

St Thomas More - Pastoral Advisory Council - Minutes for Meeting 10-9-2018

Attendees: Fr. Michael, Fr. Andrew, Jim, Jeremy, Lori, Shelly, Kathleen, Kevin, Rodney, Bridgitte, Sandy

Not in attendance: Fr. Jared, Shelly

Opening Prayer and Welcome

- Fr. Michael opened with group prayer – Blessings Directly Pertaining to Person

Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2018

Approved

Parish Advisory Council Chair Positions

- Jim Lonergan agreed to be the Chair for the Parish Advisory Council
- Jeremy Brown volunteered to be the Vice Chair

Action Items/Updates

- Jim suggested we wear name tags to let people know who we are part of the parish council, so we can be approachable.
- Pictures of council members need to be taken so we can make a composite to be displayed in church or RE building. Father Michael brought in previous council composites to be used as examples.
- Jeremy followed up on posting homilies. Posted a talk Fr. Jared gave at a L.O.V.E event. It had a good amount of hits and was easy to post on YouTube. Talked to Ren and will need to figure out how to post to website. Jeremy will follow through with Ren again.
- Talked about new webpage. Parish owns its own web page. Website through Ecatholic. Members of staff have access to website to make changes. Each ministry leader has access to its own page to update. Jeremy requested access to PAC web page. Jeremy noticed that it had been updated but would like to be able to update with recent agendas and minutes.

Live Auction

- Fr. Michael was thankful for a successful evening. Profit should be about 89,500.
- Total expenses were around 18,000

Octoberfest - October 20, 2018

- Sandy updated council that ticket sales were a little off from last year.
- Will have plenty of tickets for 50/50 Raffle – will not run out like last year.
- Octoberfest flier being sent out to RE students.
- Need to figure out where to put a Sticky note wall for parishioners' input on why they love STM and what they want for the future of the parish.

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Business & Financial Update

- Business update from Andy Dehart distributed.
- Financial report distributed with many accomplishments including parish being debt free

Long Range Pastoral Plan

- Parish Council will need to work on a Long Range 3-5-year plan for the parish. The time frame would be about 1 -1.5 years to develop a plan and then another 2-3 years to implement the plan.
- Part of the Long-Range Plan would be a new Parish Mission Statement. What are we looking for in a mission statement? Something simple, a motto a slogan?
- Discussed the process of updating the the most recent mission statement.
- Council agreed that mission statement should be long term, shouldn't be changed every couple of years.
- Jim asked as a council can we go out and solicit information from the parish to construct a long-range plan? He suggested we talk to ministries and see how they are doing and what they need from the parish. Asked if each council member could take a handful of ministries and sit down and talk to them to solicit inputs
- Kathleen has heard people mention STM as a "broken" parish. Father Michael wants to see stability. He wants to move forward and deal with the past put also put it behind us.
- Jim talked about a "Get Well Plan". Deal with the past, have transparency and move forward to make things better. How do we build a grassroots community? Let people know that this is our parish and we don't give up on it due to issues in the past.
- Lori speaking as a therapist sees that the parish needs to heal and the lack of talking and transparency will not lead to healing. Stated that we need leadership and trust from both our parish and diocese.
- Rodney talked about fear and the usual reaction to fear is anger. Diocese needs to come forward to help in our healing.
- Fr. Andrew stated that communication is key. We need to ask each ministry what they need.
- Fr. Michael is here to lead us. Asked, how do we deal with those that feel like they have been misled or hurt? Do you do it publicly or privately? We need to let victims know that there is someone to talk to.
- Council also agreed that our parish is missing a commonality to draw us together. Example was CRHP in the past. Need to discern what this could be to pull us together as a community.
- Possible idea of having a town hall meeting with all ministry leaders. How do we move forward and repair us as an institution and as individuals?

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- Fr. Michael stated that yes, the parish may be hurting but positive things like strong donations, strong RE enrollment and Live Auction success all show our parish is moving forward and thriving.
- Fr. Michael has implemented stricter enforcement of EIM compliance. Getting both kick back and applause for requiring the 2-hour workshop every 3 years. As we become more compliant it is noticeable how somethings like confessionals and offices could be non-compliant.
- Fr Michael wants a safe environment for everyone. We are all responsible for each other's safety. If you see something you are obligated to report it to authorities

Other

- Fr. Michael would like a liaison to meet with ministries and have a conversation with their ministry quarterly and report back with how that ministry is doing and what it needs.
- By Laws state that the Chair or Vice Chair of the Pastoral Council should attend Finance and Stewardship committee meeting and a member of the Finance and Stewardship committee should attend the Pastoral Advisory Council meetings.
- Would like to add a youth member to the council to add their perspective at meetings.
- Preschool raised \$3500 in a fundraiser for preschool. Father would like the parish to be more supportive of the preschool and will make an announcement to let parishioners donate to their fundraiser

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Fr. Michael ended in prayer

Future Meeting Dates

Tuesday, November 13th

Friday, December 14th – Christmas Gathering of Pastoral, Finance and Stewardships committee
6:30 – Brennan