

St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Meeting

June 1, 2017; 7:00 pm

1903 Call to Order

Members in Attendance: Pam Bourjaily, Riley Brunk, Tracy Clapp, Ron Conner, Beth Deninger, Ann Elsbecker, Charles Heine, Ann Houlahan, Father Page, Joan Garrity, Bill Mausser, Lou Ann Montgomery, Katelyn Murhammer, Cathy Nepola, Larry Posey, Leigha Rios, Kim Schmitz, Norma Ward,

Members Excused: Keith Less

Members Absent: Grace Christopher

Guest: Tom Persoon.

A. Sunday Scripture reading and prayer provided by Joan Garrity

B. Review of May 11, 2017 meeting

Motion for approval by Beth, seconded by LouAnn to accept council minutes with changes. Vote, all in favor, no nays, and motion carries.

Announcements

Norma and Father asked pastoral council members as we vacation this summer to possibly pick up local church bulletins for review. Often how other parishes present information may be ideal for what we are attempting to say but can't.

C. Meeting Business

1. Introduction of all Pastoral Council members

Discussion: Tracy Clapp, Ann Elsbecker, Ann Houlahan, Leigha Rios were welcomed as our new Pastoral Council members. Grace Christopher is our new youth representative who will be joining us in August.

We also wish to thank Ron Conner, Beth Deninger, Joan Garrity, LouAnn Montgomery, Katelyn Murhammer, and Father Page for their contributions these past few years. Your input has contributed to our achievements that will be discussed tonight.

Action: Welcome new members and special thanks to retiring members.

(closed)

2. Election of 2017-2018 PC officers

Discussion: Election of Parish Council offerors was conducted. Due to Pastor transition, it was noted that some consistency within the council might be

warranted. Norma and Bill consented to serve as president and secretary respectively for the next year with Keith Less nominated again as vice chair pending his approval.

Additional information from W&S commission was shared by Pam Bourjaily to improve the election process.

Action: Above recommendation were unanimously approved with no nays. Recorded. Thanks to the new officers. **(closed)**

3. Finalize PC Member Roster

Discussion: Norma passed around the Pastoral Council Roster to members to make sure their emails and phone numbers are correct. Also new members picked a commission to whom they will belong. Special consideration was extended to the Worship and Spirituality Commission because they need members. They meet on the first Thursday of the month.

Action: informational **(closed)**

4. **FY18 STM budget presentation by Katie Schneider**

Discussion: Katie Schneider our STM part time accountant presented the new FY 2017-2018 budget that was pre-approved by the Finance Council. This budget has already gone through at last six revisions in the Finance subcommittee prior to its present form. Based on last year's budget, this year the finance committee has applied a 3% across the board increase to our budget. They feel that this projection will cover expenditures as well as foster some growth.

Katie fielded questions from the council with respect to line items contained within the budget. Our budget will maintain a 35% allocation to Regina from ordinary income, as well as maintaining a 1% overall contribution to our Social Justice Commission to grant as defined.

This process is completed and we are thankful the council was permitted to see and obtain clarity on the completed version before it goes to the Diocese for final approval.

Action: Recommendation was to unanimously approve our FY18 budget as presented by Katie Schneider.

(closed)

5. **Tom Persoon workshop to identify goals for 2017-2018**

A brief review of events that have led to tonight's discussion: Tom welcomed new council members and started tonight's discussion with a review of what our council team has worked on these past few months as it relates to our continued development and implementation of STM's vision and mission of the future. Our journey started last fall with our reading of the REBUILT book. Tom then used the Rebuilt - Field Guild book that we have already read and are discussing as a

council. He also is beginning to incorporate ideas from Peter Block's book *Community: The Structure of Belonging*.

This continued with a *REBUILT* workshop with our discussion centered on three major themes: Awakening the Faith, Making Church Matter and Reaching the Lost. These three themes group together the information that Pastoral Council members thought were viable options that if implemented would permit St. Thomas More to grow and foster our parish by exploring our parishioners' time, treasure and talent.

Also discussed was what we want to see with respect to the welcoming of new members. In addition to the informational packet still being developed, a copy of the parish photo directory could be given to new members while available, and lastly with their consent, pictures could be taken of new parishioners. In addition, we discussed how these photos might be displayed.

In January, our council meeting focused on three main areas discussed from our December meeting: Difficult access, Communication and Church as Family. Tom assisted us with grouping our suggestions into the following categories of Physical, Communication, Greeters and Assistance, and other.

Today Tom offered his evolving prospective as to our Stewardship committee. He envisions it as being made up of at least 7-10 members. He wants us to make sure that we understand that as we build this commitment within St. Thomas More, stewardship should be a separate mission/offering from evangelization. Stewardship is the offering of our time and talents to the parish, whereas evangelization would be more the offering of treasures. These are totally different needs therefore we need to separate these offerings to obtain members that would best fulfill our overall needs within our growing parish. As we develop our understanding of stewardship and evangelization it was noted that we may have cross over duplications within our existing committees that will need to be defined in the future. This will require the utmost communication between committees so we do not miss opportunities and can align our offerings within the appropriated committee so that we can uniquely offer and meet the needs of parishioners. We need to fit the offering to the appropriate ministry within the structure of St. Thomas More. Boundary and ownership might be in conflict, but open communication will be important if we are to succeed.

This lead to a fresh start upon which lead the council with subsequent meeting continued with ongoing discussion related to exploring, developing and implementing a Welcome/Greeter program that would then be expanded to our other commissions.

March 5th Workshop with Tom Persoon led a discussion with council that concluded that we do want Tom's assistance in launching a "Welcome" program as previously discussed. With respect to the "Greeter ministry", as we develop

this ministry it should remain within the control of the council. Once the kinks are worked out, we expect to incorporate this ministry possibility into the Worship and Spirituality Committee. By doing so we hope to collaboratively enhance this ministry into all our committees, but we have a lot of work to do prior to this occurring.

Discussion: Tom asked members that were leaving us tonight, after your three years of service, what did you want to see done that might not have been realized? For new members, what is it that you want to see changed while you begin our journey are here? He framed this discussion with a brief reminder that with respect our council community we all accepted this assignment with and:

- Invitation to join being offered
- A personal desire to accept this invitation wanting to make a difference
- Ownership of participation
- Involvement in this activity
- Commitment to make a difference
- Providing your gift of time, treasure and talent to STM to make a difference.

Three discussed: Get to know your parish – Parishioners getting to know council members by:

- More communication
- Visibility
 - Welcoming team
- Name tag during mass
- Council pictures in Sunday bulletin and on our website
- Evangelization and Faith Formation commission starting again
- The Stewardship Commission is going to begin again with Tom Persoon as its commission chair.
- Reaching out to those parishioners who have left. This is not presently organized to be able to welcome them back to both the parish and commissions.

Our diversity is our strength. We service an often transient community where we want parishioners to take root within STM. We need to develop a sense of community that begins to ask the question “why?”

As we struggled with answering this question additional discussion incurred as to the definition of Evangelization, There was no real definition provided because this is what we as members of the council need to define as we go forward. Prevailing thoughts of Evangelization are:

1. Continued growth in your spiritual life through personal growth.
2. Going door to door expanding the spiritual life of others around you.
3. Going to other churches and recruiting new members within our community that might be open to receiving our invitation.

Action: Our commissions need to explicitly communicate the parish's mission statement and align their mission statement accordingly. How do we evangelize to the community? We may be the only Bible for some individuals and by extending an invitation to them, we as a parish and council members need to develop our definition of "evangelization". We should have each of our commissions review and update their mission statements to align with the mission statement of STM. (Note: Social Action and Social Justice has already developed their mission statement.)

We need to strengthen communication between commission chairs/pastor and parish council to make our activity as seamless as possible. This means continuing with our present joint Commission Chair/Pastor/Parish Council president or meeting with each commission separately to determine the best way to communicate.

We need to continue to explore how we as council members can improve our visibility and recognition within the parish utilizing some ideas already identified.

(on-going)

D Reports – provided by email

- a. Church Life/Family Life Commission
- b. Finance Council Meeting Minutes
- c. Regina Update
- d. Religious Education Report
- e. Social Justice/Action Meeting Minutes
- f. Worship and Spirituality DRAFT Meeting Minutes
- g. Youth Ministry Report

Old Business

A. Parishioner Tickets for Vespers and Ordination/Installation of Bishop-Elect Zinkula

Discussion: Norma has several openings to attend Bishop-Elect Zinkula's Ordination/Installation. Both Vespers and the Ordination/Installation are by invitation only and entrance is with an "admit ticket." Each parish will be provided a few tickets for both the Vespers and Ordination/Installation and respective receptions following. The number of tickets a parish receives for Vespers and the Ordination is "weighted" based on the number of families the parish reported on its 2016 Parish Statistics Report.

St Thomas More ticket allotment:

PARISH	Vespers Parishioner tickets offered	Ordination Parishioner tickets offered
CORALVILLE, St. Thomas More	22	12

Tickets will be given to you at the June Clergy Institute during registration/arrival on Monday, June 5 at 12:30 p.m.

The tickets will include the pertinent information: Vespers-Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 p.m., St. John Vianney Church, Bettendorf followed by a reception at the parish. The Ordination/Installation-Thursaday, June 22, 2:00 p.m., St. John Vianney Church, Bettendorf followed by a reception in downtown Davenport at the Radisson.

Action: Please contact Norma if you are interested in attending either day events **(closed)**

B. Finalize PC Achievements

Discussion: Norma presented information from last month's council discussion in organizing then summarizing our Parish achievement from our opening until now.

She is preparing to have this information inserted into our Sunday bulletin for dissemination to our parishioners. She asks council how we might want to see the information presented. It was suggested that possibly we tie this information to our overall STM mission statement to tie our achievements together. Also, it was suggested that we include commission chairs in recognition of their continued activity that permit the meeting of these achievement goals.

Action: Norma will work with Maricarla to incorporate our suggestions. **(closed)**

C. Potential agenda items for next meeting:

- a. NO July meeting, decide on date and time for August meeting.
- b. Prior to August meeting, president will send 2017-2018 calendar with next year's meetings and Sunday Scripture and Prayer assignments.

Closing prayer provided by Joan Garrity

Meeting ended 2140 with post meeting activity at Gus' Bar and Grill 8-10 pm—appetizers, water, lemonade and iced tea provided—you are welcome to bring a friend, spouse, significant other.