

Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More

Summary of the Pastoral Council Meeting

August 22, 2018

Present: Father John Cayer, Michael Williams, Jeanne O’Kon, Mary Ballard, Mary Goble, Christa Calamas, Donald Thomas, Sue Steverson, Lauren Kubelka, Brother Rahl Bunsu, Dasha Nixon, Chaney Coggins, Michelle Harkness, Joy Smith, Valeria Robinson. **Absent:** Michele Taylor, Wayne Evans.

Introduction of New Council Members: Valeria (Michelle) Robinson introduced herself. She’s been at STM since 1993, and she taught 2nd and 4th grade Religious Education classes. Mary Goble has been at STM for over 30 years. She serves in several ministries, including the Hospitality area and as a Eucharistic Minister. Lauren Kubelka is the CSU representative. She’s from Houston and is a junior at FSU studying Meteorology. Sue Steverson is the CCW representative. She has been a member of the parish since 1967, and she is a lector. Michelle Harkness has been a part of the parish since 1985 and serves as a lector.

CSU Update: Lauren Kubelka reported that CSU is very active at the beginning of fall semester. During the summer, they held Spirit Nights with about 65 students attending. This week, they have “Seek” events, including helping freshmen move into their dorms. CSU holds sports activities on Landis Green and at Tully Gym. A CSU bar-b-que will be held at the church on Friday, and the Freshmen Retreat will take place on Saturday with about 120 participants. Next week is “CRUSH” week (Catholic Rush Week) with the first Spirit Night on Wednesday. The Fall Retreat will be held on September 28 at Camp Cherry Lake.

Parish and Family Life: Chaney Coggins is now the Adult Faith Formation Director for the parish. Parishioners have been given information about **Formed.org**, which Chaney described as a Catholic Netflix, with movies, documentaries, and numerous other media sources. In the fall, the nine-week financial workshop will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 2nd. Online registration begins on Sept. 9th. Coordinators are needed for the small discussion groups.

Education and Faith Formation: *Trinity Catholic School:* Joy Smith reported that Trinity Catholic began the school year on August 10th, and they are off to a great start. All students now attend Mass at 8:30 on Wednesdays at Blessed Sacrament. The Boosterthon is the major fall fundraiser, held from August 28 through September 7. Monthly updates are posted on the STM bulletin board outside the Parish Hall.

Administration: *Construction projects update:* Dasha Nixon reported that the kitchen renovation project is ongoing, to bring the kitchen up to code and upgrade the appliances. It should take about 60 days to complete the project once it begins. *Church Sound System:* Father John stated that the sound system is still being adjusted, but it already makes a big difference. The speakers are not new, but what is new is behind the altar. *New personnel:* Father Mark Akubo is here to complete his Ph.D. degree at FSU, and he frequently says Mass for the parish. Victor Herrera is the new facilities manager. Jimmy Melin has been hired as a day custodian.

Rector’s Comments: *USCCB/Diocesan Policy/Parish Policy:* Father John distributed a booklet called *Promise to Protect: Pledge to Heal*, produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This is a charter for the protection of children and young people. There is an online “Safe Environment” training required for anyone working with young children, and the training is re-done every five years. Father John reported that the charter is working, and he encouraged everyone not to “lose heart.” He emphasized that the behavior should not be tolerated at any level. The Charter states that “we share Pope Francis’ conviction that everything possible must be done to rid the church of the sexual abuse of minors and to open pathways of reconciliation and healing for those who were abused.” This document appears on the Diocesan web site under “Safe Environment.” A talking/listening session will be held at the parish on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on September 19 at 7:00 p.m.