

**St. Augustin Parish Council Meeting**  
**January 14, 2020**  
**St. Augustin Church Conference Room**

**Call to Order:** Nick Bigelow called the meeting to order at 6:25pm.

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Pisut

**Present:** Nick Bigelow, Marianne Dowd, Karen Pierick, John Knight, Colin Riemersma, John Gilbert, Sherill Whisenand, Matt Eide, Christen Cota,

**Absent :** None

**Guests:** Kristel Kautzky, Christy Sullivan, Theresa Lewis, Thomas Kolbo

**Approval of December minutes:** Carried (Sherill moved, Christen 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**St. Thomas Academy:** Fr. Pisut informed the council that after two years of operation the academy has grown to 55 total students, St. Thomas anticipates a hard cap at 60. They are using most if not all available space. Some families have joined the parish as a result of their students' attendance although not the intention. Matt moved (John 2<sup>nd</sup>) that Fr. Pisut be allowed to continue dialogue and negotiate any terms with the Academy for an additional year's time. Motion carried.

**Choir Loft:** Fr. Pisut updated the council that approximately 2 years ago it was voted on by this council and approved that the choir move back to the choir loft after several logistical items were taken care of. Per Father Pisut that logistics are almost resolved and there will be a choir meeting Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of January to discuss. The parish will be educated on the reasoning behind the decision. Nick brought forth that he had received some negative feedback about moving the choir and especially the cantor to the rear of the church where no one can see him or her. Christen brought forth the benefit to the hearing impaired to be able to see the cantor and thereby enhance their liturgical experience.

**Staff Update:** Fr Pisut reported that it appears St Augustin has found a new youth minister. Mr. Aiden Pew made very good impressions and is expected to become our new youth minister in the near future on a part-time basis.

**Principal Report/BOE:** Please see attached!

Catholic Schools week begins Monday and culminates with Mass and an Open House at the school on January 26<sup>th</sup> at St Augustin School. All are welcome and there will be STEM based activities for those that attend to participate in.

These has been a new door added at the school to enhance the overall security at St Augustin School. It was completed over break. In addition, updates were made to cameras, phones and remote entry systems as well.

**Thomas Kolbo:** The new Director of Music at St Augustin church Thomas Kolbo stopped into the meeting and gave the council a great introduction to himself and highlighted a few items that he is excited to work on as he gets his feet underneath him. Moving to a digital database for all liturgical music in the near time and growing the choir, a children's choir and potentially doing some traveling and performing were on the longer-term plans.

**Stephen Ministry:** Christen and Theresa addressed the council to speak on behalf of Stephen Ministry. This is a layperson to layperson caregiving ministry that several parishes in the Des Moines area have experience with. It could foster a greater sense of community and provide needed support for those in our parish dealing with difficult issues. It would also alleviate some stress on Fr. Jim who is currently the sole provider of these services now for our parish. The immediate needs are to find a core group that wishes to get this project off the ground at St Augustin. There is also a potential grant available to help seed the project. The near-term costs would be to send the core group to a training in St. Louis in April for one week. This group would then be responsible for training other upon their return. Anticipated cost was approximately \$10,000. Marianne moved and (Sherill 2<sup>nd</sup>) that the grant be explored and future updates provided to the council.

**Sherill:** Brought forth a few issues she had been noticing around the parish. The sanctuary seems to be in a state of disarray and varying states of cleanliness. Old wedding programs, some pews without missals and food and Kleenex were stated as examples. Security of the congregation during mass was also discussed as an issue. There continue to be examples of violence around the country at places of worship, what is St Augustin's plans or do any exist for instances of violence, natural disasters ect...Matt suggested talking with Father to see what plans/procedure the Diocese may have. Pricing for parish events specifically the recent KofC event was mentioned as well.

**Parish Life:**

Adoration Chapel is celebrating it's 25th anniversary at St. Augustin parish. More to come on potential ideas and ways to commemorate the occasion. The committee is still seeking more volunteers to fill out the times needed.

Stewardship Council is still seeking a few more members as well.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was moved to adjourn by John (2<sup>nd</sup> by Marianne) at 8p.m.