

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Pastoral Council Meeting - MINUTES
Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting**

Present: Emily Beaudry, Dawn Bratsch-Prince (secretary), Fr. Kyle Digmann, Kobe Eischeid, Ann Gansemer-Topf, Scott Law (vice-chair), Ronnie Lindeman (chair), K'Lynn Lynn, Lizzie Tecklenburg, and Francis Todey.

Guests: none.

Welcome. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

- **Opening prayer** was led by Ann Gansemer-Topf.
- **Reflection on Mission Statement:** Members reflected on how our mission is carried out in our community.
*Gathered in the Holy Spirit, a diverse and vibrant community,
Transformed by Jesus Christ in the Catholic Tradition, and
Sent to be the Presence of God in Ames, ISU, and the World*

Business

- **Student Members' Report**—Lizzie & Kobe. Student are on break but many are still in town. There are still small groups going strong and plan to continue on through break. The virtual meeting mode has facilitated the transition from semester to break small groups. Students are thankful that adoration is continuing throughout break. Lizzie sees mostly students in adoration and invites resident parishioners to join!
- **Discussion of columbarium expansion.** Questions were posed for reflection: What is the purpose of the Prayer Garden? Does a second columbarium fit or hinder that purpose? Is there any feedback from parishioners? Clarification was provided that the donor contributed funding for the parking ramp and that creation of the prayer garden was a parish decision. Building a second columbarium does not conflict with the donor's original intent. There was extensive discussion by the pastoral council which reflected the pros and cons of building an additional columbarium in the space. The pastoral council did not reach consensus to move this proposal forward therefore a decision was made not to approve construction of an additional columbarium. Fr. Kyle felt that the second columbarium was not an essential "need" of the parish nor a major focus of our mission.

Finance Council Report

John Moss was unable to attend so there was no report.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Kyle)

- Should we revive the Personnel Committee which once existed under the Finance Council? Francis circulated some documentation regarding the committee's history and purpose. We will review the documents and continue the discussion at our next meeting.
- The four bishops of Iowa have issued a statement voicing their support for the coronavirus vaccine. There are still many unknowns about distribution of the vaccine and it is not possible to know when we will be able to open the church more extensively, to use classrooms, to engage in fellowship, etc. There was some discussion about finding ways to increase connections with and among parishioners. At our next meeting K'Lynn will share an update on what the Stewardship Committee has been discussing re: "Doing one more thing for 2021."

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM. Have a wonderful Christmas and stay safe and healthy!

Next meetings and prayer leaders:

January 12, John Moss

February 9, Kobe Eishied

March 9, Lizzie Tecklenburg

April 13, Emily Beaudry

May 11, K'Lynn Lynn

June 8, Dawn Bratsch-Prince