

# St. Thomas More Parish Council Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2025

St. Thomas More – Sacred Heart Room

Call to Order – 7:02 PM by Chair Elaine Stevens; Opening Prayer by Fr. Mike Clark

Members present: Jared Anderson, Mary Carrico, John Colgan, Marian Dunkerley, Dennis Quigley, Dennis Sanders, Elaine Stevens, Camille Warden, Matt Wurth, Fr. Mike Clark & Fr. Basilio Az Cuc. Unable to Attend: Gustavo Amaya, Kevin Kauffeld, Alma Machaen.

## New Business:

- Elaine welcomed everyone and introductions were made to introduce new council members.
- Marian Dunkerley agreed to serve as Secretary for the Parish Council.
- Elaine passed out the following documents to each member: Meeting Calendar for the 2025-2026 year; current list of 2025-2026 Parish Council Member contact info; Ministries Contact List; and an organizational chart for STM outlining the Administrative functions of the Pastor and staff, and each area of parish ministry.
- The STM Parish Picnic was discussed; it will be held from 12-3 PM on August 24. Elaine advised that assistance was needed for set-up at 9 AM on Friday and Sunday, plus assistance with kitchen/food and teardown after 3 PM on Sunday. The Knights of Columbus will cook the meat (no chicken this year). A request for food items appeared in the church bulletin by alphabetic breakdown by name/food category, Elaine advised she will amend that to use a Potluck signup website instead in order to better monitor the number and types of items. Ann Morrow has a list of duties for other volunteers. Fr. Mike added that Maintenance can assist. Marian Dunkerley offered to contact Lori Meredith to reach out to her email list for additional volunteers and to direct them to Ann Morrow.
- Parish Ministries were discussed and each Council member was assigned to ministry outreach as follows:
  - Dennis Sanders – Music and Spiritual Enrichment
  - Dennis Quigley – Parish Life
  - Alma Machaen – Hispanic Ministry
  - Camille Warden – Parish Outreach
  - John Colgan – Religious Ed/Formation
  - Matt Wurth – Communications & Stewardship
  - Elaine Stevens – Admin/Finance
  - Gus Amaya – Catholic Service Organizations
  - Mary Carrico – Liturgical Ministries & Service Ministries
  - Marian Dunkerley – Community Outreach
  - Kevin Kauffeld – Sacramental Prep
  - Jared Anderson – Family Life

- Marian advised the council that West Kentucky Right to Life is undergoing a leadership change and needs help with volunteers and raising funds. An event is tentatively planned to be held at STM in October. Discussion was held that other local parishes should be included in these efforts. Dennis Quigley provided contact info for St. John's for possibly utilizing their facility and gaming license for Bingo; it was also mentioned that St. Francis de Sales has a good facility & charitable gaming license as well. Marian added that efforts are also underway into the wider WKY area, especially toward Murray/St. Leo and the Newman Center, K of C and other ideas. It was agreed that this is an organization that the wider Catholic community should support.
- Jared asked for feedback on the sound system upgrades; generally positive remarks. Fr. Basilio suggested a sound check prior to Mass in order to ensure everything is on and working properly.
- Discussion was held around bulletin announcements regarding dress code, gum chewing, etc. and also about the recent pulpit announcements requesting the silencing of electronic devices. Agreement that these are positive reminders. There was considerable discussion regarding how to handle families with small children who occasionally distract at Mass. Dennis Quigley suggested having ushers assist. Fr. Mike asked how this might be constructively addressed; there were some suggestions regarding providing a children's liturgy at each Mass; reminding parents of the availability of the cry room, and John Colgan suggested reviving the Nursery. Fr. Mike reminded the group that 2 adults are required who have completed Safe Environment training, but also high school students could assist in order to obtain volunteer credit. It was agreed that there is a delicate balance between alienating families with small children, but also alienating other churchgoers if the issue remains unaddressed. Generally, everyone likes that the bulletin reminders are helpful and appreciated.
- Fr. Mike stated that Fr. Frank needs continued prayers for his recovery.
- Fr. Mike advised that Fr. Jerry Riney will be celebrating 3 masses the weekend of August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> in honor of his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination.

Adjourn: 8:05 PM. Fr. Basilio led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Dunkerley, Secretary