

St Thomas Pastoral Council 4-26-16 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Dcn Jim Miles, Fr Bill, Fr Todd, Paul J, Bill & Mary Cavnar, Naomi Corera, Frank Lum, Rod Gauvin, Paul & Joanne Thiefels, Dave Williams, Cathy Dowling

Minutes from the March 29 meeting were accepted.

St Thomas Library: Deacon Jim commends the staff that maintain it and are continuously improving it. Donations are accepted, after they've been reviewed. Need mention of it in the bulletin. Also, an open house after masses to raise awareness. Obtaining ebooks that could be loaned would be helpful. Parishioners could also donate tablets.

Diocesan Assembly "Called by Name": an evangelization assembly for clergy and parishioners, Oct 21-22: The pastoral council is invited. Please review the documents on the webpage (www.dioceseoflansing.org/2016_diocesan_assembly) and will discuss it at the next meeting. Register on the website, then send email to Beth Spizarny letting her know of your registration.

Called & Gifted: a discernment process for identifying and embracing the gifts we each have. It has positively impacted the Parish staff. Debbie Amato is trained as a C&G coordinator for our diocese. Fr Bill wants the teachers to do C&G. It makes a good follow-up to the Alpha course. There are books, videos, etc. for those who are unable to attend a workshop.

Evangelization update: Alpha course is going well. The Jeff Cavins Bible Study went well. The 4 week corporal works of mercy study group starts tomorrow. There was much discussion about praying for the parishioners' needs and how that could be done. Bill & Mary C. shared how they do their daily prayer intentions. Fr Bill is thinking about starting a prayer initiative at Pentecost. Also, Eucharistic Adoration needs mention in a homily.

Youth Minister position: Still no strong candidates. It is hard to find a part-time person.

Director of Development: Have interviewed a second person. He/she is inexperienced, but has potential. Rob Hohler felt good about the applicant. Deacon Jim suggested monetary goals prior to a new development director starting.

Parish outreach in third world countries: Adult education is desperately needed. Some adults have not learned English as a child and are at a disadvantage as adults. Also, vocational education is greatly needed. There is great interest in helping, just not sure how we should go about it. And how are we best connected? Through a local priest in Uganda or a specific parish? Frank Lum will join the subcommittee that is composed of Bill, Marie & Naomi.

Mary selling papers after masses: Marie looked into the cost of selling National Catholic Register. The price is very reasonable, just \$0.80 per copy if we buy 50 or more. It is published every two weeks and would be delivered to our parish on a Thursday or Friday. Rob H will talk to Mary and see if she would be willing to sell the NCR instead of the Underground News.

Capital Campaign: There will be town hall meetings on May 22 and 24. Since the 24th is the same date as our meeting, we will attend that in place of our pastoral council meeting. Our diocesan goal is \$1.7 million, over that we get a portion of. The total goal for our parish is 43.5 million. There will be a diocesan survey after the Town Hall meeting.