



Thomas Merton Center
Board of Directors Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 7:00 P.M., ZOOM MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Gerard McGuire, Bob Capriles, Diane Marie Herte, Larry Lopez, Mike McMahon, Mary Seabury, and Ann Akey

Absent:

Meeting leader: Gerard McGuire

Meeting prayer leader: Larry Lopez

Meeting secretary: Ann Akey

Next month: Diane Marie Herte (October)

Following month: Bob Capriles (November)

OPENING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Minutes:** Reviewed minutes of the August 13th, 2021, Board Meeting. **ACTION:** August Board minutes were approved as presented.
- 2) **Board liaison with TMC committees update:** Nothing current to report. Bob will be attending a Spiritual Ed. meeting as part of preparations for the Katherine Stewart presentation on Oct. 9 as he will be moderating the webinar. Bob suggested that we get a short report from each committee meeting. Mary suggested that each group be asked to send us either a couple of bullet points or even minutes if available as getting to meetings is much more difficult and less likely. **ACTION:** Gerard will send a note to committee chairs.
- 3) **Kay's boxes- scanning and storage:** Nothing new to report
- 4) **Future TMC Town Hall Meeting:** Ann, Bob, and Mary met with Anna in August and came up with a couple of possible dates. However, there were many conflicts with the dates especially with Fr. Kiriti visiting in October. Anna has since proposed that we do something at the beginning of the New Year after 15th January 2022. It might be a hybrid meeting – Zoom and in church. January may be cold for coffee and donuts – even if we use the garage. The Seton auditorium may be a possibility too. It seemed early to start planning much given the uncertainty of the COVID situation. **ACTION:** We will wait to see what the possibilities are for a couple of months.
- 5) **Status of Bob Busch's JustParish website:** Gerard followed up with Bob who reported that he feels he has made a good start so far especially with the help of the TMC funds. He felt the original web creator was out of his depth and he has since hired an actual web designer who has made good progress and gone through two renditions so far. He thinks he should be able to re-launch the website in 4 to 6 weeks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Finance Committee:** Mike sent the August 2021 financial report out ahead of the meeting and went over it with the Board members. He will be sending a \$1,000 bank transfer to Katherine Stewart who is currently in England. It may be an ACH (Automated Clearing House) rather than

a wire. Gerard suggested using ZELLE. Income- year-to-date is approx. \$22,000 and expenses are approx. \$29,000 so the net loss is \$7,000. This is less than we expected as per the 2021 budget. A donation of 5 Abbott shares (approx. \$550) was received and is in the Morgan Stanley account. Mike and Mary suggested that we sell now and cash it out. Mike suggested we may want to put out a fund raising letter in December – we are a little behind in fundraising at least compared to what we predicted. We are also spending less. We had not anticipated the \$3,000 donation to Bob Busch's project. The bank fees seem high but reflect the cost of credit card payments (2-3%) for donations over the Internet. **ACTION:** The report was accepted as presented. Mike will proceed to sell the shares and transfer the money to the contributions account.

2. **Spiritual Education:** Katherine Stewart will present at 1:00pm Oct. 9th on "The Rise of Religious Nationalism". The talk may be posted on Vimeo afterwards.
3. **Liturgy:** Bob met with Msgr. Sandersfeld last Saturday (Sept. 4th) to help him prepare for celebrating mass the following day (the first Sunday of the month). His stability is still an issue with his caregiver. Although, he was clearly wiped out after mass, he did not miss a beat this time.
4. **Hospitality:** Coffee and donuts are still being served outdoors. There were no donuts last week due to a communication problem when Larry was out of town.
5. **Seeking Action for Justice:** Nothing new to report.
6. **Website:** No report. Jim is doing an excellent job keeping on top of things. The Katherine Stewart event is already posted and registration should open up soon.
7. **Site Committee:** No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Future Zoom TMC BOD Meetings:** Gerard suggested we continue to meet in the Zoom format through to the end of the year. There was a consensus that we should count on having the next three meetings over Zoom and revisit the topic in January 2022.
- 2) **Meeting secretary October:** Ann Akey will be out of town next month, due to her school participation in the CA Forestry Challenge. Bob Capriles volunteered to serve as meeting secretary (minute taker) at the October meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting ended at 8:00 PM.