

**Meeting Minutes - Joint Pastoral Council
St. Clare & St. Thomas Aquinas Parishes
July 29, 2020 6:30PM**

Present: Fr. Ed, Woody Ritchey, Kelly Malchine, Jon Golembiewski, Mike Czysz, Jim Schieffer, Michael Leshok, Judy Dalton, Gail Datka, Bruce Hodges, Jim Pindel, Anita Wollmer, Emily Chic, Nathaniel Wallen
Absent: Mark Zaruba, Pamela Jendrzejek, Chris Moczynski

Opening Prayer: Led by Jon

Introductions: The meeting was a virtual meeting utilizing the zoom platform. The meeting attendees each took their turn stating their name and position on council or committees. The new members of St. Thomas's council were identified. St. Clare does not have any new members for 2020-2021 at this time. Kelly pointed out that Michelle Glembin and Pam Crafton are no longer on St. Thomas' Council and Jon said that Paul Glysz, Dylan Rausch, and Mary Isley are not on Saint Clare's council anymore.

The Catholic Comeback: A general discussion occurred about attending Mass in person following the COVID-19 "lockdown". The elderly are concerned about attending Mass and are frequently asking about mask wearing. It was brought up that Saint Leonard in Muskego mandates masks during Mass. Father Ed said we should not create our own guidelines and prefers to adhere to the Archbishop's directives, which we are currently doing. Currently, the Archbishop's dispensation from Sunday Mass obligation goes through September 6th and this means there is no sin if you do not attend Sunday Mass. The question was asked how to get more people to attend Sunday Mass. Jim Pindel said we should spread the word that going to Mass provides a sense of community that most people are missing during this pandemic. Jon said it should be obvious to Catholics that receiving Eucharist should be the real draw for folks coming to Mass.

Lectors, Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers: Mass attendance has grown recently at all St. Thomas masses but a number of people are not registering. This is why we recently extended registration times. People were saying they don't decide on mass times until Saturday and then they cannot register. Now it is open for them. The new 11:15 AM Mass at STA is lightly attended and also not popular with lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. St. Clare is struggling with ushers but parishioners are stepping up at STA and SC. We will monitor this for now.

STA Preschool: State license was obtained on March 8, 2020. Staff is working on safety measures and procedures with the State and CDC. The staff will wear masks; students (kids) wearing masks TBD. 8 kids confirmed for Fall of 2020, 11 considering. STA is in the process of hiring one teacher and one aid.

SC Addition/Repairs to Church Building: Woody provided an update on current issues with the building, some of which was already known. The bell tower needs to be repaired and bidding is in progress, a budgetary (estimated) cost is approximately \$25,000. During heavy rains the cistern overflows and allows the rainwater to flow towards the building, which then overwhelms the sump pumps. The basement has been flooded with 1 inch of water on more than one occasion. To counter this sand bags were strategically placed on the north side of the building in the parking lot to direct the flow of water away from the building and this is working as a temporary solution. Currently the addition is on hold.

2020-21 Budgets: Both STA and SC submitted balanced budgets for 2021. The staffs of both parishes received raises. Some staff members are shared. The Archdiocese mandated that pastors should not receive raises in 2021. SC finished in the black slightly for fiscal 2019-20. STA completed their census earlier this year and SC plans to implement their census in the next few months.

Joint Celebration of the Feast of St. Clare: Cancelled due to COVID-19.

Confirmation: Two Masses are scheduled at STA and will be live streamed, August 30th and September 20th, both at 2:00 PM.

One Bulletin: This is on track to launch September 12th.

One Mission Statement: No final decision was made at this meeting. Father Ed wants everyone to contemplate this more as this is a big decision. He thinks we should present this at the all parish meetings this fall.

Together we follow, share, celebrate and live Christ, embracing ministries of prayer, service and education.

Success Stories and Areas for Improvement: Combined newsletter is getting positive feedback. STA Food pantry giving has been exceptional. Daily Mass attendance is rebounding nicely. Live Streaming viewership is down since Holy Week, but solid numbers. Online giving at both parishes has increased.

Other Topics: Mike Czysz stated the SC Men's Society is aware of a parishioner floating around the idea of discussing race relations within the parishes and perhaps getting a speaker to present to us. Mike stated the Men's Society does not support having the speaker involved in either of our churches. Fr. Ed will handle the situation.

Topics for next meeting: Father Ed asked that we discuss how we will celebrate Christmas this year? Bring feedback to discuss at the next meeting. Also, we should continue to discuss the combined mission statement.

Next meeting: September. No date is set at this time.

Closing Prayer: Glory Be recited by all.