

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes: 5-24-16

Minutes from April meeting were approved.

Cliff Schwind funeral: Mr Schwind, a longtime parishioner, died a few days ago at the age of 105. He'd been a member of the K of C for 85 years, including 10 years as a Grand Knight! A visitation will be held for him Thursday (5/27) from 4-7pm at Nie Funeral Home and his funeral will be on Fri (5/28) at 10am, St Thomas with Fr Bill officiating.

There was a discussion about the difficulty of making deaths/funerals known to parishioners in a timely manner. It was suggested that the parish start a "Parish Notice" email. Parishioners would subscribe if they wanted to receive alerts/notices. Fr Bill said he would discuss this with Rob H.

Diocesan Capital Campaign: Some parishioners need more information about how the proceeds will be divided between the Diocese and the parish. Overall, the campaign is being accepted.

Youth Ministry Position: There are 4 top applicants and one of these has an interview scheduled. None of the applicants are parishioners. The applicants will be interviewed by a panel composed of Fr Bill, Fr Todd, Monica Pope and Beth Spizarny.

Director of Development: The position was previously a half time job; it has been changed to a fulltime position. The director will be in charge of development for both the church and school. There is a need to increase Legacy gifts to the parish.

Mary, selling Groundcover News: Rob has worked out the logistics for her to sell National Catholic Register. She will continue to have a small stack of Groundcover News available for those who want that.

Pastoral Council bios of members: each pastoral council member needs to submit a photo and a few sentences about themselves. Please send this to Rod Gauvin in the next 2 weeks. This will be on the parish website, similar to the Finance Council page.

Parish Mission Statement: does this need to be reviewed?

Evangelization: Beth distributed a calendar of events for the entire year. As our new Evangelization Director, she reported her upcoming plans for the parish. Alpha course: she will hold an After Alpha course this fall, Bishop Brynes has a Catholic Alpha, the fall Alpha course is moving to Thursday. Bishop Boyea is holding a Diocesan Assembly the weekend of Oct 21-22 in Dimondale. It is all day Friday and half a day on Saturday. Cost is \$75 per person. Pastoral Council members are encouraged to attend. The parish can help financially if that is an issue. Prayer Ministry Team: Beth is forming a prayer ministry team to offer prayer after Sunday

Masses and at occasional other times. St Thomas Media Team: Beth now has parishioners available to take photos/videos of events. Captivated: will obtain personal faith stories from parishioners and publish these online and in the bulletin.

Parish discussion questions:

What makes us unique?

Downtown presence, architectural beauty, long history and presence in AA, great practice of prayer over the years, history of excellent priests, diverse population because of being a college town, transient population, devout and orthodox liturgy, great choir, reverence during mass, size of the ministry team and its effectiveness, strong pro-life presence, St Vincent de Paul conference is the face of Christ, great support of vocations

Our school:

Safe environment, enthusiastic band director, kids are engaged, staff like what they are doing, the Principal is very dedicated

Greatest need of parish and school:

A fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, prayer of all kinds, how to deal with an increasingly hostile/secular society

Next Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug 23 at 7pm. Fr Bill will call a meeting sooner if he feels the need.