

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

94 North Lincoln Street, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2017

Members present: Lynette Fiebrink, Kerry Gigot, Mary Jo Jetzer, Lynn Kulow, Matt O'Connor, Ron (Red) Platz, Ron Nielsen and Father Phil Reifenberg

Members not in attendance: Christopher Donlon

Others in attendance: Chris Holzmann

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Matt O'Connor.

Prayerful Opening: The meeting began with a prayer by Matt O'Connor.

Review / Approval of Minutes from June Meeting: Meeting minutes from June 20, 2017 were reviewed. Red made a motion to approve the minutes and Lynn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance Council: Red Platz reported that this council has not met since last Pastoral Council meeting. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd.

Building & Grounds: (Red Platz reported)

- **St. Fridolin** – An estimate for the steeple has been received; awaiting estimate for chairlift.
- **St. Thomas Aquinas** – Awaiting an estimate from Heim Plumbing for the rectory. A spruce tree has been removed from the front of church (southeast side).

Faith Formation: (Chris Holzmann reported)

- A family program for first and second grades will be implemented this year.
- Several adult leaders have been identified to assist with 6:00 PM Sunday Youth Masses at SJB in conjunction with the Faith Formation program for students in higher grade levels.

Human Concerns / Sunshine Committee: (Chris Holzmann reported)

- **Compassionate Hearts:** Seeking volunteers to assist Atrium staff members (located in Plymouth) with pushing wheelchairs for some of their residents at the Sheboygan County Fair on Friday, September 1st at 10:00 AM.
- **Young at Heart:** A bus trip is planned to go to The Fireside Theatre on Thursday, December 7th to see "Miracle on 34th Street."
- **Christian Women:** Dorie Schmitz is the newly-elected President of this group that meets the third Thursday of the month. Among recent activities of this group includes making welcome bags for the growing number of new members in our parish.

Evangelization: Ron Nielsen reported there is no committee at this time. Third Sunday Stewardship Talks will continue with committee chairpersons.

Pastor's Report: Father Phil explained how Auxiliary Bishop James Schuerman serves as Vicar and oversees the five vicariates of the Archdiocese. Father Phil serves as the Dean of the Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, and Dodge county vicariate. He plans to meet with parish leadership regularly.

Old Business:

S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

A summary of the S.W.O.T. analysis will be communicated to parish members at the Annual Parish meeting in late September or early October (date to be determined).

Stewardship Talks: Positive feedback has been received. Ceil Petrie, Chairperson of the Sunshine Committee, has welcomed several new members to that group.

Faith Formation Family Committee: A Faith Formation Parent Committee is being formed as a subcommittee of the Faith Formation program. Four potential parents have been identified at this time.

Pictorial: A suggestion was made to include pictures of Pastoral Council members in the bulletin as to be easily identifiable by parish members.

Family / Intergenerational Faith Formation Program: Father Phil reported that four representatives have been identified. The goal is for this group to be intergenerational.

New Business:

STA Pastoral Council Objectives (Matt O'Connor, Chairperson reported)

The Executive Council of the Pastoral Council met with Father Phil last week to get his vision for our parish for the upcoming year. Three priorities were identified:

1. **Create disciples** – Council members should participate in an on-going course or some workshops in which they learn how to become a disciple of Christ. These members would then seek more individuals to do the same.
2. **Connect with the leadership from St. John the Baptist Parish** – Father Phil is serving as co-pastorate for our two parishes. We need to nourish relationships and work in collaboration for mutually-beneficial outcomes. Research of existing models should take place.
3. **Create a Welcoming Culture** – Recognition was given for the work that takes place to “welcome” new parish members. In an effort to compliment current efforts, a small sub-committee will seek other best-practices that may be available for consideration.

Prayer Garden status update: (Red Platz reported)

A meeting has taken place between the individuals who have proposed the Prayer Garden and members of both the Buildings and Grounds, and Finance, committees. Location, costs, and status of fundraising efforts were discussed. Discussions will continue.

Monument at North Cemetery:

The cost of repair versus purchase of a new replacement monument have been received. The insurance company has agreed to pay for the purchase of a new monument in about four months.

Other Business from the floor:

- A discussion took place about having Pastoral Council members serving as liaisons to each committee (Liturgy/Worship; Faith Formation; Human Concerns; Stewardship).
- How do we “create disciples”?
- An inquiry was made about repainting the lines in the parking. Since the parking will need to be resurfaced next spring, repainting will be delayed until that time.
- The Boos family mission Zeru-Zeru; invite SJB to participate in a twinning relationship?

Thank You Acknowledgements:

Those committee leaders who have spoken for Stewardship Sundays: David Bardon, Linda Leibham, Ron Nielsen, Ceil Petrie, and Bev Verhulst.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

The next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, September 19, 2017** at 6:30 PM.

Ron Nielsen closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Jetzer