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

September 10, 2020 via zoom.us

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm; General Meeting

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Members in Attendance: Father Chuck Adam, Sam Aitchinson, Pam Bourjaily, Dimy Doresca, Keith Feldmann, Karen Grajczyk-Haddad, Karen Hanson, Spencer Knight, Mick Langguth, Keith Less, Matt Lopez, Barb Lopez, Leigha Rios, Shirley Schneider, and Norma Ward. John Le Peau as our guest.

Members Excused:

Members Absent: Mick Langguth

1. Father Chuck: Opening Prayer

**Opening Prayer - Growing More in Faith” Campaign**

God our Father, grant success to the “Growing More in Faith” campaign. 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 inspires us by the generous example of those from previous generations who have passed the faith onto us. Challenge us by the sacrifice of our patron, Saint 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.

1. Items of Business—Pam
2. Invitation to John Le Peau, reporting on the Capital Campaign for an update followed by a report from Fr. Chuck regarding the formation of a parish committee to hire a liturgical consultant for the design of new construction for the church.
	* John provided a brief summary of where we are with the campaign: Current pledge level is at $4,774,000; income of $2,000,139; paid $700,000 to $800,000 on the parking lot. Current money on hand is $1, 100,000. John also reported that other income is also coming in through non-pledged income and through households that have already paid their pledge in full, but continue to donate. Even though our pledges are coming close to $5M, we expect the total cost of our new facility to be $6-7M. We are still in need of more pledges and more income.
	* John continued to outline the next stage: Part of the original expense was the parking lot. We had hoped “seeing the parking lot” would spark more interest in the campaign. Next step is to hire a liturgical consultant. John explained how this person would provide education to the parish and that the consultant would show us how good liturgy and good architecture are combined and necessary. After initial input from the liturgical consultant, we will hire an architect and general contractors which will yield more precise drawings on what the facility will look like and a more accurate cost estimate.
	* Time line:
		+ The money needs to be on hand to hire a liturgical consultant.
		+ A committee needs to be formed to interview and hire by the end of the year.
		+ After the hiring of the Liturgical consultant, the education process will be able to start immediately.
		+ Selection and hiring of an architect will happen hopefully, within the 1st half of 2021.
		+ NOTE: Before we can start construction, the diocese wants us to we have to have 60% of the construction cost in the bank. John provided an example: If the construction cost is $6M, we would need $3.6M in the bank before we start construction. According to current pledge levels and our current rate of income, it will take us 2 years to achieve that goal. However, if we get more pledges and increase our current rate of income, we could reach that goal earlier.
	* Questions from members. Confirmed cost of parking lot--$700,000-800,000. Are there plans from capital campaign committee to energize the campaign? Have we seen a slow down due to COVID-19? No, there hasn’t been much change. Households are continuing to give their pledges on schedule, which is very uplifting. What % of parish has pledged? Approximately 1/3 of the parish has pledged. As we grow, the percentage goes down, so we want to reach out to the new families.
	* Father Adam—Frank Agnoli, Diocesan Director of Liturgy, gave us names and those names were sent to the Chair of the Committee. John and Father worked on a draft document explaining our project, the scope and an explanation of the project was sent to 3 individuals (liturgical consultants) to tell us whether they wanted to commit. The committee members to select and work with liturgical consultant selection is listed below. Diocese asked that we talk to 3 consultants.

Committee Members: Father Chuck Adam, Janet Steenlage/Fran Zuber/Mary Kelley — Worship and Spirituality; Keith Feldmann— Parish Council/Social Justice Commission Rep; Sam Aitchison — Parish Council/youth rep.; Aaron Klosterman/Blanca Lehnertz — GMIF chairs; Randy Clarahan — Parking Lot Committee; Stacy Schroeder/John LePeau— Finance Council Rep; Megan Recker — parish member/interior designer; Gabriele Rivera—Diversity and Inclusion (associate director U of I); Don Kraber, electrician and Katie Schneider/Luigi Enriquez as Parish Staff Reps.

1. Report from Leigha Rios regarding the Welcome Ministry outreach to new STM households (Oct 2019 to present): It was conducted by members of the Welcome Commission Aug 23 – Sept. 2, This was a pilot for the plan to include all STM commissions, members of the Stephen Ministry, Finance Council, Knights of Columbus, and Pastoral Council. We are asked to be involved in conducting outreach to all parish households to see how parishioners are doing in these pandemic times. Maricarla is assisting the members with parish household contact information.
	* Leigha reported positive feedback from the new parishioners.
	* Items of note: App information as well as information on the drive-in masses. “You Tube” masses were also viewed as a great resource for those who don’t feel safe enough to visit the parish.
	* Pam reviewed that this pilot project required multiple channels of communication. Plan going forward is to take this to the other commissions and expand our outreach and also to connect with the capital campaign. Members discussed and asked questions. Standardized template for outreach would include questions: How do they access our church activities? We need to help all members to feel connected. Discussion questions with the members. Since different commissions have different number of members. Good way to clean up our census. Bring bullet points to discuss.
	* Pastoral Council approved a motion to expand this pilot project to the other commissions and to all the parish households. Father noted that this offers an opportunity to clean up our member/household database.
	* Next step is for us to go to Maricarla and to Commission Chairs asking how many members they have that are interested. The script from will come from the Welcome Statement and it will be customized for use by those commission members who are willing to participate.
	* Pam thanked to Leigha for spear heading this pilot.
2. Continuing the anti-racism discussion (articles to read/discuss below). Plan is to select a book for Lenten small group readings on anti-racism. This could be led by Pastoral Council or parish members in small group discussions on Zoom. Pam extended an invitation to Pastoral Council members to send book suggestions. FYI: Lent begins Feb. 17 and later will consider ordering and distribution of books.

Articles to read regarding anti-racism for September Pastoral Council meeting:

* <http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2020/08/diocesan-pastoral-council-addresses-opportunities-challenges-during-pandemic/>
* First half (to top of p. 17) of  Bishops’ Conference Statement:  <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>

### [‘Racism Makes a Liar of God’](https://nl.nytimes.com/f/newsletter/YAHbeHLlVXwqMaMEFZ4QaQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRhD4_gP0ThaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubnl0aW1lcy5jb20vMjAyMC8wOC8wNi9vcGluaW9uL2dsb3JpYS1wdXJ2aXMtZ2VvcmdlLWZsb3lkLWJsbS5odG1sP2NhbXBhaWduX2lkPTImZW1jPWVkaXRfdGhfMjAyMDA4MDcmaW5zdGFuY2VfaWQ9MjEwNjQmbmw9dG9kYXlzaGVhZGxpbmVzJnJlZ2lfaWQ9MjE5NDA3MDEmc2VnbWVudF9pZD0zNTQ5MSZ1c2VyX2lkPTlhYTgzMjY0MGE2N2Y0NjZiNjVjYTM3NmZmYjFjMzEzVwNueXRCCgAf4AotX4iep1pSGnBhbWVsYS1ib3VyamFpbHlAdWlvd2EuZWR1WAQAAAAA) by Elizabeth Bruenig, NYT. How the American Catholic Church is wrestling with the Black Lives Matter movement.

### <http://ronrolheiser.com/the-invitation-to-courage/#.X1O-U8hKhPY>

### <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/worship-false-god>

Pam is looking for multiple voices with these articles. How do we respond to racism and anti-racism as a parish community and have an impact? Various members volunteered their perspectives on a particular article. We will continue this in the fall and collectively come together with a way to broaden this discussion during Lenten. Pam: Do we need a subcommittee to meet separately? Members discussed the need to also bring in the support for police enforcement. A timeline was suggested to better prepare for a parish Lenten discussion on this topic.

Pam formally requested that the Pastoral Council liaisons share this information with their commission in the next month.

Any members that are interested to be a part of the subcommittee, please email Pam or Barb.

1. Review and approval of August 13, 2020 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes. Approval of the “Pastoral Council 2019-20 Accomplishments” document—please contact Norma with any changes before our next meeting.
2. Members approved the consideration of stewardship recruitment to October PC meeting, perhaps following outreach to parishioners? (Stewardship fair had been a Sept. activity in pre-pandemic times.)

1. Comments from Father Chuck Adam:
	1. Church finances update, Father said all is going well; our Annual Diocesan Appeal goal: $106,000 for 2020-2021. Last year we were $16,000 over our goal, so that amount was returned to the parish.
	2. Religious education update (follow-up on initiative to include anti-racism education in the RE curriculum materials). Shannon is working on the RE and also anti-racism within the curriculum.
2. Commission reports and discussion:

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

* PC members: Mick, Keith L., Barb, Leigha
	+ August Meeting Minutes and Life Touch and other attachments.
	+ Add Parish Pictorial Directory to our next PC meeting agenda.
	+ Hoping to move Advent prayer partners to Lent as well. Also have the youth reach out to elders.

 **Faith Formation,** Shirley Schneider, chair

* PC members: Matt, Shirley, Karen G-H
	+ August Meeting Minutes attached. How many Bible study groups in the parish?
	+ Men’s group, Sue Waterman and Cornerstone scripture.

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

* PC members: Dimy, Keith F.
	+ Meeting is scheduled for September.

 **Welcome Commission**, Leigha Rios, chair

* PC members: Pam, Keith F., Leigha, Norma
	+ August Meeting Minutes attached.
	+ Virtual tour of the church—can we talk with the parish staff similar to Capital Campaign video or perhaps a voice with PowerPoint slides.
	+ Quarterly zoom meetings if we can’t do meals.

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

* PC members: Pam, Karen H.
	+ There were no August meetings.
	+ Karen reported on possible future meetings via zoom.

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 **Finance Council,** Mark Thoeny, chair

* PC members: Pam

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

* PC members: Keith L.
* Car Raffle goes to December 20th
* Sales progress—we’re about at the breakeven point. Meeting next week.

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

* PC members: Pam, Karen G-H.
1. Next Parish Council Meeting, October 8, 2020 at 7 PM—via Zoom.

1. Father Chuck, closing prayer: **Prayer to Overcome Racism**:

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a

say to unite himself to every human being, called to be the one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us. Amen.

(From Sacred Heart Cathedral)—check with Father

1. Meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm.