

Pastoral Council Minutes
September 18, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Fr. Peter, Fr. Garry, Andy Roybal, Corinne Lopez, Kathleen Hennessy, Sid Baum, Diza Hilles, Dianne Bert, Maria Huether

Opening Prayer: Fr. Peter

Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting were approved by committee.

Pastor's Report:

- Kneelers: The parish is working with a company regarding new kneelers for the chapel. We will look at kneelers that attach and ones that don't attach. This is in response to the Archdiocesan Liturgical changes which require kneeling at Mass.
- Summer Projects: During the summer, we removed the large maple tree in the parking lot, built a new entry ramp, and fixed the garden shed. Fr. Peter thanked Andy Roybal.
- Focus Missionaries: This school year will be our 3rd year with Focus Missionaries. We have a good working relationship with them, and Fr. Peter will ask the Archdiocese to renew the Focus missionaries for a 4th year.

Development Update:

- Parishioner Appreciation BBQ: The September 14th parish dinner was a success. There was a good turnout. \$1500 was raised, and the expenses were only \$300.
- Summer Projects: Andy updated the committee on the shed repairs, entry ramp and maple tree removal.
- Stewardship Report: Andy suggested posting the annual Stewardship Report on our website.
- Advent Giving: Andy proposed on-line giving during Advent. Parishioners can go to our website, look for different projects and make Christmas donations to those projects.

Peer Minister Update:

- DISM: Maria reported that the students who went to the Dominican Institute for Campus Ministry this past summer in San Jose are very grateful for the opportunity.
- Dinner: The students are returning to school soon. There will be a Welcome Dinner.
- Alpha Course: The Newman Center will be starting the Alpha Course this fall. It is a program open to everyone, especially those who are not familiar with Christianity.
- Prayers: Maria asked for prayers for the students.

Newman Center Guiding Document 2018-2019:

Fr. Peter led a discussion of the Guiding Document which includes 4 topics:

1. Worship
2. Faith Formation
3. Service & Social Justice
4. Community

Topic 1: WORSHIP

There was a discussion about the kneelers because if we install the kneelers, we would lose 60 chairs from the chapel. The committee suggested that Fr. Peter address this with Archbishop Sample to see if St. Thomas More can be exempt from adding kneelers.

There was also a comment made that we want St. Thomas More to be a welcoming place and that kneeling may inhibit that for people visiting the parish.

Topic 2: FAITH FORMATION

We need to engage the University community to a greater extent, and Fr. Garry has started doing this. We will have speakers and resources available for faculty and students. There is an online list of about 130 professors and their areas of expertise.

We have speakers planned for:

November 15 (Shroud Encounter by Russ Breault)

Advent Mission/Retreat by Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.

January (Is it Rational to believe in Miracles? By Fr. Anselm Ramelow)

Topic 3: SERVICE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Show the movie, "Pope Francis: A Man of His Word" to the parishioners. It was suggested that it coincide with Earth Day (April 22, 2019). Local service agencies can be at the parish that day with sign-up tables to volunteer.

Topic 4: COMMUNITY

The recent scandals in the Church have divided the Church. What can we do? Some suggestions included signing a petition, have prayer meetings, have a town hall meeting, and have small group meetings.

Concerns were expressed by the committee that a town hall meeting might do more harm than good. For people who have been personally affected by the abuse, we need a resource list to give them. Cathy Shannon at the Archdiocese was mentioned as a resource, along with Corinne Lopez. On the Archdiocesan website, there is a process on how to deal with these issues of abuse.

Fr. Peter and Fr. Garry will put together some small group ideas.

Closing:

Fr. Peter asked the committee members to email him a photo of ourselves, our contact information, the Mass we usually attend and 3-4 sentences about ourselves / organizations we belong to / how long at the parish / etc.

Fr. Peter said that the Pastoral Committee needs to be the eyes and ears of the parishioners. Feel the pulse of the parish community. What do they want? Bring input to meetings.

We will meet every other month at 7 p.m.:

November 13

January 15

March 12

May 7

June TBD (dinner at Andy's)

There is an area-wide Pastoral Council meeting on Saturday, September 22, from 9:00-12:00, at St. Paul Parish. Kathleen Hennessy and Dianne Bert will be representing Newman Center. Fr. Peter gave each of them a copy of the 2017-2019 Pastoral Initiatives document.