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

January 14, 2021 via zoom.us

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm; General Meeting

Call to Order: 7:03pm

Members in Attendance: Father Chuck, Pam Bourjaily, Keith Feldmann, Karen Grajczyk-Haddad, Karen Hanson, Spencer Knight, Mick Langguth, Keith Less, Matt Lopez, Barb Lopez, Shirley Schneider, Jason Wagner and Norma Ward

Guest: Ken Griesemer

Members Excused: Sam Aitchinson, Dimy Doresca and Leigha Rios

**Father Chuck: Opening Prayer: Growing More in Faith Campaign prayer**:

God our Father, grant success to the “Growing *More* in Faith” campaign and our new church building process. 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 on to us. Challenge us by the sacrifice of our patron, St. 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.

**Items of Business—Pam**

1. Welcome to Ken Griesemer, liturgical consultant, who is reporting on the visioning forum feedback and the next steps following the conclusion of the parish’s New Worship Space Catechetical Sessions.

* Ken reported that he enjoyed his interaction with parishioners. The turnout was great and the feedback was nothing short of overwhelming. Everything that he has seen has been positive and incredibly insightful. He felt everyone understood the concepts and he feels good about what we’ve been able to accomplish, especially since this was the 1st time using the zoom platform.
* Question from PC: What if anything has surprised you and what have you learned about our parish thus far? No surprises, but he said he hasn’t completed the review of all the survey information. He came to appreciate that many were experienced in church liturgy and committed to social justice. Ken was very impressed overall with our level of responses and feedback.
* Father announced that all the sessions have been recorded and if anyone wants to see the videos to please contact the parish office. Members additionally noted their appreciation of the prayerful way in which the presentations were done.
* Next steps: Ken recently had a conversation with Deacon Francis Agnoli (Director of Liturgy & Director of Deacon Formation) at the Diocese of Davenport. Deacon Agnoli asked Ken to submit documents to the next diocesan liturgical commission meeting—next Thursday, January 21. Father said that Ken can submit the information from the website, the concept design, the summary of the topics we covered and the major recommendations that came out of the meetings. Father Chuck said to go ahead and keep the process on schedule. Ken will use the checklist provided by Deacon Agnoli to complete the submission. The STM Subcommittee has selected an architectural firm and are in the hiring process. The architectural firm selection will be included in the next phase—to be announced after January 28, 2021.
* Ken asked if there are particular goals to line up with fundraising. Father said that we need to have a final $$ number for the entire project 1st, which would then enable us to move forward with fundraising. Father clarified that we are not working with a campaign consultant. It has been on hold since the pandemic. We are however, keeping on track with contributions and pledges.
* Pam offered that we need to expand the number of households involved in fundraising. Subcommittee also thinks that this spring might be a good time to engage contractors. Ken stated that schematic designs usually take about 3 months, but hopefully as soon as the architect is ready, we could start with a revised campaign. Father and Ken will review the Project Checklist for STM together.

1. Update on Pastoral Council anti-racism subcommittee: Karen G-H. and Shirley

* The five members have met several times and are focusing on Lenten activities. Proposed ideas: Stations of the Cross—implemented specifically to include anti-racism topics; study of *Open Wide Our Hearts—The Enduring Call to Love (from the USCCB)*; and support for an Alms giving activity—TBD. Next steps are to finalize plans and announce in the bulletin and website. Subcommittee plans to continue through Lent and offer the parish different options on how to increase awareness in the church and community.
* Pam: What kind of support do you need from the PC? It was suggested to encourage people to plan and participate; goal is to get as many people involved in events as possible and involve all ages.
* Pam requested that when the information is ready for the bulletin, to please email her so it can be included in the Outreach template letter. Please plan to provide a follow-up at the February PC meeting.

1. Follow up: Report on outreach to STM Phase II (60+ households) recently concluded and plans for outreach Phase III (households with young children)—status of welcome video planned in Nov.

* Pam provided an overview—we are still wrapping up the 60 plus parish households. (We have contacted 286 households in Phase II.) There are more households in the next group but the goal is to have no more than 10 contacts per volunteer. However, we may need to do more than one round! Please do what you can and let me or Leigha know if you feel overwhelmed. There are 816 households in Phase III. Faith Formation has agreed to contact the names of those households participating in RE. Those households will be removed from the original list and Leigha will also remove names of Council and Commission households. She will start dividing the remainder and sending names to the Commission Chairs and other coordinators.
* Welcome video. Script revised and all the narrators are “on board”. Katie is planning to do the filming with Stacy Schroeder during the 1st week of February. Hope to get up on the parish website by the end of February.

1. Pastoral Council Elections: 4 seats open for next year; 2 are up for renewal of the 3-year commitment (Shirley and Dimy); 2 are concluding their 2nd term (Norma and Keith L). Pam wants to present tentative plan for the process with discussion and vote on plan and any updates to candidate information form (attached) at February PC meeting. Actions steps needed before or at the February 11, 2021 meeting.

* Shirley and Dimy to let us know if they want to continue by next meeting in Feb.
* Contact 2 parishioners from last cycle to see if there remains interest after Feb PC meeting.
* PC members: please consider recruiting from the parishioners and invite them to apply.
* Question: subcommittee to review the candidates or to have the entire PC to review?
* Do the questions on the form seem adequate?
* Do you want the personal information included on the form?
* Please discern who will assume the role of Secretary and President Elect. President Elect is a 2-year commitment, Secretary is a 1-year commitment.
* Plan is to vote on the candidate/representative application process at our February PC meeting; add the approved form with recruitment verbiage to the parish in the bulletin, website and FB page; and then allow candidates to submit “form” between February and March PC meetings.
* Norma will send revised candidate information form to members.

1. Review and approval of November 12, 2020 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes with the following correction:

* Corrected spelling of Barb Arland Frye

**Report from Father Chuck Adam:**

* 1. Sharing parish numbers/statistics for 2020 (#s of households, #s receiving sacraments and funerals)
* Please reference document with 2018-2020 parish data for more information.
* Father noted that COVID has taken an effect—we only have 20 new families.
  1. Church finances update—no report at this time.

**Commission reports and discussion:**

**Church/Family Life**, Judy Frits, chair

* PC members: Mick, Barb, Leigha, Norma
* November Meeting Minutes attached
* Highlights: plans for Soup Supper TBD; Parish Pictorial Directory is still on schedule for late summer; Young Adult group moving to Faith Formation Commission.
* Norma reported she has 12 names that are interested in the 50+ Fellowship group. Her email was updated in the last bulletin so hopefully that will bring more interest.

**Faith Formation,** Shirley Schneider, chair

* PC members: Shirley, Matt, Karen G-H.
* November Meeting Minutes attached
* Highlights: Shirley reported that Shannon started his “Love Thy Neighbor” program. Shirley is working on Bible study for Lent. Young Adult group is starting a book study with *Letters of CS Lewis* in February. Pam had a question about the need for another member in the commission—suggested to wait until 2021-2022 members are on board. An additional objective was to inform parishioners of local black business owners and urge them to support, especially if they are parishioners. Barb commented that she hoped the subcommittee will include other minority businesses. Shirley then mentioned they are focusing mostly on the last year’s issues and that it is all a part of the long-range plan.

**Social Action/Social Justice,** Dimy Doresca, chair

* PC members: Dimy
* November Meeting Minutes attached; no report at this time

**Welcome Commission**, Leigha Rios, chair

* PC members: Pam, Keith F., Leigha, Norma
* November Meeting Minutes attached
* Highlights: see Pam’s Outreach update

**Worship & Spirituality**, Janet Steenlage, chair

* PC members: Pam, Karen H.
* December Meeting Minutes attached
* Highlights: Karen H. reported that Luigi continues to come up with new ideas for music.
* Father noted that he is waiting for direction from the diocese regarding Ash Wednesday.

**Finance Council,** Mark Thoeny, chair

* PC members: Pam
* November Meeting Minutes attached
* Finance Council proposed topics for action 2021 attached

**K of C,** John Kauble, chair

* PC members: Keith L.
* Highlights: Car Raffle—winners donated it back and the Knights are taking offers on the car until noon tomorrow (Friday, Jan 15, 2021) Estimated $25K will be donated to the building fund.
* Fish fry--TBD

**Stephen Ministry,** Meliza Wise and Lee Gullickson, co-chairs

* PC members: Pam, Karen G-H.
* Group is actively partnering with the Stephen Ministers at St. Andrews Presbyterian and Our Redeemer Lutheran church.

**Regina Education**

* Jason Wagner provided some highlights:
* Enrollment is up by 10, tuition is up, faculty expenses are up and more expense is involved with COVID cleanup. Some sports have been quarantined. Regina has offered 5 different ways for kids to receive their education; however, most are choosing to be “in school”.
* New Finance Director: Marilou Vardeman started at the end of November. She presented Key Performance metrics (5-6) in Dashboard style which Jason hopes to share with the PC going forward. Goal is to keep enrollment up for the next year.

**Father Chuck: Closing prayer: Prayer of St. Francis**

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.   
  
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,   
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,   
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Meeting adjourned: 8:17 pm

Next meeting: Feb. 11, 2021