

**Meeting Minutes - STA Pastoral Council**  
**St. Thomas Aquinas Parishes**  
**Sept. 15, 2020 6:30PM**

**Present:** Fr. Ed, Blaise Beaulier, Woody Ritchey, Kelly Malchine, Bruce Hodges, Jim Pindel, Steve Pollock, Julie Limberg, Anita Wollmer, Jeff Brekke, Gabe Gotcher, Nathaniel Wallen

**Absent:** Mark Beck, Emily Chic

**Opening Prayer:** Led by Kelly

**Introductions:** The meeting was a virtual meeting utilizing the zoom platform. Kelly Malchine and Woody Ritchey appointed co-chair; Julie Limberg appointed secretary. It was noted minutes can be published on website if there is a desire (contact is Carol).

**The Catholic Comeback:** Discussion occurred about phase I (25% capacity) /phase II(social distance ~25% for STA). Concern on how to handle increased attendance as we near capacity at each mass. Father Ed asked about the use of the gathering space/narthex. The response he received recommended the use of this overflow space rather than turn anyone away. Path forward – Attendance will continue to be counted and gathering space will be utilized for initial overflow (estimate 20-40 can fit in gathering space and maintain social distance). Ushers are key/critical to the success of assisting in maintaining social distance, directing attendees, counting, and setting up chairs when needed to accommodate overflow. It was noted there is concern with Faith formation students/parents entering from the side door of church. Will need to take note when counting attendance, along with reserved spots for ushers, lectors, eucharistic ministers, and special occasions (1<sup>st</sup> communion, baptisms). There are concerns with Sign-Up Genius as everyone is not using it; more communication is needed if we want to encourage folks to use it. Blaise suggested we monitor issues over the next few weeks, and then revisit and adjust, as necessary. Additionally, review need for continued use of Sign-Up Genius or discontinue its use. Drive thru fish fry starts up again this week.

**Liaisons from St. Thomas needed for St Clare Collaborations:** PC – Woody volunteered. Finance, County Fair, Communications

Sub-Committee – per Blaise not needed. Building/Grounds – Bruce to overlap. Faith Formation – Julie covers this. Prayer & Worship – was suggested that joint meetings with St. Clare may fulfill this need. After further discussions, it was agreed that each counsel functions differently, and liaison is needed to gain insight on each other's practices. Kelly and Father will get together to find someone. It was noted that Woody is stepping down as Admin/St. Clare. Thank you, Woody, for all your work. Interviews to replace Woody are forthcoming.

**Security Committee:** Steve Pollock and Blaise are current members. The next steps are to find time to review policies/procedures, discuss how to keep campus safe, locking of doors, discussions of signs needed, active shooter education, Archdiocese policies. More new parish members needed to join this committee (i.e. nurses, police officers etc.) Anita Wollmer (nurse) volunteered to work with Blaise and Steve to try and get some new folks to join this committee.

**Membership Drive – Stewardship:** No new meetings since COVID. Bruce indicated focus right now is on getting people back to church. Lots of feedback from parishioners on concerns over practices/procedures at church, and what is being followed. We need to be sensitive to the needs of everyone, while we focus on our “Come back to Church” movement.

**STA Preschool:** Hurray! It is open and running. So far it is going great. Hired 2 part time teachers. Six students so far. Concerns surrounding COVID slowed things down, but Kids in the program love it. Tweaks will come along the way as we grow. Spread the word, it is a wonderful program!

**Budget/Finance:** See Finance report for details. Bottom line we are doing well thanks to generous parishioners and PPP loan. We were able to pay outstanding debt and finished 2019-20 fiscal year close to budget. We will continue to keep an eye on expenses.

**One Bulletin:** September joint 12<sup>th</sup> bulletin published and looks good. A lot of effort from STA and SC collaboration team went into making this happen. It was noted a lot of the pages show collaboration efforts and it looks excellent.

**SC & STA mission Statement:** Both STA and SC should review and decide together: Current proposal is:

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

Woody motioned to approve above statement on behalf of STA PC, Bruce seconded the motion, everyone approved. Next steps: SC to review and provide feedback /approve.

**Success Stories and Areas for Improvement:** Food pantry is doing phenomenal, with lots of donations/help. Blaise and Kelly to publish list of items needed so we can continue this effort. Helping Hearts is doing special things for others, cards, calls to folks to check in on any prayers or help needed. Will target parishioners 65 and under and call to see what we can do to help/needed prayers. Christmas books will be handed out during the first week of Advent and we have donations already started for the Matthew Kelly books for Lent. Bruce indicated Knights of Columbus will be doing another food drive November 7/8 – bags with list of items needed stapled to bags will be available. Collection will be November 14/15. Request Lynn and Kelly to provide a list of items and flyer by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation Aug 30<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. Sept H.S. Confirmation, first communions and Baptisms have been phenomenal. Great to see folks back in church. It was noted that 1<sup>st</sup> communion has changed to be more of an individual celebration, and baptisms are private. Discussion on sending congratulations cards. It was noted that we do recognize them in bulletins. Follow up on baptisms was suggested, as many consist of new families. A card and follow up contact are suggested to help welcome them to our parish. Kelly will follow up with others to help. Live Stream – Nat Wallen and Lauren Kaul have been helping Blaise and doing a great job! Training more would be great. Big thank you to Office staff – Kelly, Nancy, Betty, Carol, Tom, Jay, Thaddeus, others. They are the behind the scenes success, coming in everyday keeping things running. Praise to these folks! New Family Faith formation is wonderful, much better, study guides and Videos are good. Thaddeus and team are doing great, feedback indicates they are loving the new program. Gab/Nat report on school this COVID year – Busy classes, lots of new procedures, 8hr day now 6hr day, time spent sanitizing before and after class, wearing masks, homecoming postponed indefinitely. Sports are starting, with parents attending. Play –

Little Women (Oct 3-4) will be live streamed, and tickets available to watch at home.

**Other Topics:** Donations – brainstorm ways to highlight ways to donate online (suggestions – link related to the YouTube mass recordings))

**Topics for next meeting:** Getting Back to Church

**Next meeting:** Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup> (per schedule this should be Joint Pastoral meeting with St. Clare).

**Closing Prayer:** Glory Be recited by all.