

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

94 North Lincoln Street, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2017

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

Absent: Matt O'Connor

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 December Meeting: Meeting minutes from December 13, 2016 were reviewed. Ron made a motion to approve the minutes and Lynn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance: (Ron Nielsen and Red Platz both reported)

- An Annual Review was conducted a week ago. Investments with McKenzie Financial Services (from Plymouth) are doing fairly well. Some investments will be reallocated into long-term investments.
- The cemetery fund is stable.

Building & Grounds: (Ron Nielsen and Red Platz both reported)

- Two parishioners, Lisa Gross and Diane Kleiber, have created a plan for a parking lot garden. Funding has to be determined; more information will be forthcoming.
- There have been serious icing issues below the overhang at the parking lot entrance. Further discussions will take place to address and resolve the issue.
- Estimates are being sought for bell tower and bathroom updates/repairs at St. Fridolin Church.

Faith Formation: (Chris Holzmann reported)

- Seven (7) students from STA will be confirmed this year. Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, February 26th at SJB with Bishop-Elect Jeffrey Haines presiding at the 2:00 PM ceremony.
- Seven (7) students did not return to Faith Formation this year.
- A suggestion has been made to consider having Faith Formation classes on Sundays during the summer.

Compassionate Hearts/Human Concerns: Chris reported everything is going smoothly.

Evangelization: (Ron Nielsen reported)

- Ron plans to attend a Stewardship and Evangelization seminar at Fond du Lac's Holy Family Parish on Thursday.
- It was suggested that a book club be formed relative to Matthew Kelly's "Resisting Happiness" book that was made available to all parishioners at Christmas. Matthew Kelly also has online videos about what draws people back into church.
- Dr. Alan Hunt's book "Everyone Needs to Forgive" was mentioned as another possible book to create morning and/or evening book discussions.
- Suggestions for speakers are always being sought, such as Fr. John Yockey, who spoke a few years ago.
- While a Stewardship Fair was held two years ago, it was suggested to wait perhaps another year before holding another one.

Pastor's Report: Father Phil reported on the Open List of parishes in the Archdiocese seeking priests and the number of available priests. There are seven 2-parish clusters (four of which are new clusters), five stand-alone parishes, five priests retiring, and several other priests who are not available for assignment at this time for

various reasons. Assignments will be determined at the end of April and announced during the *Spring Assembly of Priests* meeting held May 8 – 10 at The Osthoff. New assignments will go into effect June 20th.

Christian Women: (Chris Holzmann reported)

- There will be a parish supper after the 5:30 PM Mass on Saturday, February 18th.
- The Christian Woman's group met tonight on the topic of self-defense.

Young at Heart: Chris Holzmann reported that this group is waiting for better weather to plan upcoming events.

Old Business:

S.W.O.T. Update: (Ron Nielsen reported)

- The results of the S.W.O.T. analysis that were shared with parishioners have been included with the parish profile that went to the Archdiocese. (Chris will email the profile to all Pastoral Committee members.) SJB submitted their materials the same day independently from ours.
- Could we use the S.W.O.T. results to develop a Strategic Plan moving forward? Lisa Gross has asked to attend the next Council meeting and speak on the importance of youth in our parish and how that would best fit into our Strategic Plan moving forward.

5th Sunday Collection Ideas: (Chris Holzmann reported)

A Lenten brochure will be created highlighting organizations for which weekly donations of goods and/or financial support from parishioners will be accepted. The brochure will be in bulletins prior to the start of Lent.

Welcome Letter to New Parishioners: As a continuation from the last meeting, a group of parishioners will be identified to develop a strategic process to welcome new members to our parish. The goal is to get more people engaged in the life of our parish for the long-term.

Town Hall Meetings: Open forum meetings will be planned twice a year. Sunday, March 19th, Fr. Phil and our two parish trustees (Red and Ron) will conduct a town hall meeting after the 8:00 AM Mass.

Pastoral Council Members on Bulletin: Names of Pastoral Council members will be listed on the front of the bulletin.

New Business:

Other Business:

- STA members will participate in the parade on Sunday, July 2nd, during the Firemen's Picnic weekend.
- STA has joined the Elkhart Lake Chamber of Commerce. Chris will provide an advertisement including our Mass schedule.
- Fr. Dan Lisecki will preside at all Masses and services during Holy Week, conducting the Saturday evening Easter Vigil, as well as Easter Sunday Mass.
- A schedule of Stations of the Cross including all three parishes (STA, SJB, and St. Fridolin) was shared.

Thank You Acknowledgements:

- We thank Nancy Thielmann for the canvas crosses she makes in memory of deceased members from our parish. They are displayed on the beautiful wall hanging at the main entrance of church.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, April 4, 2017** at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Jetzer