**St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Meeting**

May 10, 2018; 7:00 pm **Final**

1950 Call to Order

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

Members Excused: Keith Less, Larry Posey

Members Absent: Charles Heine

Guest: None

1. **Sunday Scripture** - Prayer provided by Fr. Adam at the beginning of our joint “listening session” with Andy Gaertner prior to our PC meeting.
2. **Review of April 12, 2018 meeting** – Council reviewed and recommended one change. The Welcome Ministry is considering naming the Welcome Center “The Connect Corner” but the name has not been finalized yet. Norma will make the necessary change to the April meeting minutes. Motion for approval of the April meeting minutes with this change was by Ann Elsbecker, seconded by Ann Houlahan to accept council minutes as written. Vote, all in favor, no nays, and motion carries.
3. **Comments from Father Adam**

Fr. Adam thanked all for coming to the listening session.

1. **Election of Officers**

**Discussion:** Last week’s PC/Regina elections were successful. Utilizing the Multipurpose Room work out well, thus limiting the disruption caused by the elections taking place as a part of Mass as it has been done in the past. Bill also recognized the Nomination and Election Committee (Cathy Nepola and Kim Schmitz), as well as Jim and Polly Porter who counted all the ballots. We would like to thank Kim Schmitz and Polly and Jim Porter who assisted with tallying our Mass results for the Pastoral Council and Regina Board elections. Results are as follows with the number of ballots casted for each of our Mass times:

5:15 PM Mass 56 ballots

8:30 AM Mass 53 ballots

11:00 AM Mass 69 ballots

178 ballots total

**Action:** Congratulations to our newly elected Pastoral Council members, Dimy Doresca, Keith Less, Shirley Schneider and Norma Ward; our newly appointed youth representatives Grace Christopher and Marijke Nielsen; and Annette Goodheart as the newly elected St. Thomas More member of the Regina Board of Education. Please offer them your prayerful support.

We also want to acknowledge and note our heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing Pastoral Council members Cathy Nepola, Charles Heine and Riley Brunk (youth representative) for their service.

In addition, Norma is compiling an email folder that will include elections process information that will be forwarded to next year’s elections committee. **(closed)**

1. **Wheelchair Access for Seating of Parishioners.**

**Discussion:** Update on wheel chair access to seating. Ushers will be requested to ask the individual where they would like to sit and then the ushers will re-arrange the chairs to accommodate the request. Along with this discussion, they will also be asking the parishioner if they plan on going up to receive communion or would they rather have it brought back to them at communion time. This information will then be communicated to our Eucharistic Ministers.

**Action:** Informational.  **(closed)**

1. **Review of Pastoral Council Constitution and By Laws**

**Discussion:** Norma shared our updated Pastoral Council Constitution and By Laws from our April PC meeting. At present, Council did not offer any more additional revisions than what was proposed.

**Action:** Motion for approval of Pastoral Council Constitution and By Laws was by Ann Elsbecker, seconded by Ann Houlahan as written. Vote, all in favor, no nays, and motion carries. **(closed)**

1. **Welcome Ministry development sub-committee.**

**Discussion:** Pam shared that due to increased activity over the past month, there has not been work on our Welcome Ministry. Things are anticipated to be slowing down, so we will defer discussion to our June meeting.

Considering our Listening session, Tracy Clapp asked PC members when we might expect to get our Welcome Ministry up and running. Ann shared based on the discussion from the listening session, our Church expansion project, will need to obtain an accurate accounting of parishioners as well as attempt to get guests attending mass to join STM.

Pam shared that realistically we should not expect to see our Welcome Ministry being operational before the fall. In the meantime, council brainstormed suggestions to promote a Welcoming discussion now, such as

* Continue with weekly bulletin and website Welcome messages.
* Develop a commentator message to be read with our announcements at the beginning of mass that would be used weekly offering a welcome from STM, to new potential members as well as visiting parishioners during Mass.
* We already have a Welcome table in the Narthex. We just need to keep information available as well as get ushers to direct potential parishioners to the table when they receive an inquiry to join STM.

**Action:** Norma will work on a commentator message with Kim and Tracy. She then will work with Judy to get it added to our announcements for weekend Masses. Norma also has an email listing of ushers and she will send a note reminding them to direct visitors to our Welcome table until we can develop things further. **(open)**

1. **Listing of Accomplishment from our Commissions**.

**Discussion:** Norma shared that she has been contacting Commission chairs to obtain a list of their accomplishments over the past year. Pastoral Council will see the first draft and after approval, it will be posted on the STM website. It was noted that this year has been very successful within our Commissions as we attempt to meet our Mission of being a Parish for All Seasons.

With respect to PC accomplishment from the past year:

* Biennial review of the Constitution and By Laws of St Thomas More
* Photos on the STM website and new name tags for the Pastoral  
  Council to encourage greater awareness by the members and ultimately to increase communication
* Started the review of the Stewardship form for 2018-2019-TBC in  
  August 2018.
* Welcome Committee formation- launching soon
* Revised NE entrance updates for handicap accessibility by having  
  the ushers ask those who are in wheelchairs where they want to sit and then rearrange the chairs to make it happen. Kent, Norma and Judy to work on 36-39 inches behind the last row of chairs.
* Served a meal at Catholic Worker House

**Action:** Informational, but if council thinks of other accomplishments, please send them to Norma **(open)**

1. **FY18 PC Elections**

**Discussion:** During our June meeting we elect new leadership for Pastoral Council. In the past, it has been a little awkward during the meeting to elicit volunteers for the officer positions of president, vice president and secretary.

Norma and Fr. Adam have been visiting and this year they are requesting that members think and pray about these positions and talk amongst themselves. Please contact Fr. Adam prior to the June meeting if you are interested in holding any of these open positions.

1. **Old Business/Reports and Commission Meeting Minutes—PC Liaisons share information from their commission’s meetings** 
   1. Church/Family Life Meeting—not available at this time-being sent out later
   2. Finance Council Report—April 11, 2018
   3. Regina BOE Update—Father Adam
   4. List of Accomplishments from Shannon Duffy
   5. Social Justice/Action—no April meeting
   6. Worship and Spirituality Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018--Pam
   7. Youth Ministry Report
2. Stewardship form updates deferred to August meeting.
3. Sunday Scripture reading and prayer assignment for next meeting, June transition meeting—Ann Elsbecker

Meeting adjourned at 2027