St. Thomas the Apostle Pastoral and Finance Council Meeting

St. Thomas Social Hall

6:00 pm March 21, 2023

Meeting started at approximately 6:00pm.  Attendees included Mike Mleziva, Mike Donovan, Pat Donovan, Jody Duckart, Darrell Duckart, Brandon Spude, Jean Conard, Don LeGrave, Bob Baierl, Wade Sicklinger, Lissette Glinski, Becky Livingstone, Laura Buresh, Father Lukee, Tony Buresh, Andy Reinhard, Norb Dantinne, and Jeff Fischer.

**Joint Council Agenda Items**

1. Minutes from the September meeting were approved with one grammatical correction.
2. Becky gave faith formation update. Asked for feedback on faith formation program. Discussion was held and consensus was that the program is doing well, especially because of the number of families that are enrolling in our program even though they belong to other parishes. Becky also offered the link to the parish calendar to the group.
3. Pat Donovan gave an update on the Bishops Appeal. We are currently at 57% of our goal. Witness talks are happening at each parish, once per month. If you are over 65 years old you can donate from your 401K straight to a charitable cause without tax penalty.
4. Mike M. gave update on the one by one campaign. Our parish will be collecting proceeds until 2024. There is still about $7,000 to collect within the parish.
5. The Emergency Response Plan for St. Thomas has been created and was presented by Mike M. This is a requirement from the diocese.
6. Pat discussed the bulletin and asked for ideas on how to get the word out more about events and happenings at the church. Discussion was held. One idea was to post on Facebook. Please bring ideas forward.
7. The parish directory update is in progress. The proof has been released today but has several errors. The goal is to have this reviewed and returned in the next week.
8. Becky discussed electronic ministry scheduling. Other parishes do not think there is value in this program because there is a cost to it. Discussion was held and it was agreed that because of the number of ministers at St. Thomas there could be value so we will trial this for a year.
9. Mike M. updated the group on Discipleship. The bible study held over the winter is complete and went well. The plan is to take the Summer off and resume studies in fall. The topic will be about the Gospel of John. Father Greg Parent will by speaking March 28th at St. Killians. On Holy Thursday there will be a seven parish visitation following the 6:30pm mass. Molly will lead the procession to the other parishes. Maximus Cabey is going to be speaking at St. Thomas in the near future. This Summer Molly is looking to start a “prayer challenge”, more to come.
10. Mike M. gave an update on buildings and grounds. The bell tower project is now complete and came up to $25,578 for the entire project. Landscaping around the tower is to be scheduled this spring. The quote for this is going to be about $21,000. Some parishoners have offered there time to help which will bring this number down to $18,500. There are pavers and benches still available for sale.
11. Wade updated the group that the steering committee from the RE center is working on budget numbers for a possible building expansion. More to come.
12. The office is waiting for the final quote for the parking lot sealing and striping. The current quotes are $16,000 and $10,900.
13. The office is currently looking at bids for lawn care in the cemeteries. Randy and Jeff take care of most of the lawns and it’s looking like S&B will care for the rest.
14. Several council members are due to leave their position. From Parish council, Jody, Bob, and Brandon are at the end of their terms and from Finance council Jeff, Jean, Wade, and Darrell are at the end of their terms. Please let the office know if you are not interested in remaining on the council. Norb D. elected to stay on the ballet for Trustee.
15. Pat discussed a summer concert event like Fankie Moscato last year. Becky suggested Jacob Rudd. More to come but the date is tentatively August 16th or 23rd.