

St Thomas Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes Jan 27, 2015

Present: Fr Bill, Deacon Jim, Frank Lum, Mary Cavnar, Bill Cavnar, David Williams, Marie Williams, Paul Jackowski, Moira Cullen, Cathy Dowling

Absent: Fr Todd, Rod Gauvin, Paul Thiefels, Joanne Thiefels, Naomi Corera

1. Fr Bill presented the Lineamenta questionnaire as a part of the Vatican's study of marriage and family life currently. The USCCB has put this survey out to all catholic parishes. Our answers to the survey questions will be consolidated with responses from other parishes and sent to the USCCB and on to the Vatican. The Washtenaw Vicariate has been assigned 8 specific questions which we are to answer. The Pastoral Council will gather on Feb 14 for several hours to discuss and complete our portion of the questionnaire.

2. Fr Bill was approached recently by a community member requesting that the parish support a young local man working in Rwanda. Fr Bill said that he would take the issue to the parish council for consideration. The channel for donations is called Partners in Health. This organization supports "family planning" and other objectionable practices. The pastoral council unanimously decided we should not support this particular organization.

Fr Bill gave an update on the small group project that will be implemented during Lent. The main goal of small groups is for each participant to strengthen his or her relationship with the Trinity. About 70 parishioners have volunteered to be group leaders. There will be a script provided to leaders; each meeting should run 1 -2 hours. The topic will be a discussion of our Creed. Included in the guide will be a 5 minute reflection by Fr Bill, Fr Todd and Monica Pope.

The parish will post a large map of the area showing where group leaders are located. Parishioners can join a group based on their location or there are several small groups already existing in the parish that want to continue to meet as a group and that is OK.

After the map has been displayed, group leaders will make phone calls inviting new members.

Leaders may include a meal, pot-luck, or some kind of beverage/food/potluck if they choose. The small group gatherings will lead into the alpha retreats this fall.

3. Craig Pohl, the Diocesan Head for the New Evangelization, will be at St Thomas to help us implement the small groups.

4. Marie Williams reported that a parishioner has suggested that the pastoral council meeting minutes be posted on the parish website (for ease of parishioners reading the minutes.) Fr Bill agreed and Marie will follow up with Rob Hohler to get this started.

5. The next meeting is on Tues, Feb 24 at 7pm.

Minutes submitted by M. Williams.