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

May 13, 2021 via zoom.us 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm; General Meeting

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Members in Attendance: Father Chuck Adam, Pam Bourjaily, Dimy Doresca, Keith Feldmann, Karen Grajczyk-Haddad, Karen Hanson, Spencer Knight, Keith Less, Barb Lopez, Leigha Rios, Shirley Schneider, Jason Wagner, Norma Ward

Members Excused: Sam Aitchinson, Jason Wagner

Members Absent: Mick Langguth, Matt Lopez

Guests: Patrick Schmadeke, Janet Steenlage

**Father Chuck—Opening Prayer:** Pope Francis’s prayer for the Joy of the Gospel

**Items of Business—Pam**

1. We welcomed our guest speaker, Diocesan Director of Evangelization Patrick Schmadeke. Commission Chairs were introduced. There was a general discussion following our speaker’s presentation to focus on leadership progression and how to get people more engaged in the ministries.
   * Pat emphasized the need for a “personal” invitation. He advised us to express WHY you are part of the group/commission/committee as opposed to WHAT the group/commission/committee does. Once they are connected, we need to accompany them and then we can be prepared for the many ways in which the Holy Spirit has called both of you. But it all should start with a personal invitation!
   * Pat’s thoughts about our Ministry Fair/Summer gathering: His advice was to frame the event as a way in which we can gather as a community and one of the ways we are community is through involvement. Group discussed offered various opportunities to invite parish members.
   * How do we get young people more involved?
     + Pat again noted that young adults move around a lot and may not be in one place for any specific length of time, which results in hesitancy in community involvement. Keith Feldmann offered that maybe we can involve them in short term projects like Chili suppers. We can accommodate a onetime experience and then maybe another experience which will perhaps carry with them. We should focus on our strengths—service for others and social justice.
     + Father Chuck agreed that we are often preparing our young people for another community. It was also noted that all new members get a personal phone call from the Welcome Commission members and then a follow up at approximately 3 months.
   * Leadership progression
     + How do we allow or plan for Commission Chairs to rotate off the leadership role? Pat suggested that the author, Adam Grant writes about this—how long do you stay in a job? Stay in the job 8-9 years? (Editorial note from Norma: Here is a link to a TED talk by Adam Grant: <https://www.ted.com/podcasts/worklife>.) Member discussion: Perhaps there is interest in a lesser timeframe—3-year term so each year 3 members cycle out and 3 new members are recruited with a personal invite? Institutional member/memory is valuable, but so are fresh eyes. There should be guidance where we could have 3 years to reassess at that point. Shirley also noted that with a member rotation it gives people opportunity to try other commissions. Pam asked Pat—what have you seen at other parishes? Pat offered examples—other parishes may have committees such as “faith and science”, “communication” and then it is important to identify how commissions overlap in these areas. He offered that we need to ask WHAT are the needs of the parish and then how to we do “Word, Worship and Service—the essential elements of parish life.” Evangelization and Stewardship are part of all the commissions.
   * Celebrating the work of the commissions—linking to the year of St. Joseph
     + One-page report from commissions and affiliated groups highlighting notable activities/accomplishments of the year.
     + **Aim for sending YTD Commission reports to Pam Bourjaily (pgibbsbourjaily@gmail.com) before June 10, and no later than June 30/**
     + Each commission should evaluate their mission statement and look at benchmarks for each year.
     + Goal would be to put together colorful infographics that would highlight commission and group activities in time for Stewardship Fair.

**Action Items**:

* Establish sub-committee of one member from each commission and a PC member at-large (not a current commission chair) to focus on strategies for revitalizing commissions (e.g., having 2-minute videos about each commission up on the parish website). Commission liaisons should discuss with their commission Chairs and see which members are interested. Names are requested **by June 1. Please send to Pam Bourjaily** ([pgibbsbourjaily@gmail.com](mailto:pgibbsbourjaily@gmail.com))

**Save the Date:** Sunday, August 29: Parish party and Celebration of our Community (to include a Stewardship Fair)

1. Update: STM Racial Equity Initiative summer programming—(Karen G-H and Shirley)
   * 2nd Open Wide Our Hearts—June 9 at 7:30 pm (5 Wednesdays)
   * Book study later in June—Look for information in the bulletin
2. Parish website: Report on PC member feedback of strengths/limitations of STM website (Pam)
   * Summary from Pam—see attached
3. Election of PC officers: Pres-elect and Secretary for 2021-22 (Barb)
   * Presentation of Mick Langguth as President-Elect for 2021-2022
   * Presentation of Karen Grajczyk-Haddad as Secretary for 2021-2022
4. Review and approval of April 8, 2021, Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

**Report from Father Chuck Adam:**

* 1. Capital campaign update: Relaunching the fund-raising!
     + We are currently interviewing contractors. Once selected, a contractor will work with our architects, *Novak Design* to come up with the final church design. After a final design and cost is determined, we will be able to offer drawings that are not just concept, but what we intend to build. At that point, we hope the campaign will be reenergized.
  2. Where we are with church re-opening
     + Waiting for the Diocese, meet with the bishop on Tuesday and discussing CDC recommendations and waiting for guidance regarding music. We have added chairs and now have about 230 chairs in the main worship space—half capacity. Hopefully we can find creative ways to involve the musicians.
     + Pam asked if the commissions can meet together in person? Father reported that we are still under 45 min timeframe for mass—we can look at that option for next month’s PC meeting. We probably need to still wear masks.
  3. Church finances update
     + Church offerings are continuing to be slightly higher than budget. However, the offertory is still not where it was budgeted. Likewise, the green envelopes for the remainder of the fiscal year will likely fall short because at budgeting time last year, we thought the pandemic would already be over. Summary: We are OK for the most part, because we are keeping expenses low.

**Commission reports and discussion:**

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

* PC members: Mick, Barb, Leigha, Norma
* See attached April meeting minutes
* Brief update on pictorial directory 2021

**Faith Formation,** Shirley Schneider, chair

* PC members: Matt, Shirley, Karen G-H.
* See attached April meeting minutes
* Highlights reported: 1st communions have been completed; Bible study was completed

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

* PC members: Dimy
* See attached April meeting minutes

**Welcome Commission**, Leigha Rios, chair June 20 opening doors 13 new households

* PC members: Pam, Keith F., Leigha, Norma
* See attached April meeting minutes

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

* PC members: Pam, Karen H.
* See attached April meeting minutes
* Highlights reported: Mick Langguth is assuming usher training and therefore moving to join the W&S commission. There was also a discussion about leadership succession training.

**Finance Council,** Mark Thoeny, chair

* PC members: Pam
* See attached March and April meeting minutes

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

* PC members: Keith L.
* Highlights reported: Knights want to be involved with the welcome back party—August 29—Keith is going to update John K.

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

* PC members: Pam, Karen G-H.
* Highlights reported: Members met in person on May 11 and for meal at the Catholic Worker House on the May 2, 2021. Cathy Nepola is completing national training.

**Father Chuck—Closing prayer:** Prayer for Ascension Thursday

Meeting adjourned: 8:16 pm.

Next meeting: June 10, 2021