

St Thomas More - Pastoral Advisory Council - Minutes for Meeting 9-11-2018

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

Not in attendance: Jim

Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2018

Approved

Introduction

- Introduction of new and returning council members
- Need to appoint new Chairperson and Vice Chair to Council. Council thought Jim would make a good chair, Sandy and Lori also showed an interest. Fr. Michael will ask Jim if he is interested.
- Bridgitte offered to continue as Secretary.
- A parish advisory council member would also attend Finance and Stewardship council meetings. Goal is to have councils on the same page and informed about what each is doing.

Review of old business

- Proposal to record weekly homilies is still an option and Fr. Michael is open to the idea to put homilies on the website. Would be able to monitor to see how many hits on the website to see if it is being used.
- New website going live this Friday. Jeremy asked if minutes and agendas of the meeting could be placed on a Parish Advisory Page. Suggested putting a general email for the PAC so people could send emails with questions or concerns.
- Fr. Michael and council thought the discernment election process in June went well. Parish was able to respond in a new way and overall was a good change.
- Methodist Foundation cut through is no longer an option due to neighborhood push back and deed stating no new construction on Methodist property. Because of this process a new group was formed to help fix traffic problems on 620 and are introducing new ideas such as a traffic light or even a new entrance at the back of the property.

Live Auction

- Ticket sales going well. Over half sold
- Donations, caterer all coming together
- Will make a final push for tickets in the next week

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STM 40th Anniversary plans

- Potluck and mass on June 22nd was well attended
- Movie nights
- Live Auction Dinner
- Valentine Dance
- Fun Fest
- Guest speaker on St. Thomas More

Octoberfest - October 20, 2018

- Sandy updated on Funfest. Lots of new additions. BBQ plates, new midway, balloon decoration, lights in tents. Bands booked, silent auction donations are good. Corporate donations are slow.
- Live Auction Dinner will take place on Friday September 28, 2018 in the PAC
- Fr. Michael questioned why Live Auction and Fun Fest interest have decreased. Why aren't people interested? Views this as a transition year. Father believes that this is a great parish that will bear fruit.
- Lori stated that maybe Funfest has lost its identity Is it a community event or fundraiser? Also needs a reboot for ministries to get involved again.

Business Update

- Pastoral Advisory Council Meeting Business Update document distributed to council members. Andy DeHart created a business update report that summarizes the business accomplishments from the past year. Idea is to have an update monthly or bimonthly. This document could be put on the web page.
- Parish staff has been reorganized. New hire for Marriage and Love ministry, Denise Abele. Katherine Makowski now in charge of communications.
- Fr. Michael also plans for the pastoral council to receive a financial update before it goes into the bulletin.
- Pastoral Manual of the Austin Diocese being used as a reference for correct procedures and policies for our parish.
- Looking for a 40th Anniversary project. Parish needs new liturgical vessels
- Diocesan Capital campaign approaching. STM goal is 3.5 million over a 3-5-year period. Parish will receive 30% if goal is reached.
- Some ideas for the use of funds would be a new PAC, adoration chapel, sanctuary renovations to expose tabernacle and/or bigger Narthex.

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Long Range Plan

- Fr. Michael distributed STM Long Range Plan for 2011-2015.
- Where do we think we are? Where is the parish going?
- Need a new vision or mission statement for the church but will need parish input. Survey needed to ask parishioners what their main concerns and wants would be.
- Lori mentioned a possible discernment retreat for the mission of our church.
- Rodney stated his goal would be to figure out how to increase participation from the normal 8 -10% to 20%. , in both financial and volunteer support of the parish
- Discussion on the different styles of leadership at our parish. Fr. Elmer gave laity responsibility STM has had a lack of consistency with so many pastors in a short time. We need to create unity and cohesion.
- Bridgitte mentioned the possibility of having some type of Parish Mission Board/Book at the Octoberfest where parishioner could write why they love this parish or what they would love to see grow at this parish.
- Kevin wanted to know what the council wanted to accomplish by the end of the year? At the very least, identify a chairman and have a successful 2 fundraisers.
- Jeremy had an idea to put a suggestion box in the church so that the council could answer questions or concerns from parishioners.
- Also mentioned was setting up a flock note account for the council members to communicate.

Action Items

- Start the process of getting homilies recorded.
- By next meeting the Parish advisory council members should read over Long Range Plans from 2011-2015, figure out what you think needs be added and eliminated.
- Father suggested to start your own mini survey amongst friends to see what they want from the parish

Fr. Jared ended in prayer

Future Meeting Dates

Tuesday, October 9th
Tuesday, November 13th
Friday, December 14th – Social