

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Pastoral Council Meeting - MINUTES
Tuesday, January 12, 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, Lizzie Tecklenburg, and Francis Today.

Welcome. Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

- **Opening prayer** was led by John Moss.
- **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*

Business

- **Finance Council Report (John Moss)**
 - ***Honduras Fundraiser.*** John asked Council members to consider the call for support of the Honduras Relief Fundraiser. Funds from St Thomas would be managed and distributed by the pastor of *Dulce Nombre de Maria* Parish and John Donaghy, former STA campus minister and deacon in Honduras. Pastoral Council approved the Fundraiser.
 - ***Parking Ramp Repairs.*** There is a current need to have some areas of parking ramp “recaulked.” This is an ongoing maintenance activity that will need to be taken care of every 5-6 years. Finance Council will be bringing forward a specific proposal soon for Pastoral Council review and support.
 - ***Budget forecast for 2020-2021.*** John reviewed the budget forecast with us. If we assume that there will be no COVID impact for 2020-2021 and that everything will go back to normal, our budget will be \$1,199,400 for 2021-2022. For fiscal year 2021-2022 income budget is projected to be 2% higher (\$1,257,530) but it is impossible to predict due to COVID. After reviewing fixed costs, we discussed increasing the expense budget by 2%. John asked Pastoral Council to come up with proposals for changes, additions, and subtractions to the proposed expense budget. Staff salaries were raised as a priority. When Pastoral Council approves an amount (e.g., 2%) then the Finance Council will work with staff and groups on next year’s plans. Overall, we fared better than other parishes in that we were proactive, used CARES funding, made many efforts to communicate, and participated in Archdiocese webinars on development.

- ***Finance Council Charter.*** The Council approved the proposed revisions to the Finance Council Charter. We discussed the renewal of a Personnel Committee (which had long ago existed under the Finance Council) as a way to support the staff and parish in personnel and HR processes.
- **Student Members' Report (Lizzie and Kobe)**
During the semester break, not a great deal is going on. Students will be returning this month and activities will start back up. Looking forward to a fuller church!
- **Pastor's Report (Fr. Kyle)**
 - What are some needs and wants from our parishioners? What actions can we take?
 - Fr. Kyle asked us to identify ONE want and ONE need for 2021. We brainstormed about the lack of opportunity to gather, and the needs for togetherness, solidarity, praying together as a community.
 - *ONE Want:* sense of solidarity and togetherness. How do we do ZOOM our traditional Sunday coffee and donuts experience?
 - *ONE Need:* praying together. What model might work to bring parishioners together in prayer? Discussion quickly focused on Lent as a time to initiate a new practice. One possibility is to choose a consistent time every week (a standing Holy Hour) for a virtual prayer time. It could be done virtually, that is, everyone logs on to the same Zoom room so that there is a shared sense of togetherness. Parishioners would pray at their homes but be connected via zoom. There could be a very brief reflection to kick-off the hour, or some reflection questions could be shared. Music could be part of the experience as well. This might be adapted for Adoration as well, and/or Adoration could be livestreamed. Many good and creative ideas were shared. We will follow up at our next meeting.
 - Pope Francis has announced that this is the year of St. Joseph. Fr. Kyle asked us to think about how to make this year special.
 - When students are back, we will have mass overflow in lower lounge as needed. For Ash Wednesday in February, STA is planning an outdoor noon service on campus, regardless of weather.
 - April 2022 is the 75th anniversary of STA. A group is being formed by Fr. Kyle to work on the best way to celebrate. We might combine the 75th anniversary with welcome-back-to-church and end-of-the-pandemic celebrations!

Adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Next meetings and prayer leaders:

February 9, Kobe Eishied
 March 9, Lizzie Tecklenburg
 April 13, Emily Beaudry
 May 11, K'Lynn Lynn
 June 8, Dawn Bratsch-Prince