

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 12, 2020, 7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting**

Present: Emily Beaudry, Dawn Bratsch-Prince (secretary), Fr. Kyle Digmann, Kobe Eischeid, Ann Gansemer-Topf, Scott Law, Ronnie Lindeman (chair), K'Lynn Lynn, John Moss.

Absent: Francis Todey. **Guest:** none.

- **Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.**
- **Opening prayer** led by Ronnie Lindeman followed by reflection on the Mission Statement.
- **Introductions by Pastoral Council Members.** New members are Scott Law and Ann Gansemer-Topf (resident parishioners), and Kobe Eischeid (student parishioner).
- **Elections:** Scott Law was elected Vice-Chair and Dawn Bratsch-Prince was elected Secretary.
- **Orientation:** Review Constitution, By-laws, Consensus Model, and Developing Meeting Agendas.
- **Review Options for Council Meetings:** Council will continue to meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. We will continue to meet virtually for the time being.
- **Filling Vacant Council Seat (Faith Formation):** K'Lynn Lynn will serve as the representative for Faith Formation and Stewardship.
- **Virtual Meeting of Pastoral Council and Parish Staff Update:** 30 minutes prior to our September meeting, the new Pastoral Council members (Ann, Scott, Kobe) will join the Zoom call early to join a meet and greet with Parish Staff members.
- **Sharing of Comments by/Discussions with Members of the Parish:**
How do we enliven Mass given the physical/social distancing protocols? How can we be creative in building community? Use big parking lot following Mass to social distance with masks. For new students/parishioners we are setting their habit – how do we help them feel connected to our parish? Columbarium committee is interested in adding another columbarium in the prayer garden area. Future agenda items: Columbarium; Community building/Fellowship ideas.

- **Finance Report.** For FY20 ending on June 30, 2020, the parish's expenses were down 14%, while income was down 12% resulting in a \$24K surplus that Finance Council added to the capital improvement fund. The \$134K in coronavirus PPE funds received by the parish to cover a portion of payroll will be counted in the FY21 budget. The Supple Endowment contribution to the parish of \$60K is being postponed to this fiscal year. In FY20 budget envelope contributions were budgeted at \$773K but the actual contributions were \$837K, likely due to the conversion of many people to online giving. Our offertory was down \$13K. While we had budgeted \$200K in development income, our actual income was \$150K. When we re-budgeted development income for FY21, it was lowered considerably. John Moss had not yet seen any income numbers for July and August. The Finance Council is working on two items: 1) brainstorming on ways to increase parish income long and short term; 2) developing a plan to address any potential drop in income – being proactive in planning instead of reactive.

John Moss will send out the diocese development webinar materials and the FY21 budget to the Council members.

- **Pastor's Report:** Our seminarian Casey Flack is leaving STA on Sunday for his return to Mundelein Seminary (IL). He has been a great asset this spring and summer!
 1. *Visioning Process:* visioning committee has been meeting and has come up with a draft plan/ideas; in the near future Father wants pastoral council and staff to provide input on the proposed plan/ideas that will provide vision for the next 3-5 years.
 2. *Development:* With the departure of Joe Leisz, the Development Committee is taking time to rethink STA's development vision and goals. Sue Winer has taken on the logistical support for development with the goal of paring down our database to a realistic and manageable list of alumni and donors. development support. Students are assisting her with the efforts. Father Kyle seeks to emphasize authentic relationships with our donors, parents, students, alumni, and parishioners. Caring for them as family has to be our first priority.
 3. *Role of the pastoral council:* we are advisory to the pastor, but Father encouraged Council members to share freely their insights, concerns, questions, and ideas to help shape decisions.
- **Agenda items for future meetings:** Columbarium; fellowship/community building ideas; and update on development plans.
- **Meeting adjourned at 8:32.**

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 PM via Zoom.