

# ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

94 North Lincoln Street, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

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

**Others in attendance:** Chris Holzmann

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Matt O'Connor.

- I. **Prayerful Opening** – The meeting began with a prayer by Mary Jo.
- II. **Review/Approval of Minutes from October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting** – Ron made a motion to approve the minutes and Red seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- III. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Creating Disciples – Next Steps (Matt)**

Matt attended a recent conference on Stewardship and shared highlights. Next steps include identifying what we (the STA parish family) want to do, define a timeline, continue to stay focused on SWOT results, and tie those goals together. Consideration will be given to inviting someone from the Archdiocese to share Best Practices; more work needs to be done in this area.
  - B. **Creating a Welcoming Culture – Update (Lynn)**

Conversations with committee leaders are taking place to become aware of the work being done. Lynn will provide a summary at the next meeting. Many good things are happening.
  - C. **Zeru-Zeru, Inc. Twinning – Update (Ron)**

Awaiting word from SJB Pastoral Council on their twinning with us on this project:

    - Twinning paperwork has been submitted to Archdiocese
    - Boos family will be coming back on Mission Sunday; suggestions include having Antoinette (from Archdiocese) share information on Tanzanian culture; PowerPoint from Karene; may present “Culture of Tanzania” with parishioners mid-February
    - Matt spoke with John Mueller about this; he’s very impressed; could we work together on this project? John will present to SJB Pastoral Council;
    - “Social Human Concerns” could be building block of working together
    - Let working together evolve on its own
  - D. **Town Hall Meeting – Recap and Feedback (All)**

Went well; best turnout (50+); try to blend in testimonials; should consider Sunday afternoon
- IV. **Committee Reports:**
  - A. **Pastor**
    - Save the Date – “The Amazing Parish”; national program; October 16 – 18, 2018; team approach in attendance
    - Univ. Notre Dame “Echo” program (recommended by Lou Gentine); team of 3-4 people; lay pastoral ministry; live on-site several years; Father will get more information
  - B. **Finance Council (Red & Ron)**
    - **St. Fridolin** – roof is fixed; the contractor backed out; a steel roof (instead of asphalt) was installed for same price; done in December
    - **STA** – A recommended vendor for the chair lift (elevator) was received by Fr. Carl Deiderich  
Rear entrance – project on hold; priority on the ice melt issue  
Wireless access in basement; needs follow-up and resolution

**C. Building and Grounds**

- Phase I at Rhine Cemetery done (donors want to continue donation for 8 – 10 years)
- Statue ready for cemetery; need to find spot for it; will be put in place in spring

**D. Human Concerns (Chris)**

- Sunshine; Veteran’s gifts distributed; positive feedback
- Thanksgiving cards sent to nursing homes; surviving spouse
- College student care packages sent

**E. Evangelization (Ron)**

- *Perfectly Yourself* (by Matthew Kelly) and *A Minute in The Church: The Mass* (by Gus Lloyd) will be distributed to all parishioners after Christmas Masses.
- Randy Kulow has been recruited to help develop a Stewardship plan. He will provide an update at the January meeting, with an emphasis on separating “stewardship” from solely financial contributions.

**F. Christian Women**

Twenty ladies enjoyed a presentation by someone from Enchanted Florals.

**V. New Business**

**A. Prayer and Worship Committee**

Referencing page 6 of The Archdiocesan Parish Pastoral Council Norms handout, discussion regarding the Worship Committee took place. In the past, this group consisted of Fr. Dan, Janelle Nielsen, Chris Holzmann, and Theresa Koenig. Father Phil is challenging us to reexamine what we are doing. How do we get parishioner participation? The discussion will continue at next month’s social gathering to identify prospects.

**B. Pastoral Council Visibility** – table until next meeting

**C. Liaison with SJB Pastoral Council** – Lynn Kulow has volunteered to attend the SJB Pastoral Council meetings through the remainder of the parish year (June).

**D. Liaison to STA Committees (for Reporting)**

In order to connect with various committees, it is suggested that Council members be assigned to specific committees and provide reports at upcoming meetings. Suggestions are:

<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	Red	<b>Human Concerns:</b>	
		Bereavement Ministry	Christopher
<b>Christian Women</b>	Lynette	Compassionate Hearts	Kerry
		Respect Life	Kerry
<b>Evangelization</b>	Ron	St. Vincent de Paul	Kerry
		Sunshine Committee	Christopher
		Young At Heart	Christopher

**E. Acknowledgements of thanks** (volunteer) – Red will ask Bev Verhulst if she would consider volunteering to send thank you notes. Ron sent thank you notes to those who provided Stewardship talks.

**F. Other business from floor**

Sun Graphics is updating website; Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> retreat – 9 people signed up at this time

**VI. Adjournment 8:05 PM**

**SOCIAL GATHERING:** Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM with spouses & appetizers  
Next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, January 16, 2018** at 6:30 PM.

Father Phil closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mary Jo Jetzer*