

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Pastoral Council Meeting - MINUTES
Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 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, John Moss, Lizzie Tecklenburg, and Francis Today.

Guest: Warren Franke

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

- **Opening prayer** was led by Kobe Eischeid.
- **Reflection on Mission Statement:**
*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*
There was reaffirmation from the group of being in community.

Business

- **Student Members' Report (Lizzie and Kobe)** Students were enthusiastic about the FOCUS SEEK conference (virtual) this winter. Each FOCUS campus hosted its own local SEEK conference and ISU held its gathering at Gateway Hotel. It was a powerful and transformational experience. SEEK started on a Thursday and attendees participated in TNL which was packed. Over 200 ISU students participated. More students were engaged with the activities because they were all local (confession, adoration, Mass). Lizzie and Kobe will both be FOCUS missionaries next year.
- **Finance Council Report (John Moss)**
 - **Parking Ramp Repair:** (Warren Franke, chair, Building and Grounds Committee) Concrete needs to be sealed on parking garage and joints filled, and this will need to be done every 5-8 years. The lowest bid was \$34,485. The funds for this can come out of our capital improvements account, not our main budget. The Pastoral Council approves the work.
 - **HVAC Controls Upgrade:** Our current system runs on Adobe Flash which is discontinued. We need to replace the automated system as soon as possible because right now individuals have to manually turn it on and off. Mechanical Comfort Inc (MCI) provided the lowest bid on the project (\$11,950) to allow it to be controlled from a computer. Pastoral Council approves the work.
 - **Review of fiscal year 2021-2022 budget draft:** Finance Council is working with staff on how it will cut budgets.
 - **Expenses under budget, income underbudget.** The Pastoral Council has started to use the PPP loans it received.

Pastoral Council thanked Warren Franke for his work chairing the B&G Committee. He is stepping down next month.

- **Personnel Committee (Francis)**
 - Francis circulated a draft of a charter. John Moss will share with the Finance Council and Father will share with the staff. Francis will collate feedback.
- **STA Family Lenten Holy Hour:** has been organized by Ann and Scott for Thursdays during Lent. There are three options for participation:
 - Join in-person Eucharistic Adoration Thursday evenings anytime between 5-8PM.
 - Join contemplative prayer hour reflecting on the Stations of the Cross using Ignatian questioning and reflection. Mary J Pfeifer Wulf and Gary Guthrie will provide guided reflections each Thursday at 6:30. Community gathering via Zoom.
 - Children's "Stations of the Cross" video series, led by Fr. Kyle.
- **Pastoral Council elections planned for April/May**
 - Nominees are needed for the April/May elections. The goal is to have 12 members on the Pastoral Council.
 - There are multiple seats up for election: 2 open spots for resident parishioners and 3 spots for students.
 - General discussion ensued on representation on the Pastoral Council:
 - K'Lynn will conclude her term on the Stewardship Council.
 - John Moss will conclude his term on Finance Council.
 - Do we want to add a Faith Formation Rep to Council?
 - Francis Todey will conclude his term on Pastoral Council.
 - Ronnie Lindeman will conclude her first term, but can stand for re-election
 - If we are unsuccessful securing students to run for election, Fr. Kyle will appoint student members. We can consider holding an election for a student seat in the fall. We discussed reaching out to the students "who sit in the back" of the church as a way to bring in a more diverse cross-section of students.
- **Parish Meeting schedule:** Tentatively planned for April 18.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Kyle)

- **Year of St Joseph:** Pope has declared 2021 the Year of St. Joseph. Fr. Kyle suggests celebrating in some way post-Easter. He will talk with Faith Formation/Joe Weyers for ideas for engaging families and parish. We want the effort to include the whole parish.
- **Ash Wednesday:** will hold all services at STA with the lower level serving for overflow seating. Last year we saw 2600!

Adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Next meetings and prayer leaders:

March 9, Lizzie Tecklenburg

April 13, Emily Beaudry

May 11, K'Lynn Lynn

June 8, Dawn Bratsch-Prince