

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 14, 2005**

Council Members in Attendance: Fr. Bill Wagner, Ray Neltner, Matt Malott, Vic Ivers, Duane Bradley, and Janet Tate.

Council Members Absent: Ralph Bedel, & Michelle Stultz.

Others in Attendance: Mike Gennett, Diane Brennan, and Darline Grieco.

The St. Thomas More Parish Council meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM EST by Ray Neltner. Fr. Bill opened the meeting with a prayer.

Reports were received in advance of the meeting from the Education Commission, Worship/CRHP, DRE, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, St. Vincent de Paul, Julyfest, PTO, Education, Boosters, Julyfest, Music, Chancellor's Club, and Youth Ministry.

(If a report was filed by a group in advance and no issues were discussed during the meeting, there is no mention of that organization's report in the minutes. All submitted reports follow the notes.)

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The last meeting was held on Monday, December 13th. Ray asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes. Mike Gennett stated that Diane Brennan wanted the word "current" replaced with "contemporary or popular" when discussing the type of music offered in the Breaking Bread hymnals.

The committee stated that the minutes would be accepted as written with the one modification. No vote was taken.

Business Manager Report: Mike Gennett gave the report.

The budget for 2005-6 has been approved by the Finance Committee and is a balanced budget based upon enrolling 326 students in the school. It assumes an increase of 20-22 children in the school based upon current class sizes being retained and the graduation of our small 8th grade class of only 16 students.

Finance and the school committee are fully aware if we do not enroll enough students by early April we will have to revisit the school's expenditures for next year.

Key points regarding the Budget

Income:

- Sunday Collections - We have one less Sunday next year because Christmas is on a Sunday. This will negatively impact income by \$13,000.00.
- PSR fees increase by \$5 per child
- School Registration fees rise from \$175 per family to \$200 per family. There is no change to the Kindergarten registration fee.
- Tuition increases by 8.1% across all levels.
- The cafeteria lunch fee rises from \$1.75 to \$1.95. All of our neighboring parishes are charging \$1.95 this year.

Expenditures:

- Salaries increase by 2% to 4% depending on where the employee is within their pay scale, etc.

- Non-payroll expenses are generally planned flat and adjusted up or down based on any known increase or decrease.
- Our property insurance premiums are expected to increase by 15%. An appraisal was just completed in January by the diocese and this has been the average increase at other locations.
- Our Parish Office copier needs over \$1,000 worth of repairs in the near term. The machine is over 5 years old and we paid about \$3,500 for it in 2000. Money has planned for a replacement.
- The Archdiocese has informed us our Workers Compensation costs are doubling in 2005-6.
- Our health care costs are increasing another 17%. We also continue to add employees and employee families to our plan as they lose coverage elsewhere. The Archdiocese has a health care task force meeting on February 17th that will be making recommendations to change the plan. This may or may not receive final approval from the Archbishop. There is an outside chance we might get some relief from this issue. But for now, we have to plan for the full increase.
- The Worship Committee would like to purchase new hard bound hymnals next year. The money has been saved this year for this expenditure.
- A major Parish Mission will be held in November. This budget has been increased to support the event.
- Our assessment to the diocese will increase due to our increase in our Sunday collections since it is at a fixed rate based on income.
- The budget allows only for payment on our debt based upon the actual amounts donated through the Debt Reduction and Vision 2000 collections. Our total due to the Archdiocese will have a net increase of \$30,000 due to accruing interest. This clearly is the most serious issue in next year's budget: we no longer are able to service our debt in a meaningful way. Over the long term, this will

negatively impact the future of our parish because we will not be able to borrow to build or to repair our existing facilities as should be done.

- The school wishes to increase the use of contract teachers to expand gym, art, computer, and library coverage. We do not have to pay benefits on contractors. The contractor cost increase is \$21,780.00
- Capital funding is back into this budget. However, the amount depends on how well the school registration goes. We hope to have the funds for the short term repairs of Heider Hall, roof replacement at the Parish office and the maintenance garage, and tuck pointing and repair of the church building windows. These are major repairs that can not be deferred much longer. (Fr. Bill stated this is going to have to be done regardless we have the money or not.)
- The profits from the school latch key program will be used to fund the school's expenses.

Although it is not an ideal budget that will make everyone happy, it keeps the parish operating in the black which many parishes no longer are accomplishing.

The message the Finance Committee wishes to leave with Parish Council is that we need more income. If we were to maintain our current budget discipline and find additional major sources of income, it would help to reduce our debt and maintain our existing buildings. Finance does not believe parishioners should be approached for more donations nor can the costs be passed on to the school families in the form of higher tuition. Finance would like to see Bingo return and is willing to help build a structure to support a Bingo Chair. A letter has been prepared for insertion into the bulletin, but is now on hold.

Fr. Bill stated the letter is on hold because a group of parishioners have asked to meet with him next week regarding starting Bingo back up. For now, we will see where that goes before other steps are considered.

Diane Brennan asked if there were other forms of fund raising being looked at. Mike Gennett stated that was not the case. Vic Ivers commented that Bingo has been proven as a source of major funds for parishes.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Bill gave his update on a number of topics.

The speaker series on the Eucharist is being planned for April. Help will be needed for babysitting and the evening receptions.

Ralph Bedel has agreed to help with the parish photo album. Fr. Bill has selected Lifetouch to prepare the book. He spoke with three other Pastors who highly recommended Lifetouch. Also, this vendor will help make the calls to get folks in for their pictures. They do anything to help make the book a success. The pictures are scheduled for May. Fr. Bill also stated he heard there was an abortive effort on a parish yearbook a few years ago. Pictures were taken and the work was not completed. It was reported the vendor might have been Olan Mills rather than Lifetouch.

May is going to be a busy month with Confirmation, Graduation, First Communion, and the Washington trip.

RCIA has 15 names and almost everyone is going forward to be received into the church at the Easter Vigil on March 26th.

Confirmation planning is underway.

The Marriage dinner last Saturday went very well.

Fr. Bill also passed out the next segment on Parish Councils called, "Frequently Asked Questions" for council members to read.

Futures Committee Update - Both Fr. Bill and Matt Malott gave the update. Matt reported there was a "Clermont County only" meeting recently. A map was prepared that showed the number of Catholics attending Mass and the size of each of the churches. It was very clear what was needed to be done when the numbers were presented. St. Thomas

More would still need to have three Sunday Masses and any other location we would share a Pastor with would have just one Mass.

The parishioners at St. Philomena feel very strongly they would like to remain with St. Louis in Owensville.

Matt stated an offer was made to St. Bernadette to structure a combined Parish Council and Finance Committee that would include 4 members from each parish plus the Pastor even though St. Thomas More is three times the size of St. Bernadette. The offer was turned down.

Fr. Bill reminded everyone that the Archbishop has stated he will draw the lines if the parishes can not agree. He stated that a new priest is going to be assigned in July to both St. Bernadette and Holy Trinity in Batavia.

2010 is the year that seems to be critical point regarding the priest shortage....or it could be whenever the need arises at each parish.

Holy Trinity in Batavia is not really getting new registrations which could be an issue for them down the road.

The bottom line is there is nothing to report and most of the parishes in the deanery are in denial regarding the looming priest shortage issue.

At this time the first part of the Parish Council meeting ended. Everyone left other than Fr. Bill and the Parish Council. Mike Gennett remained to take notes.

Parish Council Format change - Ray Neltner reported that some of the Council members met in January to discuss how Parish Council could be more effective.

It was agreed that Council would reduce the amount of time spent on topics discussed in the past that will in the future only include the Finance Report, the Pastor's Report, and exceptions regarding the reports from the various parish organizations.

Regarding the organization reports, Council agreed they would only be written quarterly. However, if an exception was needed, a report could be filed for the next scheduled meeting. The next quarterly report would be due for the May 9 meeting. Exceptions could be filed for March 14th or the April 11th meetings. Asking for monthly reports probably is too often. Diane Brennan reported at the beginning of the meeting they are a lot of work for the staff, but they help us to know what each other are doing.

Organizations can come to the first part of the meeting, but the second part would be Council members only. The minutes would be published for the entire meeting as in the past.

Ray Neltner then asked, "How does Council move forward?"

Matt Malott reported that there are two driving factors: (1) There are only three council members left at the end of this year and how will council's effectiveness impact another year or term for those whose term is expiring and (2) how can Council get things done?

Duane Bradley said everyone must be on the same page.

Janet Tate stated she was not up to date since he was out for surgery in January. Ray Neltner apologized she had not been called.

Many stated that reading and discussing reports all night was not getting the job done.

Matt Malott asked how everyone felt about asking everyone to leave for the second part of the meeting. Ray Neltner responded that the meetings are open...for discussion, planning, and voting. However, sometimes the organizations attempt to vote on motions when they can not vote since they are not Council members.

Fr. Bill stated that the Parish and Finance Councils are advisory in nature to the Pastor. Issues and concerns need to be raised to the Pastor.

Issue examples then were discussed....for example, some of the parents in the 5th grade are not happy there will not be two 6th grades next year. Fr.

Bill stated some thought he killed Bingo. Council is really in a leadership position and needs to help to identify and focus on the issues like this.

Ray asked Fr. Bill what he thought was effective. Fr. Bill responded that one parish he was at spoke to ten different people each month and came back reporting what they learned. Duane Bradley said Council was somewhat separated from the rest of the parish. How does Council communicate with them? Do we wear our name tags?

Fr. Bill stated that Council's role is to achieve the Vision. It is all about "The Vision".

Janet Tate said she needed to begin to involve the seniors.

Matt Malott said there were so many opinions out there. You have to reflect. He did like the idea of "pinging" the parish.

Duane Bradley said people will think we care if we speak to them.

Ray Neltner said he loves connecting, but does not like to get into all the complaints. Would Council be raising the expectation to fix the complaints? Are the issues balanced?

Ray stated he sees pieces regarding the future of Parish Council meetings: Part I would be a piece of the old...The Finance Report, the Pastor's Report, and Organization reports by exception. Part II would be to build the Vision. Fr. Bill stated that the role of Parish Councils is going to be more and more important as parishes combine. He stated he would contact some creative Pastors on how their Council functions in this role.

Fr. Bill mentioned that Incarnation in Centerville has only one night a month for meetings. All the parish meetings take place the same night and there are no more meetings the rest of the month.

Fr. Bill asked if some of the Council members would call him and remind him to call some other parishes the Monday (March 7) before the next Council meeting on scheduled for March 14.

Duane suggested a goal for each Council member to target five parishioners to call prior to each meeting to ask them what is on their mind.

There was another discussion regarding recruiting new members for Parish Council. Potential candidates need to be identified. Ray Neltner stated we need stability from the current group plus some new blood.

In conclusion, Ray Neltner assigned council members homework for the March 14th meeting: (1) Read the Parish Council Models document that had been passed out at a previous meeting and (2) each Council member should talk to five people before the next meeting and be pressed to report.

Ray Neltner called for a motion to close the meeting. Duane Bradley made the motion and Vic Ivers seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM. Fr. Bill led the group in a prayer.

The next meeting is on Monday, March 14, 2005 at 7:00 PM.

The organization reports follow.

(Please copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page. When completed, send via email to all parish council members at parishcouncil@sttm.org)

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February, 2005

Committee Name: Faith Formation

Committee Reporter: Becky Ready, DRE

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- Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a few key highlights of activities):

CCD/PSR:

PSR will be helping with the Parish Lenten rice bowl collections. Also the catechists are invited to attend a Day of Renewal with other catechists all throughout the eastside cluster of parishes on March 5.

Registration for the 2005-06 year will begin.

SACRAMENTS:

Confirmation preparation has begun. The February and March meetings are focused on a workshop called Living a Life of Integrity and also four stations following the CCC on what we believe about confirmation, how we worship at the confirmation liturgy, how we live after receiving the Holy Spirit's gifts and how we pray as fully initiated Catholics. The candidates are divided into small groups

with their parents/ sponsors. We have 48 8th grade confirmandi and two young adults who have joined us.

Our first communion preparation meeting is scheduled for March 3. We will overview the process, learn about banners and discuss home formation.

RCIA:

The candidates and catechumens have entered the Purification and Enlightenment Period, the 3rd step in the RCIA process. We will be further deepening our spiritual conversions with talks and formation on morality, spirituality, spiritual exercises, and the seven last words of Jesus. The scrutinies will be taking place at different masses.

FAITH FORMATION

Seven adults joined our Inviting Catholics Home series. Deacon Jerry Cain, Genny Ivers and myself have been facilitating the sessions. All is going well.

The MOMs Lenten series will start February 16 and go for seven weeks. Julie Beattie, Kate Moss and Rachel Casavant will be the three main facilitators.

■ Key activities over the next 2 months:

Confirmation formation sessions continue monthly.

First communion preparation will be in process.

The MOMs Lenten program will continue.

RCIA will prepare to be received into the church as fully initiated Catholics on March 26.

PSR registrations for the new 2005-06 year will begin.

■ What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

- Pray for all candidates involved in sacramental preparation.
- Remember to include time to prepare and plan for a ministry fair at Pentecost in May as a final closure to the RICA process this year and a continual plan for opening doors to more ministry involvement in the whole parish.

will be out of town and won't be able to attend the meeting. My report follows:

Month: Feb

Committee Name: St Vincent de Paul

Committee Reporter: Bob Guenther

Highlights? key Activities: We are still awaiting the completion of the floors in the Thomas More House. We are anxious to begin using it for transitional housing for the needy in this area.

We are most appreciative of the support we received over the Christmas Holidays from our Psr, School and Parishioners for donations of money, gifts and food. We have a most generous and supportive parish.

The use of envelopes and the second collection for our recent fifth sunday collection was a huge success. i can't recall ever matching the amount which was \$2,900. Since SVDP will be the landlord for the Thomas More House this money will be put to good use.

Key/Activities Over Next Two Months: Begin using the Thomas More House.

Help/ Support From Parish Council: Support the Thomas More House when needed.

Parish Council Committee Report Form

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St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February, 2005

Committee Name: Deacon's report, Worship Commission, Social Justice committee.

Committee Reporter: Deacon Jerry

- Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a few key highlights of activities): Simple Supper went well. Well over 100 in attendance were encouraged to take part in Operation Rice Bowl. The Lenten season has been planned. We will have Evening Prayer on Wednesday nights and Way of the Cross on Fridays. The Lenten Penance Service will be held @ St. Veronica on 3/7. To date we have 45 couples signed up for our Celebration of Marriage to be held Feb. 12. Also to date we have 21 weddings scheduled for 2005 @ STTM. The Men's CRHP was very successful with 15 new participants on Jan 30th. Woman's team # 5 continues preparation for weekend April 23-24.

- Key activities over the next 2 months:

Worship-Lent, Holy Week and preparation for our Eucharistic series. Social Action- looking to plan a project for May-June. Marriage- lots of preparation. CRHP- men & women's formation.

■What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Prayers and continued support of CRHP.

Parish Council Committee Report Form

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St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February 2005

Committee Name: Youth Ministry

Committee Reporter: Diane Brennan

■ Highlights/Key Current Activities:

- 1- We are still going yearly to Appalachia in Dec. with ROC members to donate toys and do service work for Project Merry Christmas - 2004 was very successful!
- 2- Confirmation plans are well under way for 2005! 52 Candidates including adults
- 3- Members continue working on a larger service focus: Little Pink House kitchen floors are almost finished; want to help keep it going!
- 4- Volunteering for the Walnut Hills Soup Kitchen is in the works want to work with Social Justice to set up program of volunteers for the parish
- 5- Students and families have been participating in stronger numbers as lectors, Eucharist ministers, Greeters, welcome group, choirs and expect that to continue to increase
- 6- Looking to involve total youth and young adults to feel identified as members of ministry in all areas of parish life, an all welcome mentality.
- 7- Paper Moon was a success and we plan to have her back

8- Started new program called SPIRIT to instruct and bring Liturgy of the Word, adults love, kids seem to like the topics but not the format. May not order but a single subscription next year.

■ Key activities over the next 2 months: as above

■ What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Support and encouragement and possibly help to find funding for the mission and for new format for summer bible camp.

Thinking of a intergenerational family format in the evenings to bring adults into more formation too!

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Parish Council Committee Report Form

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St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February 2005

Committee Name: Chancellor's Club / Seniors

Committee Reporter: Michael Thomas

■ Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a few key highlights of activities):

>Monthly luncheon took place at Abbots in Amelia on Feb 1.

>Chancellors Club will sponsor a Day of Recollection on Monday Feb 12. It will be given by Michael Thomas.

>Next luncheon meeting Tuesday March 1 at Abbots. We will hear a presentation on a program available in the county called. Clermont 20/20 Senior Leadership.

■ Key activities over the next 2 months:

■ What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?
None at this time.

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February 2005

Committee Name: Music Ministry

Committee Reporter: Margaret Osinski

- Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a few key highlights of activities)

We are busy getting ready for Easter. The children's choir is doing very well with about 12 members. They will be involved in the Palm Sunday liturgy with the procession which they are excited about. A couple of the old choir members have either told me they will not return or have not come for a few weeks. But our new choir members are doing well and we are still looking for more members. I also am working on a couple of guitar players. We may have a revolving schedule with a couple of guitarists.

- Key activities over the next 2 months

Holy week, confirmation, first communion. Also we are looking into the new hymnal.

- What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

None at this time. Thanks!

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February 2005

Committee Name: STMEC

Committee Reporter: Peg Fischer, Principal

Highlights/Key Current Activities:

1. Registration: new and returning students
2. Student assessments
 - a. DIBELS- Grades K-4
 - b. Writing Competency- Grades 3,5,7
3. Professional Development
 - a. Schoolnet Conference
 - b. Religious Inservice-March 7 in cooperation with St. Louis School. Fr. Larry Tensi will provide an inservice and opportunity for prayer and reflection to both staffs.
4. Policy Development
 - a. Absences due to Vacation: policy was revised to more closely align with area public schools. Up to 5 days vacation will be considered excused each year.
 - b. Absences due to illness: continued discussion at this month's meeting.
5. Safe Schools Program
 - a. Materials are being developed for use as guidelines and reference in the event of an emergency at school. Each instructional area will have a copy. STMEC has consulted with West Clermont and will consult with local agencies as needed.

Key activities over the next 2 months:

1. AED: Fr. Bill has approved the installation of an AED (defibrillator) in the school. Training schedule TBA.
2. Marketing for 2005-06
3. Spiritwear design

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

1. Anyone with marketing or publishing expertise is welcome to assist in our Marketing efforts.

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February 2005

Committee Name: JulyFest 2005

Committee Reporter: Rhonda Roberts

- **Highlights/Key Current Activities:** *We have chosen our new Amusement Vendor, Murrary Brothers Shows. They will be providing 8-10 rides for all ages as well as food and game trailers. Our gross percentage will be 25% or 8% lower than our previous vendor, but we are hoping that by adding some larger and more age appropriate rides this will increase our revenue. They will also be providing us with 20- 10'x10' booths, which results in an \$800 savings for us. They will also provide 10'x10' canopies with benches for our patrons.*

We will be using Angilo's Pizza & Empress Chili for 1 of our concession vendors this year. Through an agreement with the Eastside Alliance, they will be providing Cheese/Pepperoni & Chili Pizza as well as Chili Cheese Fries, Footlong Coney's, Goetta Hoagies, Walking Taco and Cheesecake on a Stick. They will be providing all of the necessary equipment as well as 2-3 workers. They are providing all of the items at cost (approximately \$1000). Our philosophy is to provide new and different items each year and this project plays nicely into that.

The Eastside Festival Alliance is also looking into Arcade type games to entice the teenagers. We met with the owner of Fun Merchandise at our February meeting. He is putting together a proposal whereby we would rent 10-12 age appropriate games and change machines from him. Our hope is that this will ease the congregating of teens in the center of the festival, and will entice them to spend money!!

We will be working on modifying the layout at our next General Meeting. This will incorporate a Beer Garden Area, as well as the increased area required for the Amusements, and the possibility of placing the Children's area under a tent, thereby decreasing the number of booths required.

We have secured Chairpersons for the Casino (Dick Schuler), Bid-N-Buy (Buffy Clements), Sponsorship (Randy Mink) as well as Co-chairs of Midway (Ann Kamphaus) and Food (Missy Frazier).

■ Key activities over the next 2 months:

Continue to meet with Area Chairs to plan for JulyFest 2005.

Major Award Sponsorship Party.

■ What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council :

*Notes of appreciation to the new Chairs and Co-chairs would be appreciated.
These positions are very time consuming and are integral parts of JulyFest.*

Prayers that we will find a Grounds Chairperson

Continued prayers for Good Weather.

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February 2005

Committee Name: PTO

Committee Reporter: Katrina Shepherd

- Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a few key highlights of activities)

Upcoming PTO meeting is 2/22/05. Fundraiser for Max and Erma's Eastgate is 2/28/05 and 3/1/05. Butterbraid pastry fundraiser is 2/23/05 through 3/7/05. Chuck E Cheese Fun Night at Eastgate location is 3/17/05.

- Key activities over the next 2 months

Walkathon for students is 4/4/05. Father/Daughter dance is 4/15/05. Skating party at Beechmont Rollerink tentatively mid April. Last PTO meeting of the year is 4/13/05.

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Help spread the word of upcoming fundraisers

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February, 2005

Committee Name: Boosters

Committee Reporter: Laura Allen/Darlene Grieco

Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a few key highlights of activities).

- Girls and Boys Basketball, and Girls Volleyball will be under way through March. Spring sports are in the registration phase now.
- Child protection compliance continues to be closely monitored by the Board through the AD and in conjunction with the Business Mgr. and Parish Secretary as facilities are reserved.
- The winter Men's Basketball League is currently in session. It's been an instant success. Of the 10 participating teams, 4 are from STM & B's. STM Booster Alum, Keith Diebel is coordinating the League.
- The Pete Tekulve memorial was blessed and dedicated on January 15, 2005. It is now on display in the gym lobby.
- **Key activities over the next 2 months**
 - The majority of parish sports programs will be active through March 2005.
 - Spring Sports (boys baseball and girls softball) start playing in March.
 - The Spring Basketball Clinic (grades 1-2) will be held in April.
 - Session 2 of the Men's League will begin in the Spring. 13 teams are committed.
 - Planning for the Annual Golf Outing has begun; tentatively set for May, 2005. Boosters are the first group to hold a major event under the new fundraising guidelines. Sponsorship solicitations will not be made prior to clearing them in accordance with the new fundraising committee guidelines.
 - The annual Sports Banquet will be held May 21, 2005. We are moving it outside to accommodate a larger crowd and provide a family day of fun

that will culminate with the banquet. We are in the early planning stages.

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

As always, we appreciate your prayers.

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February

Committee Name: Girl Scouts

Committee Reporter: Theresa Bradley

- **Highlights/Key Current Activities**

1. On Saturday, February 5, our Girl Scout Troops attended the annual scout mass. The members of the second and fifth grade troops were presented their religious medals. Father Paul did a wonderful job making the scouts feel special. Thank you to Michael Thomas for all of his help in ordering the medals.

Key activities over the next 2 months

1. The Girl Scout will host Coffee and Donuts this Sunday, February 20 after the 10:00 and 12:00 masses.
2. On Wednesday, February 23, all of the STM Girl Scout Troops will be participating in "Thinking Day". Thinking Day is a day set aside each year to THINK about the lives of other girls around the world. Each troop explores life in a different country and prepares a display. The scouts have an opportunity to taste foods, make crafts, speak foreign languages, view styles of clothing, and learn many other things about different cultures around the world.
3. Girl Scout cookies will be delivered next week to those who have pre-ordered. Extra boxes of cookies will be sold through "cookie shops" at various locations.

- **What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?**

Thank you for your prayers and support. We appreciate your support with our cookie sales!

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: February 2005
Committee Name: Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts

Committee Reporter: **Dee Archer**

Highlights/Key Current Activities:

Boy Scouts

- **Merit Badge Challenge** - Now going on. 1st weekend is February 5; subsequent weekends are February 19 and March 12.
- **Scout/Webelo Overnight** - Scouts camp Friday/Saturday nights at Troop hall; Webelos camp Saturday only. Webelos from our Pack and others in the area will camp with our Boy Scouts. This event will enable the older Scouts to instruct Webelos in Scout skills, as well as allow both groups to socialize.
- **Fish Fry** - Annual fish fry will begin on Friday, February 18, and run through Good Friday, March 25.
- **Annual Planning Meeting** - Committee will meet in March after the fish fry to plan the year ahead.

Cub Scouts

- **Pinewood Derby** - Held in the gym in January this year due to growth of event. This year's

Derby was the best-organized race yet, and was very successful. After the regular races, a "fun" race took place for adults, Boy Scouts, or anyone else who wanted to enter.

- **February Pack "Bowling Day"** - Cub Scouts will bowl at Cherry Grove Lanes on February 20.
- **Blue & Gold Banquet** - March 16; plans are underway. This year celebrates the 75th year of Cub Scouting.

Both

- **Scout Sunday** - Mass and emblem ceremony went well; we are very proud of the 19 Scouts who earned religious emblems, and that the Mass was well-attended.
- **Veterans Day Service Project** - Display at Veterans Park was dismantled on February 6; the Veterans have requested our help with another service project for Memorial Day.

Key activities over the next 2 months:

Boy Scouts

Hatfield Merit Badge Challenge 2005 - February 5, 19, and March 5.

Fish Fry

Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet - Scouts will be present to accept any new members into Troop.

Cub Scouts

Bowling Event - February

Blue and Gold Banquet March 16; Webelos II graduate into Boy Scouts.

Both

Rechartering underway

March 4-6 - Scout Night at the Circus

March 12 - Boy Scout Night at the Atlantic 10 Conference

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Please support the fish fry.

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