Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More  
SUMMARY of the Pastoral Council Meeting  
April 15, 2020


Blessings and Crosses during the Pandemic: Michael Williams thanked everyone for joining the “unconventional” ZOOM meeting. He asked Council members to briefly discuss what their current difficulties and blessings have been during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CSU Update: Tyler Currier reported that college commencements have been cancelled and the Senior Send-Off is cancelled. CSU holds Spirit Nights on Wednesdays through ZOOM, and Bishop Wack is joining them tonight. The Men’s and Women’s groups and Praise and Worship have continued through ZOOM.

Outreach and Connection with Parishioners: Father John reported that an event like the pandemic results in development of creative ways for reaching the parishioners. Jessica Souva asked if a “Call a Parishioner” drive could be started, beginning with those 65 and older. At least a dozen staff and volunteers have placed the phone calls. The office is still open, and a number of services are available if parishioners need them. Father John does not hold appointments in the office, but confession is held outside on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. with guarded confessionals.

Different methods are being used to deliver the message of “good news” to the parishioners. Father John is not sure how long the phone calling will take place, because there is uncertainty about when the local area is “peaking” with cases of COVID-19. Michael reported that the number of cases locally is dropping, and the number of cases continues to be updated daily. The national numbers are increasing, and Mary reported that it is too early to predict the peak for Leon County. Silvia stated that the church needs to plan how to hold services that include social distancing, with the possibility of more Masses being offered. Dasha said that this was discussed in a recent meeting with Bishop Wack, and a good plan will be put in place.

Liturgical Updates: Father John described the different options regarding the online Masses that have been offered. A live Mass is more desirable than a “re-played” Mass. The music during the Easter Vigil was spectacular. Three live weekend Masses will be offered, but the 6:00 p.m. Mass may not be continued. The Mass goes out through Facebook, YouTube, and other forums, and it reaches people outside of Florida. Father John doesn’t want to lose people, and he wants to provide several opportunities for worship.

Financial Update: Dasha stated that an Offertory Report has always been provided in the Bulletin. Donations flooded in near the end of March through the mail and online. The office has been overwhelmed by the response; online giving has tripled. During the week of Easter, which typically has a large collection, the collection was only $2,000 less than last year at the same time.

Office Updates: Personnel and office hours: Father John reported that Ellen Murphy is working from home, and Almira Malley is also doing that with the Music Ministry. Maureen Brown-Muir has transitioned to weekly online learning for Religious Education. The front desk staff are answering the phones and maintaining the database, and the staff is busier than ever.

Closing Prayer: Father John closed the meeting with a Novena.