

St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Meeting

February 9, 2017; 7:00 pm Final

1900 Call to Order

Members in Attendance: Riley Brunk, Pam Bourjaily, Beth Deninger, Joan Garrity, Bill Mausser, Lou Ann Montgomery, Katelyn Murhammer, Cathy Nepola, Father Page, Kim Schmitz, Norma Ward

Members Excused – Ron Conner, Charles Heine, Keith Less, Mary Neff, Larry Posey,

Members Absent – none

- A. Sunday Scriptural Reading and Prayer provided by Father Page.
- B. Review of January 12, 2017 meeting – approved without corrections. A request was made to the Social Justice Commission to please use complete names when listing member attendance. Lou Ann will take back to the commission.
- C. Announcements - none
- D. Meeting Business

Old Business

a. Joan Garrity- formal introduction of Mary Neff

Discussion: Mary Neff is our new Religious Education Director: Unfortunately Mary Neff is ill and was not able to attend.

Action: defer to March meeting

(deferred)

b. Wednesday Mass during Lent.

Discussion: Father Page shared that not all the details have been worked out but it has been decided that during Lent that the Wednesday Mass would be offered in the evening rather than 9 AM thus allowing our Religious Education students to attend Mass. Mass will be held in the church basement rather than in the church itself to decrease the time between the end of Mass and the continuation of Religious Education for the students for the rest of the evening.

Action: Informational only

(closed)

c. Lenten Parish Potluck.

Discussion: Fr. Page shared there will be Vegan/Vegetarian Potlucks during Lent on the off Fridays that the Knights of Columbus are not offering a fish fry. Potlucks would be offered on March 3rd and March 17th during Lent.

Action: Please add to your calendar and join if possible. **(closed)**

d. Planning for March 5th Workshop.

Discussion: Reminder of the March 5th workshop with Tom from 3-5 PM. It was asked if we should offer snacks. Norma suggested that we all might bring a snack to share as we are uncertain of the attendance numbers.

During our meeting the **Laudato Si Workshop Series** will also be occurring from 3-4 pm in the downstairs of STM. Please register at www.teamroudy@southslope.net. Fr. Page shared that there will be a plan to ensure adequate space for both meetings.

Action: Norma will be sending an email looking for snack suggestions. Please put March 5th 3-5 p.m. on your calendar.

e. Feedback from Commission Chair meeting: 2/8/17

Discussion: Norma and Father met with the chairs of our commissions last night. Tom Persoon was introduced as our stewardship chair. Norma shared that overall it was a wonderful success.

MariCarla was able to put together some census information that Tom had requested based on zip code and age. Norma provided the same information to us tonight. It reveals that the category of children age 0-10 is our highest growth sector. It is also worth noting that our elderly population also has the greatest potential for growth by 2020 so wanting to improve our disability options is critical now.

Action: Informational **(closed)**

f. Continued discussion of STM New Member folder and implementation—*hold for Stewardship Commission*

Discussion: Norma shared the final draft that is slated to be distributed and collected during the March 4/5 Masses by our ushers. Discussion occurred as to how commission chairs would get the information. Norma is planning on putting together an excel spread sheet with the information, but it was suggested that we move the contact information from the front side of the form in place of the Time section on the other side. This way our commission chairs can receive a single sheet with contact information especially if parishioners volunteer for more than one commission. The final copy would go to MariCarla so she can make sure her data base is also up to date with parishioner information.

Action: Norma will make the change and the form will be ready to use. .
There will be three bulletin announcements to prep our parishioners. **(closed)**

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

New Business

a Select Pastoral Council candidate election weekend—May 6,7

Discussion: Norma reviewed the May calendar and May 6 and 7th is the only weekend open to hold Parish Council Elections. This year the open positions include:

Katelyn Murhammer – student rep
Lou Ann Montgomery – declined additional term
Beth Deninger – considering additional term
Charles Heine – Norma to contact for additional term
Joan Garrity – not eligible for additional term.

Actions: Informational. **(on-going)**

b. Select Election Committee

Discussion: Norma Ward, Cathy Nepola and Kim Schmitz volunteer to be on our Election committee 2017.

Action: additional information when available. **(open)**

c. Washing of the Feet—Sign-up for Thursday, April 13, 2017

Discussion: Holy Thursday will be April 13, 2017. We want to have the council symbolically participate with the washing of feet during Mass. Norma will also be extending the offer to the other commissions.

Action: Norma will be sending out a “Sign up Genius” for members to sign up. Please consider this activity. **(open)**

d. Evaluation of Fund Raiser Idea

Discussion: Norma received a suggestion from a parishioner regarding a fund raising: "We have received word of a generous offer by a parishioner who trains service dogs who would be willing to donate her time in the training/selling of a service dog and the profits from the dog would be given to St. Thomas More."

Action. The following was referred to the Social Justice committee but Norma wanted the council to be aware of the fund raising/funding request. Information when available. **(closed)**

e. Presentation handout from Brian Manternach (Sr. Facilities Services Specialist at UI) for updates/considerations for north entrance proposal

Discussion: Norma presented information she received from Brian Manternach, a UHIC specialist, with increased knowledge related to disabilities. Norma shared what was provided at the commissions meeting the night before. Brian included the fact that 1 in 5 people have a disability in the US according to Census Bureau reports. The population age 65 and older has increased from 35 million in 2000 to 40 million in 2010 (a 15% increase) and is projected to increase to 55 million in 2020 (a 36% increase for that decade).

Key to success is to remember that independence allows dignity. Disability can be either Medical (person-focused, their problem, need to be fixed/cured by experts) or Social (society – focused, the person with an impairment is disabled by society).

There will need to be an adaptation of our environment to make sure it is a good fit for our parishioners. Brian provided auto vehicle space, surface, clearance and access recommendations for parking. He provided wheelchair and walker activator recommendations as well types of canopy coverage suggestions for our church exterior doors. He gave specific information related to different walking surface clearances. Also, there are a certain number of wheelchair spaces recommended for assembly halls based on total seats available. Brian had recommendations for single or two space wheelchair seating as well as the depth required for each. Lastly, he provided aisle seating options, chair, benches etc. for ease of access and comfort for our parishioners.

Fr. Page shared that he visited with one of our disabled parishioners and learned as we suspected that these individuals do not want to draw attention to their disability, thus not wanting to be singled out based on needs. Previous discussion within council was to survey parishioners to find out what they wanted but this discussion proved that a survey is not going to be effective with what we want to learn for this group. We just need to take the information and strive for St. Thomas More to be a Parish for All Seasons by committing ourselves to meeting our parishioners' disability needs.

Action: Norma and Father will be meeting with the Building and Grounds representative from Parish Finance who will then be making a formal recommendation to the finance board.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Mausser

Old Business

E. Closing prayer provided by Fr. Page