

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**94 North Lincoln Street, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020**  
**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 13, 2016**

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

**Absent:** Bev Dippel, Ron Nielsen

**Others in attendance:** Chris Holzmann

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

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

**Review / Approval of Minutes from August Meeting:** Meeting minutes from August 9, 2016 were reviewed. Red made a motion to approve the minutes and Mary Jo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** (Red Platz reported)

- Budget numbers from other committees will be requested.
- Discussion about conducting an Annual Meeting took place. It would be open to all parishioners and include the upcoming year's new budget, along with reports from the Trustees and each committee. At this time, it has been suggested to have this meeting in May.

**Building & Grounds:** (Red Platz reported)

- No bill has been received for the removal of a tree in the parking lot (approx. \$2,500)
- A discussion took place regarding the repair or replacement of the chair lift leading to the lower level.
- A garden memorial in the back parking lot has been considered. Two quotes are required before taking further action; no quotes have been received at this time.
- Red met with an elderly couple from Sheboygan Falls last week. They would like to fund the expense of redoing the first three rows the head stones at the North Cemetery from Little Elkhart Lake Road to the east. After quotes have been received, the couple will then decide on the amount they wish to finance.

**Christian Formation:** Chris Holzmann had nothing new to report.

**Compassionate Hearts/Human Concerns:** Chris reported that packages for Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter will be sent to nine college freshmen.

**Evangelization:** No report. (Ron Nielsen not in attendance.)

**Pastor's Report:** Father Phil met with Archdiocese representative, Sue McNeil, today to discuss the relationship between the two parishes. We should know by mid-January how many parishes are looking for a new priest, including 4 clusters of parishes. Our parish is advised to have an updated parish profile completed before that time, since it provides a snapshot (first impression) to those priests looking for a new parish assignment.

**Christian Women:** (Chris Holzmann reported)

- The cookie walk this past Saturday was a success.
- Rada cutlery sales were good.
- Three banquet tables have been purchased for the chapel.
- Members recently served a meal for a parish funeral.
- The Christmas Party will be held Thursday at Lake Street Café.

**Young at Heart:** Chris Holzmann reported that the bus trip to Coloma was enjoyed by all who attended. These members continue to look for new ideas of things to do.

### **Old Business:**

**S.W.O.T. Update:** Matt O'Connor and Lynn Kulow tabulated results from the questionnaires and distributed a summary broken down by category (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). A discussion followed. The next S.W.O.T. meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection Ideas:** With five (5) fifth Sundays in 2017, the council decided to split the January fifth Sunday collection between our local St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Knights of Columbus. Discussions will continue to decide on future distributions to Love, Inc., Safe Harbor, Mary's Room, New Hope, Sharon S. Richardson Hospice, and a rehabilitation center in Kiel for the remaining 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday collections in April, July, October, and December.

**Matthew Kelly Book:** The new "Resisting Happiness" books will be distributed to all families after Christmas Masses.

### **New Business:**

**Welcome Letter to New Parishioners:** On behalf of the Christian Women, Chris asked Mary Jo if she would draft a welcome letter for new parish members. A discussion followed about creating a team of parish members who would use a warm and hospitable process of welcoming new members in an effort to promote long-term parish involvement and commitment. Discussions to be continued.

**Open Forum Meeting:** With the popularity of "town hall" meetings, a suggestion was raised to hold open forum meetings twice a year, possibly in March and September, on either side of the July 1<sup>st</sup> start of the new fiscal year.

**Introduction of Priest at Mass:** An announcement of the presiding priest for each Mass will be made by a member of the choir.

### **Other Business:**

- Updating the parish website – A quote of \$1,300 was received from the person who created the parish website to make needed updates.
- The Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh - Matt spoke briefly about this "gem" located on Lake Winnebago that hosts silent retreats.
- It has been requested that names and phone numbers of current Pastoral Council Members be printed on the bulletin.

### **Thank You Acknowledgements:**

- Diane Cudworth, Connie Gross, and Ceil Petrie for making the care packages for our college freshmen.
- Pete Wagner for painting.
- Steve Gross for interior and exterior electrical work.
- Marjorie Schubert for making gift bags and cards.
- Mary Starnitcky for the beautiful banners hanging on the walls surrounding the altar.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

The next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, February 7, 2017** at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Jo Jetzer*