

St. Thomas A Becket Pastoral Council

August 12, 2020

Attending:

Sean Endsley
Ali Althen
Peggy Cowdrill
Matthew Verghese
Lisa Erhardt
Jennifer Stroik
Gary Beach
Robert Dunphy
Rev. William Schardt

1. Shawn Endsley convened the meeting at 6:03 PM
2. Minutes of the July 15, 2020 meeting were reviewed. No additions or corrections were recorded.
3. Parish Reopening. Reopening has consisted of the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses on Sundays. Fr. Schardt hopes to add a 5:00 PM Mass in August. Regular Confessions have not been restarted; individual Confessions are available by appointment.
4. Communication. A group has established a St. Thomas A Becket Facebook Page that contains information about the parish but is not in any way affiliated.

Pastoral Council guidelines have been posted on the parish website. Posting pictures and email addresses of the Executive Committee on the website was discussed. Telephone numbers will be excluded from the posting.

5. 50 Year Anniversary. The Council held a wide-ranging discussion of alternatives for the 50 Year Anniversary. No specific programs have been selected for implementation. There is a need to pick a few specific activities that can be managed. New topics included:
 - a. Children's art gallery
 - b. Silent auction to generate funds for a future Work Camp.
6. Parishioner Phone Call Project. Calls have determined that the call project itself is popular as was the postcard mailing in July. Those contacted have indicated a desire of a livestream Sunday Mass and perhaps a monthly newsletter or email. The alternative of uploading a video of a Sunday Mass was raised. There is a need to recruit more callers to drive the next phase of contacts. There is a concern that the parish is losing parishioners and needs a more vigorous outreach.
7. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threat Analysis. Ali Althen recommended the books "Rediscover Catholicism" and "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic"
8. . The four signs are:
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Study

- c. Generosity
 - d. Evangelization
9. Other Items
- a. Vision Statement – Jennifer Stroik indicated a need for a vision statement. The suggestion was made to create a list of ideas for content of such a statement.
 - b. Ecumenical rally – to occur in the St. Thomas Parking Lot on August 26th from 6 – 7:00 PM. Sponsors include the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation and the Reston Unitarian Universalist congregation.
10. Next Meeting: Wednesday September 9, 2020.
11. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.