

Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More
SUMMARY of the Pastoral Council Meeting
May 21, 2025

Present: Father Tim Holeda, Father Luke, Paul Malley, Dawn Adolfson, Jeanne O’Kon, Dasha Nixon, Gerard York, Sue Steverson, Sue Ebbers, Mike Collazo, Silvia Alderman, Erika Richard, Sue Ebbers, David Miller, Megan Perry-Thibault, Christa Calamas. **Absent:** Renee Reams.

The new Council members introduced themselves: David Miller and Megan Perry-Thibault. Erika Richard also introduced herself as the new Director of Ministries.

Father Murray Scholarship Update: Dawn Adolfson described the background and process for the scholarship. One 7th grader and one 8th grader at Trinity Catholic receive the scholarship each year and it is supported by STM. Three finalists in each grade are interviewed by Council members, and one is selected from each grade. Dawn thanked Jeanne O’Kon, Sue Steverson, Gerry York, and Father Tim for their service.

Pastoral Council Membership: Jeanne distributed an updated membership roster for everyone to check over for accuracy. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the current members for a two-year term. Motion passed.

Administration Updates: Dasha reported that many parishioners are attending the upcoming ordination. He will send an e-mail out to those who have registered to give them the details about the 12-hour trip (10:00 a.m. CT). Father Luke’s going away party will be this Saturday after the 5:15 Mass. His last Mass with this parish is on June 8, and he will become the pastor of St. Thomas More in Pensacola.

Ministries and Catholic Noles Update: Erika has been meeting with the leaders of the groups within the parish: the Haiti Committee, Young Professionals, and others. She is asking how the parish can support them and is finding out more about them. Sam, the director of Campus Ministry, says there is a lot of growth in the Catholic Noles. Their social media accounts are being followed by 4,000 new people. They had focus missionaries for the first time this year, and one more is coming for the next year, as well as Sister Isabel. Next year’s attendance in Bible Studies, Spirit Nights, and other events is projected to increase by 30%.

Rector’s Comments: Regarding the construction project, Father Tim has been concerned about the project. The designers have not taken Father Tim’s concerns into consideration, and he shared these concerns with Moore Capital. He spoke to one of the City Managers and to Tom Jordan recently about aspects of the project. He plans to start over and hire an engineer and an architect to develop a plan more like the parish wants and needs. Some different ideas will be generated using this new strategy.

Father Tim indicated that Catholic Noles is trying to shift some of the programming to Sunday evening. The Sunday evening Mass may be switched to 5:00 or 5:15 p.m. in the fall, and the Mass at 8:00 p.m. will also be offered. This will benefit the student’s schedules better since many of them have Sunday evening meetings.

Next Meeting: The June meeting will be a potluck dinner (June 18 at 6:00 p.m.). He is communicating with Tom Neal about the possible Pastoral Council Retreat on Saturday morning, August 16.