesan Prayer Vision 20/20 from Pentecost to Pentecost-**

**Send your Spirit, O God,  
To open our eyes... that we might see clearly your gifts and blessings, past and present,**

**And so be filled with gratitude.  
To open our ears... that we might see clearly where we have failed to proclaim the Good News and welcome the stranger, and so be moved to ongoing conversion;  
To open our eyes... that we might see clearly the signs of the times, and where your Christ lies hidden at the margins, and to see where and how we are being called to serve;  
Open our eyes... that we might see clearly the vision that you, O God, have for us, the Diocese of Davenport, and so answer your summons into a future together.  
Yes, O God, send us your Spirit**

**In a new Pentecost: Renew our heart**

**Renew our church**

**Renew our world Through Christ, our Lord. Amen**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM**

**Respectfully submitted by Kim Schmitz**