

**THOMAS MORE PARISH  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, February 19, 2007**

**Council Members in Attendance:** Fr. Bill Wagner, Vic Ivers, Kathy Hornschmeier, Janet Tate, John Duncan, and Jim Conrady.

**Council Members Absent:** Larry Bush and Ralph Bedel.

**Others in Attendance:** Mike Gennett.

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

**Business Manager Report:** Mike Gennett gave the report:

Finance approved the low bid for replacing all the windows in Heider Hall. The work is tentatively planned for June. The order has not been released and does not need to be in until April 1. Fr. Bill and Mike toured a number of other Catholic schools in the area that have had their windows installed by this company. Each location was very pleased with the quality, service and follow up they have received. We are in the process of getting prices for installing window air conditioner units in the classrooms. This is important to do now before the windows are custom built so if the time comes we have the funds to add air we do not have a problem. The biggest cost for adding air in the classrooms is the electrical upgrade. Our HVAC contractor said it would not be cost effective to add central air to the classrooms. The other issue that has arisen is the window blinds in Heider Hall are old and are falling apart. They will not work with the new windows. We will have an issue regarding how to darken the rooms for videos and for early and late day sun. Prices to replace the shades are being obtained. We need to look at the collective total cost of this project that includes future planning for air.

Finance approved the tuition fees for next school. School tuition went up approximately 4% and PSR remained unchanged. Kindergarten and Registration fees remain unchanged.

Joan Cardone, the School Board President, has joined the Finance Committee. The School Board has a large list of wants that we can not afford. Joan works in Finance and can help bridge the gap between what the school would like to have and what we can actually afford. The school board is going to submit a list prioritizing their requests. Kathy Hornschemeier voiced her concern that an accurate cost to each of the school's requests be established. Mike Gennett said he would ensure that would happen since he knows what the payroll, benefits, and other contractual costs actually are. Accurate bids for any structural work would have to be obtained.

Next year's budget was not officially approved. We have transformed the budgeting process over the years to a "just in time" budget to fund the school based upon their actual number of registrations for the coming year. We can't "lay it out" in the spring if all the registrations are not in. We even added to the budget this past August based upon the additional number of registrations received at the beginning of school. It is important for all returning families to register as soon as possible so we can get a clear and accurate number we can budget for.

John Duncan asked for a review of how the budgeting process worked. A brief overview was given.

Finance also approved implementing the St. Veronica School Family Sunday Mass attendance and contribution program at our parish for 2007-8. Parish Council approved moving ahead with this measure in January.

Finance approved exploring the possible of selling the smoke filtering system in the Parish Hall due to the passage of the state-wide no smoking ban.

We had a major computer virus that got into our systems in mid-January. It came in through our state required Internet provider from another school. To make a long story short, we had technicians working around the clock for nearly a month to repair our system. The virus was not

recognized by our Norton anti-virus program (which was up to date) and a special patch had to be prepared. The final cost to repair this unexpected problem was nearly \$14,000. A number of other schools in the metro area were also affected. We have filed a claim with our insurance company. Hopefully we might get back everything other than our deductible.

The previous projections of saving money due to a warm winter and no snow no longer apply. Our energy bills for this month have not arrived. We spent, for example, nearly \$2,200 in the last week just to handle all the snow and ice problems.

**Pastor's Report** – Fr. Bill gave his update

The Archdiocese is conducting at their expense a demographic study of the western Clermont County area to look at all the options that might be available for our future growth and consideration.

Jim Conrady said he took a look at the center of Heider Hall and felt that two classrooms could be added in that area.

The bank of lights on the second beam in front of the Sanctuary has been installed. Council members reported the feedback has been very positive.

The Parish Mission is coming up March 4-7. Bill Wegner will be conducting the mission. He is from the same organization (Good News Ministries) that handled the mission in November 2005.

Our parish will have two members ordained as Deacons in April: Michael Thomas and John Convery. This will bring the number of Deacons assigned to us at four. We are looking at doing something special for our new Deacons. The Deacons are initially assigned to their home parish, but eventually may have to move.

Our school graduates continue to do well once they leave. Our kids receive lots of scholarships and we have the heaviest number of former students in the top ten at McNicholas High School. Our school program continues to receive good marks!

RCIA is moving along just fine and we will have new members joining our faith this Easter.

One of the parish secretaries has resigned. We ran an ad and got a number of very qualified responses. It was really a toss up who to offer the job to. A job offer is in the process of being made.

The latest from the diocese.....

- The health care insurance benefit for all our employees is currently under review.
- The High School Equalization program is also being closely studied. This is the program where each parish pays part of the high school tuition for their parish members.
- The Archdiocese financial situation has not changed and is still very serious.
- The diocese-wide alcohol policy has been submitted for review. The proposal is to ban the sale of alcohol at youth only events. This would not apply to family events such as the Festival.

The priest assignment time of the year is approaching. Due to the number of retirements, deaths, and the like, some of the Pastoral Regions will more than likely be implemented.

Jim Conrady asked about bringing in priests from other countries. Fr. Bill stated this is a concept that is not widely supported. There are wide-cultural and language differences that don't always work out very well.

Fr. Bill stated there is a Hurricane Katrina victim temporarily living in 804.

**New Business** – Jim Conrady said he has looked at the microphones and feels there is still a problem. Mike Gennett stated that the ambo mic was temporarily repaired last Thursday. We are also looking at new mics for the ambo.

It was suggested that each pastoral staff member and every organization prepare an update summary report and send it out on the list serv prior to

the next meeting. In addition, everyone will be asked to identify a concept of themselves and what they see as their contribution to the parish.

John Duncan asked what can council do between meetings to take action to implement a vision of the future. Fr. Bill suggested taking a look at the parish mission statement for a start. It needs to be reworked. Jim Conrady suggested maybe a facilitator can be brought in to assist. Fr. Bill suggested three possibly areas Council should be looking at....the school, evangelization, and community involvement.

Mike Gennett stated that the change in the start and ending dates for Daylight Savings time that was mandated in the 2005 energy bill are under review on how it will affect the parish. All of our systems have automatic daylight savings changes built in for the first Sunday in April and the last Sunday in October. The bell system, the school bells, and the phone system will all be affected by the change. The Daylight Savings time function will be shut off and the time change will have to be manually set in the future to accommodate the new start and end dates. 95% of our clocks are automatic and should change when the government signal tells them to do so. A patch from Microsoft is in the process of being downloaded in all our computers to compensate for the new time change dates.

Vic Ivers asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Hornschemeier made the motion to adjoin. Janet Tate seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM. Fr. Bill led the group in a prayer.

**NEXT MEETING - MONDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> - 7:00 PM**

