

St Thomas Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes Jan 7, 2015

Present: Fr Bill, Fr Todd, Rod Gauvin, David Williams, Marie Williams, Paul Thiefels, Moira Cullen, Cathy Dowling

Absent: Naomi Corera, Frank Lum, Joanne Thiefels

Elections were held. Chairman is Rod Gauvin, Vice Chair is Moira Cullen, Secretary Marie Williams and Under Secretary is Bill Cavnar. Members volunteered for either 2 or 3 year terms as follows: Bill, Mary, Cathy, Marie, Dave, Paul and Joanne are all taking 3 year terms and Moira, Frank and Naomi are taking 2 year terms.

Fr Bill will commission all members on Jan 11 during the 11am mass. All members are asked to try to attend this mass. The Thiefels and Williams will both be out of town that weekend and are unable to be present.

Fr Bill discussed the upcoming parish assembly, Sat Jan 10. So far over 100 people are attending. As part of the New Evangelization, Fr Bill is implementing a program in the parish which has been named One Good Step. He is encouraging all parishioners to take just one good step in their faith life. Aspects of this include: small groups (8-12 per group), greeters before mass, coffee after Sunday masses, the use of My Parish App and an alpha retreat in the fall.

There was much discussion about the implementation of the small groups, how to invite parishioners (friendly phone call), where they will be held (in homes and at the parish), how to group people (geographic and by topic, ex. widows or young adults, etc.). It was decided to start with the geographic grouping and wait a bit for grouping by topic. Interested host families will fill out a card indicating their interest at the assembly this weekend or within the next 2 weeks.

Fr Todd discussed a lifetime discipleship plan and shared a booklet that would help a person establish practical and doable goals.

Rob Hohler, our business manager, will start a coffee after the masses, called Doubter's Choice Café. There will be a donation basket present and parish office staff present. Fr Bill reported that the recent St Nicholas breakfast was a big success.

The parish might start Alpha retreats in the fall. Parishioners would come for dinner followed by a presentation. It runs 10 weeks. Small groups are established as one sits with the same group each week. Locally, Our Lady of Good Counsel held these and had over 1000 people participate.

The Thiefels will be gone for about 3 months and will return in mid April.

Minutes submitted by Marie Williams