

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

94 North Lincoln Street, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2017

Members present: Bev Dippel, Kerry Gigot, Mary Jo Jetzer, Lynn Kulow, Linda Leibham, Matt O'Connor (via phone), Ron Nielsen, Ron (Red) Platz, and Father Phil Reifenberg

Others in attendance: Chris Holzmann, Lisa Gross

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Kerry Gigot.

Prayerful Opening: The meeting began with a prayer by Father Phil.

S.W.O.T. Results – Importance of Youth

Lisa Gross, Director of Faith Formation, attended the meeting. The top priority identified in the S.W.O.T. analysis is the importance of youth in our parish. Lisa provided a handout highlighting status updates per grade, suggested initiatives in an attempt to secure more parental involvement in the Faith Formation programs. The discussion that followed emphasized *the importance of parental involvement*. A Faith Formation Board was recommended, as well as the creation of a Family Faith Formation program. Father Phil mentioned that other parishes have implemented such groups with great success. Lisa will follow up with several resources provided and report back to the Pastoral Council.

Review / Approval of Minutes from February Meeting: Meeting minutes from February 7, 2017 were reviewed. Ron made a motion to approve the minutes and Lynn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance: (Red Platz reported)

- At the recent committee meeting on March 29th, the group discussed the proposed prayer garden in the parking lot. Bids have not been received so no action has taken place. Chris Holzmann will now seek bids.
- It was decided that stipends will be distributed to all Catechists and assistants as a token of appreciation.

Building & Grounds: (Red Platz reported)

Several on-going maintenance concerns exist at both churches. At St. Fridolin, there is steeple leakage, bell tower issues, and bathroom updates that are needed. The chair lift at St. Thomas Aquinas needs to be replaced, and icing issues below the overhang at the parking lot entrance must be resolved. Bids will be sought for this work.

Faith Formation: (see notes above regarding *Importance of Youth* at the beginning of meeting)

Compassionate Hearts/Human Concerns: Chris reported this group plans to meet in June.

Evangelization: (Ron Nielsen reported)

Father Phil and Ron attended a Stewardship and Evangelization seminar at Fond du Lac's Holy Family Parish on Thursday, April 6th. They received a copy of "The Everyday Steward" book. Copies of that book will be purchased for distribution to all parishioners after Lent.

Pastor's Report: While there is no "official" word of a new assignment, Father Phil is acting as if he will be appointed as our parish priest. Two priests have inquired about housing at St. John the Baptist.

Christian Women: (Chris Holzmann reported)

- The positions of President and Secretary are open and need to be filled.
- There will be a parish supper after the 5:30 PM Mass on Saturday, April 29th.

Young at Heart: Chris Holzmann – nothing to report

Old Business:

S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Sharing with Parishioners: (Ron Nielsen reported)

- This topic was brought up at the recent Town Hall meeting. After the Annual Meeting, the results of the S.W.O.T. will be shared in the bulletin.
- After Father Phil's "official" assignment (effective June 20th), a Town Hall meeting will be planned. S.W.O.T. results should be the basis for what the parishioners feel are important for Father Phil to use as our parish priest.

5th Sunday Collection Ideas: (Chris Holzmann reported)

April 30th – Meals on Wheels

Town Hall Meetings: Open forum meetings will be planned twice a year.

Stewardship Talks: After Lent, the first weekend of each month will include a Stewardship Talk about one of our specific ministries. Ron Nielsen will introduce the Stewardship Committee Chairperson/representative as part of closing announcements. That person will then provide a 3 – 5-minute overview of the featured ministry. David Bardon will be the first speaker and talk about the Compassionate Hearts ministry at both weekend Masses and will answer any questions. These talks will replace the Stewardship Fair.

New Business:

Annual Meeting – Sunday, May 21st after 8:00 AM Mass

Father Phil and our two parish trustees (Red and Ron) will preside at this meeting.

Blessed (Dynamic Catholic) Teaching for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation

Kerry Gigot shared information he received (via email) about this new tool for use with our Faith Formation programs specifically for First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. Lisa Gross has already placed an order for this new teaching method for implementation next year.

Two Open Positions on Pastoral Council

Two positions on the Pastoral Council will be open in mid-June due to expired terms. New members are being sought. One trustee position term will also expire in June. If no one comes forward, Ron (Red) Platz has agreed to run again for that position.

Firemen's Parade – Float

STA members will participate in the parade on Sunday, July 2nd, during the Firemen's Picnic weekend. Several members of the parish have begun planning.

Other Business from the floor

- **Zeru Zeru:** Drs. Eric and Karene Boos, residents of rural Elkhart Lake, have been doing Catholic lay missionary work in Tanzania for over 20 years focused on children to be born with albinism. Through approval of the Archdiocese, we will be supporting them in their work.
- **Bridgeway:** Linda Leibham made a suggestion about supporting this local organization. In several months, a food drive will be planned.
- **Project Angel Hugs:** Chris reported that the goods collected by our parish were delivered and are very appreciated.
- **Chrism Mass:** No members of the Pastoral Council are available to attend the Chrism Mass.
- **Mother's Day Weekend:** A collection will take place to support Mary's Room.

Thank You Acknowledgements:

We thank Cindy Smith from Johnsonville Inc. for the donation of brats for the brat fry.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

The next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, June 20, 2017** at 6:30 PM.

Father Phil closed the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Jetzer