

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Pastoral Council Meeting - MINUTES
Tuesday, October 13, 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), John Moss, Lizzie Tecklenburg, Francis Todey.

Guests: Ray Murray, Paula Friederich, Bob Bourne, Kathy Glatz, Alan Lynch, Joan Grabenstetter, Glen Sibbel.

Welcome. Meeting was called to order at 7:03.

- **Opening prayer** led by Dawn Bratsch-Prince.
- **Reflection on Mission Statement:** Ronnie, Francis, Kobe, Lizzie, and Ann reflected on how they see our mission 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:

- **Columbarium Committee Annual Report & Expansion Proposal**
The Columbarium Committee began considering increasing the number of niches last year when it became clear that the current columbarium would be filled. Three options for design and location were developed all within the limits of the available budget. Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee came up with two additional options. The Columbarium Committee recommends a site at the south end of the west walkway which will occupy the least amount of space and be least invasive. B&G doesn't believe anything else should be added to the prayer garden due to the wishes of the initial garden donor. Students were queried but didn't mention any concerns with columbarium in prayer garden.

Predictions are that the current columbarium will be sold out in 12 months. While there is less of a surge now to purchase a niche than there was when it opened, there is still demand. The new columbarium would be a 20-year unit, although no one can predict how long until we fill up the second columbarium. B&G Committee will attend Pastoral Council next month to present their side.

- **Renew Employee Handbook:**
The Parish Handbook is outdated and Fr. Kyle is looking for 2-3 parishioners with an HR/Management background to take input from staff and Bobby to update the Handbook. Pastoral Council will review and approve the final product. Dawn Bratsch-Prince and Scott Law volunteered to review the Handbook.
- **Finance Council Report: John Moss**
 - YTD August financial status: income is 20% above budget, expenses are 20% below budget. We have a \$50K carryover from last year's alumni fund; if we exclude it, we are 10% below income.

- Supple Endowment Board is looking at the total cost of Campus Ministry. Financial Council membership is part of the group. Supple Board is looking to determine how much of the Campus Ministry budget it will cover from year to year.
 - Finance Council is considering the ability to revise the budget and to make reallocations during the year, something it cannot currently do.
- **Student Members' Report:** Lizzie and Kobe shared what is going well and what struggles there are with the pandemic, classes, and parish. Students are finding community at STA when they cannot find it elsewhere. Come Awake and TNL are great and joyful events but the amount of loneliness among student is great. Small groups are struggling to find space to meet. They would like STA to open the classrooms which allow them to gather, especially for the new students. It is also safer to open classrooms at STA, provided there are cleaning supplies, rather than have students look for spaces in the MU and on campus. The students are not feeling as connected, not praying as much, and not growing in their faith without connection. But they are grateful for what space is available and open to them. Council discussed what PPE STA might need to have on hand if more spaces were open to students and groups, and how we might build “space” or community in other ways, including virtually.

Pastor's Report

- **What are some of the needs and wants from our parishioners?** Fr. Kyle is trying to reach out to parishioners to make connections and asked that Council members also reach out to people in the parish to hear about their needs in this challenging time.
- **Advent and Christmas.** There will be group individual confessions one of the evenings during Advent. Several priests will come to STA to hear confessions in different places around the church. For Christmas Eve 4:45 PM mass, there will be reduced seating and some space left for walk-ins. Seating will be set up in the lower lounge for live streaming of mass.
- **The next Come Awake event** conflicts with our Pastoral Council meeting. Pastoral Council members agreed to meet instead on November 17 at 7 PM.
- **Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.**

Next meetings and prayer leaders:

November 17, Scott Law

December 8, Ann Gansemer-Topf

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