

**Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More**  
**Meeting of the Pastoral Council**  
**January 16, 2019**

**Present:** Father John Cayer, Michael Williams, Jeanne O’Kon, Mary Ballard, Mary Goble, Michele Taylor, Christa Calamas, Wayne Evans, Sue Steverson, Brother Rahl Bunsu, Dasha Nixon, Michelle Harkness, Valeria Robinson, Silvia Alderman, Joy Smith, Thomas Corzo. **Absent:** Donald Thomas, Chaney Coggins.

Father John opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the November, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

**CSU Update:** Thomas Corzo, the CSU treasurer, gave the CSU report. He thanked the Pastoral Council members for everything they do for the parish. The CSU students started their semester with an event called “IGNITE,” a gathering at which they plan for the semester. Spirit Night was held last Wednesday, with a focus on personally getting to know Jesus. Tonight’s topic is “Identity.” CSU held a “Dorm Storm” where they visit newly-registered CSU students. About 100 students are attending the *March for Life* in Washington D.C. this weekend. They will hold the CSU Spring Retreat on Feb. 15 at the Laguna Christian Retreat in Panama City. Their vision for this semester is to establish a way of life for the members, and to invite others to follow that way of life.

**Parish and Family Life:** Chaney Coggins sent an update regarding Adult Faith Formation. The 8-part series “Wisdom” begins on March 12 and ends on April 30. There will be a 30-minute video and a small group discussion. Then, a 4-part series on the Book of John will begin on May 14 through June 4. All classes run from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The materials “Activated Disciple” will be used. Father John confirmed with Monsignor Bosso that he will do a mission at STM in the fall. In 2020, the theme will be “Seeing More Clearly.” Sue Steverson showed a notice in another church Bulletin that showed a “FORMED.ORG PICK” for the week, suggesting that the STM Bulletin could provide such an example. Father John asked for suggestions for other possible series.

**Education and Faith Formation:** *Trinity Catholic School:* Joy Smith reported that the boys’ soccer team had an undefeated season! At the recent PTO meeting, they expressed thanks to Father John and STM for the subsidy for the STM children who attend Trinity Catholic. The Trinity Catholic auction will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Tallahassee Automobile Museum. The Trinity Thespians are going to state competition. Catholic Schools Week is the last week of January, with an Open House on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Trinity will hold a spaghetti lunch for senior citizens on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Joy also described the Father Murray Scholarship Award, which is given to one 7<sup>th</sup> grader and one 8<sup>th</sup> grader each year for academic excellence, citizenship, and leadership. A committee chaired by Bob Ballard screens the nominations and conducts the interviews. Father John feels that the award serves as an inspiration to other students. The award ceremony will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. with a featured speaker. Dasha reported that \$2500 is budgeted for charitable giving, with donations to Open Door, Trinity, and the Father Murray scholarship. Pastoral Council members have also provided financial support for the scholarship.

*St. John Paul II CHS:* The school will hold a fundraiser on Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. called a “Southern Affair at the Ball House.” There will be an oyster bar, liquor, wine, cheese, and bourbon tasting. The boys’ soccer team has had some tough losses, but the games were very close. Mrs. Copenhaver has now been named the permanent principal. There is Eucharistic Adoration in the school chapel on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays. There is also a group attending the *March for Life*. The spring musical will be “Thoroughly Modern Millie” on April 12-14.

**Administration:** Dasha reported on the kitchen renovations. The permits were approved on Jan. 15 and the construction will run through March 14. Demolition will begin on Jan. 22. The new equipment should be

delivered on March 14. There will be a new ice machine, an electric stove, and a food service bar. It may be ready in time for the Red Mass on March 27.

Michael Williams asked for feedback about the Christmas party. Council members said more food, red wine, and space were needed. Father John said that tables could also be moved outside if the weather is suitable. The musicians take up some of the space. There are some options for making more room that can be considered. Wayne Evans inquired about how the crowd for the Red Mass is handled, and it is held both indoors and outdoors.

**New Business:** Jeanne O’Kon reported that additional drivers are needed for the Courtesy Cart before the 10:00 Mass each Sunday. Silvia Alderman reminded everyone that drivers need to be cautious to avoid any accidents driving on the city street. Father John will put an announcement in his weekly email newsletter.

Brother Rahl gave an update on the *Fountain of Life* covenant (intentional) lay community. Since its small beginnings five years ago, it has slowly grown to about 45 adult members (singles, married couples, men from the Brotherhood of Hope, etc.) and 30 children. It is part of an international lay movement called the *Sword of the Spirit*, that emerged from both the charismatic renewal and the Cursillo movement, with over 85 branches around the globe. The community has four main dynamics: large group meetings with praise and worship, men’s/women’s small groups, individual pastoral care, and a several year formation and discernment process. The community members are from different parishes in Tallahassee, with most involved here at St. Thomas More. As a community of disciples on mission with over half of the adults being CSU alumni, several members assist CSU with their outreach or formation. A number of the members serve at STM or in their own parish, other members assist local missions (like St. Paul’s Outreach, Open Door Women’s Clinic, Mission 850, Sacred Heart homeschooling co op, Prison Ministry, etc.), and some serve in other state or national ministries. All the members are encouraged to do “everyday evangelization” in their ordinary circumstances of life.

**Rector’s Comments:** Father John announced that Presentation Sunday for the CSA Appeal is Jan. 27. Commitment Sunday is the next weekend. Dasha reported that the parish received over \$115,000 in the last CSA. That was the highest amount ever received by the parish. Bishop Wack made his initial appeal last year. Father John also reported that recently when he was at Culley’s MeadowWood following a funeral, the funeral director informed him that the parish can purchase and reserve gravesites in a Catholic area at Culley’s. Council members asked questions about the investment the parish would have to make in order to pursue that. Most likely, this will be brought up at a later date if there is interest.

Father John also spoke about creating more hospitality in the parish. He asked for suggestions to improve hospitality. The Welcome Committee needs more members, and Father John will approach some people about this. David Escorn is leaving his office position, and he has usually maintained the office lobby on Sundays. Nani Nixon will be taking on a new position and will be a great asset.

Christa Calamas mentioned that the Catholic radio stations have been off the air for some time. The rent for the tower rental was raised significantly. The Guadalupe Radio Network is moving to another radio tower, but it requires federal approval, and that takes time.

**Future Agenda Items:** Michael asked that Council members send him any future agenda items by e-mail.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on **February 20 at 7:00 p.m.**

Father John concluded the meeting with the St. Michael Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Jeanne O’Kon