

Minutes
Saint Thomas More Pastoral Council
February 5, 2009

PRESENT:

Yvonne Hanson, Katie Otto, Peter Ries, Steve Thomas, Barbara Thomalla, OSM, Gretchen Tieder, Darwin Williams, Gloria Wilkie, and Steve Wilson.

Pastor: Fr Joseph Weiss, SJ.

Staff: Peggy Junkin

PRAYER:

We prayed the Sunday gospel and offered intentions. Meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES

Pastoral Council members received the minutes of the January 8, 2009 meeting via email on January 14, 2009. Minutes were approved via email.

VISION AND MISSION CELEBRATION

Peggy reviewed details about the meal, children's activities, door prizes, and cleanup.

The Finance presentation will be given by John Peterson. The Council recommends that John include a comment that the deficit will need to be addressed both by increasing revenue and decreasing expenses. The Council wants to get more people to give, rather than asking those who already give to give more.

Steve Thomas will give the presentation of the results of the survey on pastoral priorities. Gretchen Tieder and Steve Wilson collated the results of the survey. Gretchen prepared a draft of the summary and a text of the presentation. The Council reviewed these and made suggestions by email. The Council approved the summary. The Council asked Steve Thomas to include an invitation to welcome more people to volunteer.

COMMISSIONS

Fr. Joe provided a paper that described the roles of parish commissions and committees. The Saint Thomas More Bylaws call for the following seven commissions: Liturgy and Worship, Education and Formation, Community Ministries, Parish Life, Evangelization/Communication, Ecumenism, and Buildings/Facilities.

A parish commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Director of a Parish Ministry. In addition a parish commission assists the Director of a Parish Ministry in the formation of the parish community and the coordination of committees supporting a particular ministry. A parish commission is not a permission-giving organization. The Commission will advise, collaborate, support and provide resources, as necessary, if requested. A parish commission is usually comprised of the leaders, or, at a minimum, a representative from the supporting committees.

A parish committee assists the Director of a Parish Ministry and Commission by taking responsibility for work in a particular area within the ministry. Examples: The Environment Committee assists the Worship Commission; the Isaiah Core Team assists the Community Ministries (Justice) Commission.

Fr. Joe reported that some of the directors of ministries have formed some commissions, which have begun their work.

DRAFT PROCESS FOR PRIORITIES

Fr Joe presented a process of developing action proposals for the focus priorities. The Pastoral Council discussed this process and approved the framework. Objectives need to be measurable, concrete, and have deadlines. Directors of ministries and commissions, and the parish, will need to learn to manage by achieving results of the objectives, not simply managing activities. The Directors of Ministries will submit a quarterly progress report of the objectives and action steps to the Pastoral Council on: January 15, April 1, July 1, and October 1, beginning with April 1, 2009.

The Council noted that the parish continues to function all summer and parish families can continue to volunteer and participate in parish life in the summer, so some of the objectives need to be accomplished during the summer. Examples: volunteers are needed in the summer for Meals on Wheels, Loaves and Fishes, youth activities, liturgical ministries, etc.

We recognized that in this time of economic crisis in the U.S. and the world, some of our parish members will be unemployed. We discussed some specific ways we might address the spiritual needs of the unemployed and ways that unemployed people might do some volunteer work.

REGULAR PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting is March 5, 2009 the first Thursday of the month. The Finance Council is preparing the Fiscal Budget for that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Barbara Thomalla, OSM