

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 7:00 pm
Web Meeting**

Present: Emily Beaudry, Dawn Bratsch-Prince (secretary), Fr. Kyle Digmann, K'Lynn Lynn, Ronnie Lindeman (vice-chair), John Moss, Rod Pierce, Francis Todey (chair). **Guest:** Casey Flack

Not in attendance: Josh Krischel, Monica Moylan,

- **Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.**
- **Opening prayer** led by John Moss.
- **Reflection on the Mission Statement:** Council members expressed appreciation for Fr. Kyle's virtual Mass and other ways that the parish is working to keep the community connected. Fr. Kyle and Casey spent two hours in the parking lot providing virtual blessings of moms on Mother's Day.
- **Discussion of Development Office Changes.** Fr. Kyle shared that Joe is leaving STA and on July 1 the parish is pivoting to a new approach to development to better align with our mission/vision. The development committee (Dawn Bratsch-Prince, John Stein, Gene Noem, and Sue Winer) will provide input as we move forward. The new vision includes increased communication between the Finance Council and the Supple Board
- **Fiscal 2020-21 Budget Discussion and Consideration for Approval**
 - a. Financial impact of corona virus is hard to predict long term. For now, giving is still strong and more people have converted to online giving. There is a worry that strong giving will drop as time goes by. It is still unknown when "return to in-church activities" we start. We need to monitor income and expenses carefully.
 - b. We cut 2020-2021 budget by 5%. 61% of our expenses are the fixed costs of labor and utilities. Income is flat and expenses are rising. Our biggest active donors are aging and so we need to strategize on the future of and approach to development.
 - c. Our proposed budget is \$1,257,530. There is no plan to use carry-forward funds this year. There will be a Special Fundraising Project to generate \$50,000 (Fr. Kyle will take the lead on this). We are doing the bookkeeping for Sts. Peter and Paul which generates \$3K/year for STA. Building expenses continue to increase since our building is aging and in need of regular repairs

and capital improvements. The proposed development income has been reduced by 52% which is realistic. Development expenses are reduced by approximately 20%. There will be fewer development mailings and Sue Winer will be able to assist with these. Emily Klaus and Campus Ministry will work with students to do some reach out to donors. The Supple Endowment is picking up some of the Parish's development expenses. There needs to be more discussion about which costs should be in the Supple budget and which should be in the STA Operations budget, as well as who tracks and approves the Supple expenses. After productive discussion, the Parish Council voted to approve the proposed 2020-2021 parish budget.

- **Virtual All Parish Meeting on May 17 and Pastoral Council Elections:** All Parish Meeting will be livestreamed at 10am Sunday. There will be three areas of discussion: budget for 2020-21; Fr Kyle's "state of the parish address"; and a call for nominations to elect 2 resident parishioners to the Pastoral Council. (We have 2 people who have expressed interest.) There will be an opportunity for submission of questions as well.
- **Current Fiscal Year Budget:** For April, our income will come in on or near budget. Parishioners have contributed generously to support the parish during this challenging period of time. The changes in our development efforts will reduce expenses. The parish has been granted a forgivable government payroll protection grant of \$132K which is a great assistance. It can be used to cover STA's payroll and utilities for 8 weeks.
- **Update on plans for Re-Opening the Church:** The four Iowa bishops will decide when can we reopen church for services. The Archdiocese is developing draft guidelines and Fr. Kyle part of the group meeting to develop these. When it is a week or two before opening, Fr. Kyle will seek our feedback on the latest draft guidelines for STA. Plans for Faith Formation and summer parish picnic set for late June will continue, but we will need to be flexible to changing conditions.
- **Community Building Ideas at STA.** An group of parishioners met virtually to discuss how to increase outreach and community and to develop connections. This effort focuses not only on pandemic, but beyond (see STA Outreach Zoom notes 4/27/2020).
- **Fr. Ben Nkrumah assignment to Sts. Peter and Paul:** Fr. Ben will be moving to Ames to begin his service this summer. He is originally Ghana. His primary assignment is as pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul, and the cluster of parishes in Marshall and Story Counties. While he will be able to help with sacramental ministry in the greater Ames community, his primary assignment is not STA and we need to be mindful of this. Casey Flack, our seminarian, was going to be leaving in May to serve as a volunteer chaplain in Cedar Rapids this summer. Given the pandemic, he will be staying at STA for a few more months.

- **Sharing of comments from members of parish:** We need much earlier registration for faith formation. Only 30% of participants register before the start of classes which makes planning very difficult. We value and continue to seek a diversity of perspectives to be represented on the Pastoral Council. The parish may see challenges if STA enrollment drops notably this year due to the uncertainty of the pandemic.
- **Finance Report.** Currently there is a \$88K surplus due to the paycheck protection plan income. This CARES Act loan of \$134,500 shows as income, half in April and half in may. If we meet criteria, it is a forgivable loan. This has helped a great deal and finances are ok for the moment.
- **President's Report:** Nothing new to add.
 - a. The church building is open during the day but hours have been reduced some (closes at 5pm). There have been no disturbances or safety issues and we have a security company come through each night just to check.
- **Meeting adjourned at 8:34.**
- **Go in peace!**

Next meeting: June 9