

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2018

Next Meeting: 7:00 PM, January 28, 2019, at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center, Room 13/14

Pastor: Fr. Glen Jenson

Attendees: Susan Wieneke (Chair), Don Felix (Vice Chair), Judy Bermel, Cory Plotts, Steve Schmitz, T.J. McGuire, Susan Steinmetz, Sara Triplett (Secretary), Tom Hudinsky (St. Thomas Trustee) and Roger Litchy (St. Thomas Trustee)

The role of the parish council is to support and council the pastor, to evangelize and do work as identified during meetings. "Do one holy thing every day and grow in that."

1. Lectio Divina

2. Discipleship 1-on-1 based on FOCUS model for student missionaries

- Susan shared some thoughts from The School of Discipleship. Not about numbers, but about getting people all in, excited about their faith.
- TJ shared his experience with FOCUS. Key points: personal invitations, personal connections, Bible studies with provided material and mentoring in leading. Spiritual multiplication concept - you influence a small group of people to get excited about their faith and they go off and do the same. Win, Build, Send model.
- WIN event happening soon is our parish MISSION during Advent. Invite people - personal invitations are important!

3. Alpha - TJ did some research and shared the following:

- It's non-denominational, focused on getting to know Jesus.
- 11 weeks, food and socializing followed by a 20-30 minute talk with discussion in small groups.
- Must rely on strong Catholic participants for sharing Catholic components.
- Gives participants a foundation in Christianity.

4. How are we doing welcoming visitors? Discussed during breakouts, then shared in combined group.

- a. How are we utilizing our "Welcome brochure"? Should we have a Welcome person?
- b. Should we utilize a pew welcome card? Susan S. will get one from Good Shepherd in Golden Valley as an example to consider.
- c. Is our new member process successful in introducing them to the parishioners as well as encouraging them to participate in our community? Should we form a committee to review?

5. Other outreach discussion:

- a. Parish Mission details: *A social is planned at the end of each night. Brook S. will arrange for Loretto sign (by ball fields) to advertise.*
- b. Judy shared some things larger parishes are doing. Participating in the community to get the word out about the parish.
- c. Mike Hubbartt has agreed to chair the St. Thomas Festival Raffle again in 2019.
- d. John & Cate Dugan have agreed to chair the St. Thomas Festival again in 2019.
- e. WIN event: Friday, March 8, 2019 Fish Fry at St. Thomas parish center.

Fr. Jenson provided closing prayer.

St. Thomas Breakout:

1. ST Facilities Planning Committee update – communique to parishioners.
2. Emily Schlegel from Heritage Girls presented plans for building a St. Thomas Rosary Garden in Spring 2019.
3. Discussed ways to welcome people into the church.

Ss. Peter & Paul Breakout:

1. Welcome process discussion. Form a committee or volunteer?
 - a. Council members do personal invitations to join coffee and rolls, encourage others to join new comers at tables.
2. Increasing engagement ideas
 - a. Use sign down by the ball field to “market” things going on at the parish. Contact Brook S. to coordinate.
 - b. Have more consistent outline of what we have to offer as a parish that we can communicate to new parishioners or visitors.
 - c. WIN Event: Saturday, March 2, 2019 STPP Swing dance and spaghetti dinner. Put on the sign and social media. T.J. Leading
 - d. Get an accounting of all the activities already available. Pat and Father doing this.