

St Thomas Pastoral Council meeting minutes 1-26-16

Present: Fr Bill, Fr Todd, Rod Gauvin, Deacon Jim, Dave & Marie Williams, John & Moira Cullen, Frank Lum, Bill & Mary Cavnar, Cathy Dowling, Paul Jackowski

Guests: Pat O'Hearn (Diocese), Tony Gwiazdowski (Greater Mission), Shawn Jana (parishioner)

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Diocesan Capital Campaign – The Diocese is undertaking a large capital campaign with a goal of raising \$65 million. An organization called Greater Mission has been hired to implement the campaign. The Diocese of Lansing is one of only 9 dioceses that have never held a diocese-wide campaign. Combined campaigns have a near 100% success rate. The campaign combines the needs of each parish with those of the diocese. Each parish receives 35% back of what it contributed. The Diocesan Services Appeal will be suspended for 2017; it will resume in 2018. Campaigns such as this tend to grow off previous campaigns. Individuals see that they can give more the next time a campaign occurs. The money raised in this campaign does not go to every day expenses, rather, it is an endowment. Payment from the campaign to each parish (the 35% that comes back to each parish) is made in quarterly payments. Parishioners can choose a 3-5 year payment plan. Large financial needs of St Thomas include: new roof \$450-500K, parking lot \$100 -130K, tuck pointing of church \$115- 150K, stained glass maintenance \$80 – 100K, St Catherine House roof \$110 – 150K and restoration/beautification of the church.

Restoration of church – Shawn Jana from the Art committee presented the final 2 options the committee is considering: Redfern Studios (18 yrs experience) and Conrad Schmitt (120 yrs experience). The cost is estimated at \$500,000 - \$600,000. The restoration could take anywhere from 4 months (Conrad Schmitt) to 18 months (Redfern Studios). Both proposals were beautiful!

Evangelization – Efforts in this area are requiring a lot of Beth and Monica's time. Beth (high school ministry) is feeling a strong need to reach the parents in order to reach the students. Fr Bill proposed a change in structure in the Rel Ed dept. Beth would become the Director of Evangelization and run Alpha courses and Monica will continue to be in charge of adult and youth Rel Ed. A new position for high school youth ministry will be open at the cost of around \$20-\$30K. All on the council were in favor of this.

St Thomas School – The current 8th grade class is small. A lot of recruiting for new students is being conducted now.

Alpha course – Will be starting up soon. Using a Catholic course this semester. Waiting to see if we will have as many participants.

Year of Mercy -

1. Cathy Dowling's prayer group had several suggestions for the Year of Mercy for concrete works of mercy within the parish. These include: parish notification of deaths/funerals so that parishioners could attend the funeral of a fellow parishioner and a format for parishioners in need to make their need (meals, etc.) known.

2. Bill Cavnar suggested the possibility of an organization (501c3) that could distribute personal donations from parishioners to special causes, often overseas. There are many problems with donations such as that, for ex., when the parish donates to Fr Francis in Africa, the donation starts at St Thomas, goes to the Lansing Diocese, then to the Ugandan Diocese and finally to Fr Francis. A large donation from the parish recently took 6 months to actually arrive to Father. Bill is aware of a particular organization called the Barnabas Almsgiving Fund.

Next meeting: Feb 23, 2016