

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, January 16, 2006**

**Council Members in Attendance:** Fr. Bill Wagner, Vic Ivers, Michelle Stultz, Jim Conrady, Duane Bradley, Doug Young, Kathy Hornschemeier, John Duncan, and Janet Tate.

**Council Members Absent:** Ralph Bedel.

**Others in Attendance:** Mike Gennett.

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

Reports were received from the following individuals/organizations in advance of the meeting: DRE, Elizabeth Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, School Alumni, The Deacon, Youth Ministry, Music, Seniors, PTO, School, Cub & Boy Scouts, Bingo, Festival, and Girl Scouts. The time everyone spent writing the reports to update council was greatly appreciated. Vic Ivers mentioned a few requests from the groups which mostly were for council members to be present at specific functions. Copies of the reports follow the minutes.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The last council meeting was held on Monday, December 12th. Vic asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes. Mike Gennett stated there had been no feedback.

Janet Tate stated she would like to have her comments regarding the Lector workbooks softened. The way the minutes were written she felt made her comments look harsh. Council agreed to her request.

Kathy Hornschmeier made a motion that the minutes be accepted as written including the change as requested by Janet Tate. Vic Ivers seconded the motion. Council voted 8 to 0 to accept the minutes.

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

**2006-7 Budget** - The first draft of the 2006-7 budget has been prepared and is being forwarded to the Finance Committee this week. Finance plans to meet on January 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss and approve the budget.

The budget being submitted currently has a deficit of \$68,680.51. However, there are a number of things that can happen that would quickly eliminate the deficit if required. Highlights regarding the first draft budget include:

Our Sunday collections are planned at the same numbers as this year (\$16,000 first Sunday of the month and \$13,000 the rest of the Sundays). Christmas is on a Monday and we gain a Sunday back. However, that Sunday is Christmas Eve and the last time this happened in 2000, there was no 12:00 Noon Mass and thus, it was far from a normal collection.

School tuition is planned at a 5.3% increase and is the smallest increase in over 8 years.

Payroll is planned at an average increase of 3% per employee. Health care costs are planned at another 15% increase but may settle down to just a 10% increase. We have been notified that two additional employees may be joining our health care plan next year and this has been included in the budget.

The school budget has been planned at the current enrollment of 304 students and staff levels. Mike pointed out it is easier not to get into discussions on what the schools wants as a structure before registration begins. It is easier to plan the final budget once registration has been completed and you can plan based upon the numbers actually enrolled. It really takes the emotions out of the planning process and more importantly removes any commitments we could not afford if we ended up with fewer students. Finance will take a look at the school budget around April 1 based on the number of actual school registrations.

The school is planning to enroll an additional 20 children next year. They have launched an aggressive marketing campaign which should help to

make this a reality. This did not happen last year until early summer. Fr. Bill pointed out that we now have permission to market our school in the Holy Trinity-Batavia area. St. Veronica has received some complaints from their parishioners about our mailing, but it turns out those parishioners do not live in the St. Veronica boundaries. Fr. Bill pointed out the homes going up just north of Ohio 32 in the Lexington Run areas are being built at a very fast rate. It was discussed that the Batavia Township busses would bring the kids to St. Thomas More.

Energy is planned at a 40% increase. This might be an area we get a break if there is a roll back in energy costs. At this time, we can not get a firm handle on what our energy costs will be this winter. Our last meter reading was on December 9 and our usage was down 11%, but the bill was up 21%. The January bill is due any day.

No capital is planned in the budget other than a possible replacement of our telephone system. It is an old Partner system that is causing more and more problems. The money to replace this system is being saved from large donations that are being made for any special need at the parish. Mike pointed out we may have enough money now to go ahead with this in the early summer. That would be the time to make the change once school is out and before the new phone directory numbers are due for the printers. (Both Jim Conrady & Duane Bradley both reported they felt the phone system needed to be replaced.)

No Bingo income is planned in the budget. Currently, Bingo is not making any money. Any improvement in Bingo would probably wipe out most of the planned deficit. The Bingo committee met last week to discuss the matter. Through January 5, Bingo has lost \$9,737.87 including the start up loan from the parish. An analysis of our current Bingo compared with the last full year we had a Bingo shows the issue is with a revenue shortfall. Our attendance is 23% higher, but the people attending are not buying. One of the problems may be there is another new Thursday night Bingo down the street which recently started up. They are getting only 40 people and a rumor has them considering shutting down. The committee has come up with a list of promotions to try to populate the event beginning in February. They also conducted a survey last week and almost all the responses regarding our Bingo were highly favorable. The people who are coming to our Bingo really like our event. Fr. Bill stated we need to give

this a full year before making any final decisions regarding the future of the program.

In we need to take steps to balance the budget; there are three levels of steps we can take depending on the size of the deficit:

*Level One* includes program reductions including eliminating maintenance uniforms for the staff, mileage reimbursement for the staff, free Coke & water for the staff, eliminate the postage machine in the Parish Office, mandate direct deposit for all employees (which eliminates paycheck and delivery costs), and reduce all non-payroll budgets by up to 20%. This would also include asking the Festival to raise their profit percentage from 41% to 48%. These savings can total up to \$28,000.

*Level Two* would be to implement those employees who have volunteered to reduce their hours and thus their benefits. This would save \$38,000.

*Level Three* would be to look at other layoffs and program reductions including reducing maintenance to include reduced frequency of cleanings, etc. Any major maintenance reductions could hurt us as more as new families move into the area and parish becomes more active.

Also, the parish may not be able to eventually afford a Business Manager if times really got tough. Duane Bradley stated that would not be a wise move. Without someone watching the financials, we would lose far more than what was saved.

Council at this point made some comments regarding the presentation:

Jim Conrady asked if there was a report outlining our Festival expenses. Mike said there was a report on file from the Festival committee plus the Business Managers exchanged profit rates last year. Our profit rate this past year was one of the lowest in the diocese. Kathy Hornschemeier thought the profit rate should be around 50%, not around 41%. Michelle Stultz said a number of things were added like the bands which help to create a party atmosphere. She also stated we were short about 80 volunteers this year compared to 2004.

John Duncan asked if we had a surplus without the planned payments to the Archdiocese. Mike Gennett stated we did. The agreed amount for next year to pay the diocese on the debt and interest is \$100,000.00.

John Duncan was also shocked to learn that none of the employees pay any of their health insurance. Mike Gennett stated the health care committee is comprised of educators who continued to demand free health care for all even though this is the last diocese in the US to offer such a benefit. Everyone in the room who works stated none of them get free health care and they have to contribute to the costs. Mike stated he wrote everyone on the health care committee that without policy changes the parishes eventually would all have dwindling funds to minister to their parishioners because so much of their budgets would be absorbed by benefits for just a few individuals. The diocese is considering some policy changes, but each year, when push comes to shove, the changes are not implemented. (Next year's family health care rate is estimated to be \$13,055.00 each and a single plan will be \$5,156.00).

Jim Conrady asked how much we spent on benefits. Mike stated he did not have the exact numbers with him, but would include them in the minutes: (For the 2006-7 budget: FICA (\$64,875.52), Workers Comp (\$20,284.00), Health Care (\$153,442.50), Unemployment Insurance (\$1,680.00), Pension (\$42,192.00), and Life Insurance (\$4,398.68). Grand Total in next year's budget: \$286,872.70.) Fr. Bill stated we can talk all we want about the benefits, but we are at the mercy of the Archdiocese.

Doug Young stated that if we cut cleaning, that would mean more mess and germs that would be around and no doubt more sick kids. It was asked how much we spend on contract cleaning and the amount was given. Duane Bradley felt we could not get the areas cleaned at the same rate the contractor does it. Fr. Bill pointed we have no floor cleaning equipment and would have to buy it if we brought it in house. Mike Gennett stated the cost of benefits alone might make this prohibitive. One employee alone costs us 80% of the contractor's rate. The cost of having our own employees is soaring because of the benefit costs. Most of our maintenance work is contracted out so we can save the benefit cost. Fr. Bill stated this is the first parish he has been where contractors are used in lieu of employees. *(It is also far easier to address problems with contractors.)*

Jim Conrady asked how much we would save with mandatory direct deposit. Mike said \$900 plus dollars. Jim stated that direct deposit should be mandatory for all employees. This was echoed by Duane Bradley. "That's the way it is in business." Other council members supported the concept of mandatory direct deposit for all employees. Mike said it was cuts like this that start to add up that save money that do not impact the ministry of the parish.

Fr. Bill stated that Finance is meeting next week and most of this should be finalized.

**Regional Planning with Holy Trinity in Batavia** – Duane Bradley gave the update.

The first meeting was held recently with Holy Trinity, the parish we are clustering with. They just have 7-8 kids in Catholic elementary schools. We can now draw from their area for our school since they do not have one.

A decision was made that once the two parishes start to share a Pastor that collection envelopes from either parish can be deposited at either church on Sunday. Credit will be given to the parish on the envelope. It was decided that the Easter Vigil would be at St. Thomas More as well as a joint RCIA. Confirmation prep would be at one location.

A revised Sunday Mass scheduled was discussed, but not finalized. It was pointed out that whatever was decided at this point may not happen for years to come and a new Pastor for both parishes may see things differently. This was just a plan that would only be implemented if the priest shortage warranted that we had to share a Pastor.

It was also pointed Holy Trinity was financially sound.

Duane stated they agreed to meet every Tuesday of each month and if things went as well as the first meeting, there probably would not be a lot more meeting needed.

Fr. Bill pointed out that Deacon's will have to come into their own. Weddings will be their main focus. Priests will be busy with Masses and Confessions once a combination takes place.

Duane said the focus tonight would be to get our Council's feedback on what was discussed. Michelle Stultz stated it was the best of both worlds and a good job was done. This was echoed by others (no vote was taken).

Fr. Bill stated this may not happen for years from now. He would think the Archbishop would combine smaller parishes first when the priest shortage becomes critical. We could also become our own Pastoral Region which had been previously discussed. This could transpire if the Amelia-Bethel-New Richmond cluster falls apart, although he was not certain where the extra priest would come from.

**Report on Tuition** – Fr. Bill wanted to pass on that St. Veronica has reported they are raising their tuition next year to close where everyone else in the area is. For years, they have been a low cost provider and no longer are going to do this. Fr. Bill stated his intention was keep our increase for next year as minimal as possible.

Kathy Hornschmeier asked if the rates could be included in the minutes. (St. Veronica's 2006-7 tuition rates: One child \$2,285 plus a \$50 book fee or \$2,335.00. Our 2005-6 tuition is \$2,265.00). Their registration fee is going from \$100 per family to \$125 per family. Our rate is \$200 per family.)

**Archdiocesan Debt Plan** – Fr. Bill stated we received a favorable response from the Archdiocese regarding our debt plan. We offered to pay our principal and interest over the next 15 years having it all paid off in 2020. Originally, the diocese was only willing to take payments on the interest. They now agreed to accept payments on both the principal and the interest. Fr. Bill stated he submitted this plan. Finance submitted a tougher plan to pay the debt off in 20 years which was rejected. Fr. Bill stated the theme of his letter was to ask for help. He told the Archbishop we have built programs and we would have to lay off the staff and cut programs in order to pay the diocese. This did not make sense since there were over 3,000 houses under construction in our area.

Kathy Hornschmeier asked if any payments have been made under the new plan. Mike Gennett responded our first payment was made last week. The total amount was \$8,333.33. Our payment plan calls for \$100,000.00 each year for the next few years. The amount due each year grows. Fr. Bill stated this would put more pressure on our budget, but it needs to be done.

Fr. Bill stated things are looking up. Church attendance is up and everyone is commenting about it. Lots of new faces. Our collections have been good the last 7 weeks. We had a record Christmas collection.

Comments were then made that the recent publicity about our heating savings program had helped. More people feel we are watching the money. Mike Gennett stated we are always watching the money but most people don't know it unless they work here or are actively involved.

Mike Gennett also stated we do not cause the diocese any problems. We pay all our bills on time and meet our obligations. They also may have played into their decision to accept our 15 year plan at the payment rates we requested. We stand a far better chance of clearing this up than other parishes that have over extended themselves with debt and expenses.

Michelle Stultz asked if we paid last year's Catholic Telegraph. Mike Gennett responded we did. We did not do it in June because we understood the program was under review. Since then, the diocese announced they are going to add a 1% late fee compounded monthly to such invoices and eventually roll them over into a debt instrument with 7% annual interest....if not paid.

**The Thomas More House** – Fr. Bill pointed out the first tenants worked out well. It was a mother and daughter. Both founds jobs and have moved. We are looking for a new tenant. Catholic Charities have been informed a number of times that we have the space available for Hurricane Katrina victims.

**Parish Council – Short Term Plan** – Fr. Bill stated if we have to make “painful” cuts Parish Council would be asked about which programs to eliminate. Names of potential employees for dismissal would not be discussed in the council meetings. Council would recommend program eliminations, not specific personnel.

**Other Business** – Janet Tate said a parishioner complained to her how far they had to walk to Mass last Saturday at 4:30. The gym was using a number of parking places. Michelle Stultz said they should be using the orange cones to block off the lot. Duane Bradley asked Mike Gennett to remind the Boosters to please use the orange cones on Saturdays.

The conversation turned to raffling off two parking places near the church to parishioners at the Festival to the highest bidder for use at each of the Masses the following year. This idea has been passed on to Rhonda Roberts.

Michelle Stultz wanted to go on record stating how wonderful the Christmas decorations were this year. Everyone agreed and Rosemary Weimer was mentioned by name as being the architect of the beautiful environment.

Michelle Stultz also stated that Festival is in desperate need of a Bid ‘n Buy Chair. This is the time of the year the Chair writes all the letters for donations. If that does not get off the ground soon, it will have a negative impact on the 2006 Festival.

Fr. Bill mentioned we had an accident on January 9. The incense from the censor was accidentally spilled onto the carpet during Mass. The foil was not in the censor correctly and the lid was opened too quickly by the server, thus, the coals fell out on the carpet. By the time Fr. Bill found the burning charcoal, it had already burned through the carpet. He had to rub it out and it left a large blackened area. The carpet was replaced the following day by a specialist recommended by our cleaning contractor. We had saved some carpet from the 2002 installation. You really have to look hard to see where the old carpet was...the new carpet piece is just slightly darker than the old carpet. Time will take care of that.

Jim Conrady asked that if we can announce at Mass those names that have died. He was not aware this was always happening. Fr. Bill said he thought they were being announced....sometime it may be before or after the funeral.

Michelle Stultz asked that the focus on future Marriage Dinners also be on younger couples. "Marriage is tough", she said. "We need to recognize it." Maybe recognition is given for 20 years or less. It does not have to be a free meal. Fr. Bill stated this would need to go to the Worship Committee who plans this event. The event is growing each year.

Vic Ivers asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Duane Bradley made the motion and Michelle Stultz seconded it. Council voted 8 to 0 to adjourn.

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, February 20, at 7 PM, President's Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM. Fr. Bill led with a brief prayer.

The organization reports follow.

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## **Parish Council Committee Report Form**

(Please copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page. When completed, send via email no later than Friday, January 13, 2006, to all parish council members at [parishcouncil@sttm.org](mailto:parishcouncil@sttm.org))

**St. Thomas More Organization Report for  
the Monday, January 16, 2006 Parish Council Meeting**

Organization Name: Director of Religious Education

Key Organization Leaders/Officers: Becky Ready

■ Highlights/Key Accomplishments during 2004-5: (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the group has done, but rather a overview of the key accomplishments this past year):

### Parish School of Religion (PSR):

The year is going well with our new textbook series. This month is the month for our semi-annual progress reports to go home on January 22.

Also this month we will be testing the 5<sup>th</sup> graders in PSR as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the school with the ACRE Religious Education Testing instrument again. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year we have participated in this evaluation.

Our catechists will be participating in a Catechetical Retreat sponsored by the Eastside Cluster DRE's this February. Our retreat leader will be Jeannie Hunt.

### Sacraments

Our First Reconciliation was celebrated with the community in December. Now the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be starting their preparation for first communion on February 28.

We have 45 students preparing to celebrate confirmation. We have started a new process this year. This month our confirmation sessions begin. We have scheduled two per month for about an hour in length. At that time nineteen parents who have accepted the role of parent leaders will be guiding seven small faith community groups of candidates separated by gender in discussion and activities related to our confirmation manual. They will also facilitate the small groups during the retreat in May.

### RCIA

We have nine candidates who have been faithfully attending our preparation sessions every Sunday. We started attending the noon mass in December and after the homily we are dismissed to study the word of God back in the FFR. We are now looking forward to the Rite of Sending and Election which will take place on March 5.

We also have three teens who have entered into the Rite of Christian Youth process. (RCIY) Pat Rieck is our master catechist. She has begun meeting

with them on Sunday mornings. Two are not baptized and one was baptized as a Catholic but has not received first communion or confirmation.

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

After advertising for our Returning Catholics Home since last November, we have only received one inquiry. The first session is January 10.

The MOMs group will be offering another Lenten session beginning in March.

■ Short list of old issues not resolved from 2004-5:

■ Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of:

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Organization name: St Vincent de Paul Society

Organization Leader: Bob Guenther

Highlights/ Key Accomplishments: The first tenent in the Thomas More House moved on Jan 5th as she was able to secure an apartment. The monies needed to move she accumulated on her own and required no monetary help from SVDP for her rent or deposit. The house was left in excellent order.

We did experience a sewer back-up and that was resolved. The next family to be considered resolved their housing needs so the house is now available. We have been working closely with the YWCA in Batavia who addresses housing issues for clients.

Once again our Parishsoners came through for the holidays. Our food pantry is stocked full for the time being. We have been well pleased with the SVDP envelopes and second collection on fifth sundays of the month as our collections have increased significantly.

Old Issues: We are still looking for new members. There are some additional things we could be doing but we just don't have enough voluteers. This will be addressed in future issues of More About Us.

New Issues: Recently the Parish has encountered indivduals coming to the Parish Office, the Rectory and the Church seeking help especially for money. This past Saturday an individual went into the Sacristy during mass. We have discussed these situations at our SVDP meetings and it is our position that these individuals be told any requests for help are handled by our SVDP Society and their telephone number is 752-2080 Ext 111, which is a recorded number. The SVDP Society will retrieve your call and get back to you.

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Parishcouncil mailing list

[Parishcouncil@sttm.org](mailto:Parishcouncil@sttm.org)

<https://mailman.quic.net/sttm.org/listinfo/parishcouncil>

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## St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: January 2006

Committee Name: Elizabeth Ministry

Committee Reporter: Maria Pour

■ 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):

The activities listed occurred from October, 2005 through January, 2006

- Hosted the Respect Life Service - this service began with the rosary, led by the Rosary Prayer Circle. Some of the children in attendance assisted Karen Klysz with the pictures of the stations of the cross. A prayer service, celebrated by Deacon Jerry, followed in the church. A social ended the event in the Parish Dining hall.
- Ministered to one family who had a miscarriage, with prayers, gift and a "Minister visit". Sent cards and healing gifts to two others. Most of the gifts were donated by the Elizabeth Ministers. Funds raised recently were able to purchase the other gifts.
- Hosted the Epiphany Celebration and Parish Sponsored Coffee and Donuts on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>. The PSR preschoolers led the Celebration with Christmas Songs. The Elizabeth Ministry and A Caring Place spoke briefly to inform everyone of their ministries. Parishioners brought "gifts for baby Jesus" that will be donated to "A Caring Place", who also introduced a "Baby Bottle" campaign. Baby bottles were provided to allow those interested to take them home and fill it with loose change, proceeds to go towards A Caring Place. Many parishioners took a bottle home.
- Fund Raising - raffled off a "Fleece Bengal's Blanket", made and donated by the Sewing Ministry. Proceeds from the raffle started the "Elizabeth Ministry bank account", managed by our Business Manager. An additional generous donation from a parishioner added to the account.

■ Key activities over the next 2 months:

- Host Parish sponsored coffee/donuts Feb. 5th to allow parishioners to return baby bottles from “A Caring Place’ Baby Bottle Campaign. Craft day for parish children will coincide with this event, coordinated by PSR leaders.
- Develop and Host a Healing Service for those parents/families who lost a baby(ies) through miscarriage, infant/child loss, regretted abortion.
- Fund Raising
  - Creating professionally bound “STM Family Favorites Cookbook” with proceeds going to the Elizabeth Ministry and the STM school library
  - Selling advertising space, in the Parish Cookbook, to local companies (approved by the Fund Raising Committee)
- Create new brochure to:
  - Highlight our mission, goals and accomplishments
  - Invite parents/families to seek our ministry
  - Invite others to join our ministry

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

- Send recipes for the “STM Family Favorites Cookbook”

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### Report to Parish Council January 2006

**Organization Name:** St. Thomas More Alumni Association

**Key Organization Leaders/Officers:**

President	Lori (Zibulka) Knight	Class of 1983
Vice President	Kelley (Dwyer) Lang	Class of 1979
Secretary	Cassandra (Wahl) Feldhaus	Class of 1958

Treasurer           Open  
Events Coordinator    Open

**Organization's Purpose:**

The purpose of the St. Thomas More Alumni Association will be:

    To celebrate the bonds of friendship and family formed by past students

    To promote the educational excellence of current students

    To continue to grow in our Catholic faith with one another in the future

**Highlights/Key Accomplishments: (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the group has done, but rather a overview of the key accomplishments this past year):**

1) Started association up November 2005

2) Web site up and running: Alumni registration link, contact information, pictures

<http://www.sttm.org/alumni.htm>

3) Alumni database created and maintained

    Includes student data from archived school data cards

    Receiving current information on alumni through web site

    Registration cards are available in church

4) Obtained go-ahead from Julyfest co-chairs to have an "Alumni Reunion" area

    Possible Julyfest "Reunion" theme, events leading up to Julyfest, etc.

    Tie in with 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the parish

**Short list of old issues not resolved:**

1) Periodic newsletter (via bulletin, web site, email)

2) Continue planning for Reunion activities

**Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of:**

1) Other Catholic elementary schools in the area are also starting up alumni groups (Guardian Angels, IHM, etc.). Is there any way for the Archdiocese to "spread the word" rather than each of the schools doing it independently? It would further promote Catholic education goals as a whole.

## Parish Council Committee Report Form

(Please copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page. When completed, send via email no later than Friday, October 14, 2005, to all parish council members at [parishcouncil@sttm.org](mailto:parishcouncil@sttm.org))

**St. Thomas More Organization Report for  
the Monday, October 17, 2005 Parish Council Meeting**

Organization Name: Deacon's report

Key Organization Leaders/Officers:

- Highlights/Key Accomplishments during 2004-5: (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the group has done, but rather a overview of the key accomplishments this past year):

23 weddings for 2005 13 scheduled to date for 2006. Both men and women CRHP teams are in formation for weekends in Jan & Feb 2006. Also forming teams to put on weekends for St. Andrew/St. E. Seton. Social Action Comm. Arts & Crafts benefit for Tom Geiger House in June - Held Baby Shower to benefit A Caring Place in Aug.- Organized donations for Hurricane victims sent through Matt. 25 ministries. - took part in CC Life Chain. Worship Comm. Eucharistic Series in April. - Marian devotion in May - Approved new Hymnal - solution to confusion at Mass when a fire alarm is pulled. - New Marriage Guidelines for Archdiocese. Developed and implemented new ministry of wedding coordinator.

Short list of old issues not resolved from 2004-5:

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■ Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of:

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### **St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report**

Month: January 2006

Committee Name: ROC Youth Ministry

Committee Reporter: Diane Brennan

■ **Highlights/Key Current Activities:**

- 1- Blessedly, Matt Feist has joined us this year as a volunteer associate youth minister. We are helping pay for his training classes and he works with the ROC group.
- 2- We are wondering if we can pick up donut Sunday every month if the parish will continue to pay for the donuts? The youth really miss it!
- 3- We are going on our first ski trip 2/3-2/05!
- 4- Laudete, a training program in liturgical music, is coming this summer June 19-22, 2006 and we have youth already interested.
- 5- We are going to Cincinnati 2000 as a group with the high schoolers March 24-26 and we as a parish are co-sponsors of this event.

- 6- We are already thinking about Bible Camp 2006 from August 7-11, 2006 and we continue to look for interested volunteers to help out that week. Mark your calendars!
- 7- Super 8 is looking for ideas for our summer projects. We may have cleaned all we can on our own campus and we may have several days that we can work off campus. If you hear of anything please send on to the youth office.
- 8- We are facilitating the Young Adult Conference that is being sponsored by the Archdiocese Oct. 14 at Good Shepherd. We will have a group attending and a group helping and volunteering. If you know of anyone who might benefit from this event would you send me their name or issue them a personal invitation? Registration will be open to the entire state of Ohio and the Tri-State area will be invited as well. Young Adults are defined as 18-39 for the purpose of the event and include single and married couples. There will be separate tracks to meet the needs and desires of those attending. Mass will be included in the day.
- 9- We are going to Franciscan University for the High school youth Conference and we will be taking 8 lucky high school students. We have requested funds from the Knights of Columbus to award scholarships to help pay for this awesome spiritual event. We will be going with GA's youth group to help defray costs. Our first choice of dates is in July and there will be more coming on this once those dates have been firmed up.
- 10- Rosary Makers continues to meet each month to make Rosaries for the troops and the missions.
- 11- Our sewing ministry is enjoying a wonderful first year. It continues to grow and develop. A great outlet for youth who are not into sports or who have a creative side that needs nurturing. We have made over 40 blankets for the Caring place and have helped make 80+ stockings which were sent to the troops in care of LcPl Kristy Grachek who was a member of our group in the first year.
- 12- The Little Pink house, now the Thomas More House, is in the hands of SVDP. We will continue to help with the cleaning and maintenance when they need us between clients.
- 13- We continue to work with the Archdiocese to educate using the Renewing the Vision document and we strive to expose our youth to the many various ministries thriving here at STM.
- 14- We hope to have more Bible study for youth in the future.
- 15- We will be working with Social Justice to help expose the youth and young adults to Operation Rice Bowl, this Lent.
- 16- We will be having a six night *parenting your teen* Bible based program on the Fridays of Lent. It will be open to all parents with pre-teen and teenagers who are seeking to improve communication and leadership in their families. There will be more on this in the bulletin.

I am sure there is more but I am worn out just writing this.

- What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council? PRAY and invite young people and young adults you know to become more involved! We have several big conferences and weekends coming up which will really immerse our youth a whole new level. Please support us and encourage all to get involved. We need more adult leaders and want to reach out to those young people who don't know about youth ministry.
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## **St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report**

Date: 1-13-2006

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 with preparations for Easter, Confirmation, and Pentecost. We have had a few new members, but are still looking for more participation from the parish. The choir is actively inviting personally new members. We are considering several new methods of recruitment.

I have changed the time of rehearsal for the Youth Ensemble to Thursdays at 7 pm. This was to facilitate more participation from kids whose parents work and cannot get their child to rehearsal in the afternoon.

- Key activities over the next 2 months

Catholic Schools Week, Holy week, Confirmation, First Communion, Graduation, Pentecost.

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

Of course if you hear someone singing or expressing a wish to use their musical abilities, please let them know they are always welcome to join the music ministry.

Also, we currently are using my digital keyboard for school masses and whenever we need music from the front of church. (Christmas Eve, Catholic Schools week, penance services, evensong, ect.) I think it would be better for everyone if there was an instrument there on a more permanent basis. I will have to start taking my keyboard for other jobs I am doing and because it is very heavy, it is difficult to bring it back and forth for STM. It would be better if STM had their own instrument for this use.

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Michael Thomas](#)

**To:** [Parishcouncil@stm.org](mailto:Parishcouncil@stm.org)

**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2006 3:02 PM

**Subject:** [Parishcouncil] Report To Pastoral Council One

**St. Thomas More Organization Report for  
the Monday, January 16, 2006 Parish Council Meeting**

Organization Name: Chancellors Club

Key Organization Leaders/Officers:

Highlights/Key Accomplishments: (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the group has done, but rather a overview of the key accomplishments this past year):

We have met monthly for lunch. Our membership continues to grow. We have taken two trips this past year. Assisted with hospitality for the parish mission.

Short list of old issues not resolved:

None

Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of:

None

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Parishcouncil mailing list  
Parishcouncil@sttm.org  
<https://mailman.quic.net/sttm.org/listinfo/parishcouncil>

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**Parish Council Committee Report Form**

(Please copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page. When completed, send via email to all parish council members at [sttmcouncil@vahoogroups.com](mailto:sttmcouncil@vahoogroups.com))

### St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: January 2006

Committee Name: Bingo

Committee Reporters: Rhonda Roberts and Katrina Shepherd

#### ■ Highlights/Key Current Events:

- We were off to a fast start in September and October.
- Our attendance has been averaging 80 players which is up from the previous Bingo average.
  
- The Bingo Core Team has met and have put forth the following marketing strategy:
  - 1) Good Neighbor Cards: Cards offering “new” players from neighboring parishes \$5 in instant tickets the first time they play with us.
  - 2) Offering “FREE ADMISSION” on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – we are hoping that we have an attendance of 125+ that evening. This will be an added expense but we would like to show the players what we have to offer.
  - 3) We did a player survey on Thurs. 1/12/06. We will have results by 1/16/06 to share at the meeting with you.

■ Key activities over the next 2 months: Continue our marketing efforts.

■ What specific help is needed from Parish Council? Continue Prayers for a successful Bingo program.

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## Parish Council Committee Report Form

(Please copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page. When completed, send via email to all parish council members at [sttmcouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:sttmcouncil@yahoo.com))

### **St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report**

Month: January 2006

Committee Name: JulyFest

Committee Reporters: Rhonda and Jeff Roberts and Dave McCarthy

We will have our first meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>. We are still in need of a Grand Raffle Chair, Bid-N-Buy Chair and a Facilities Chair.

We have met with our Amusement Vendor and are in contractual negotiations with them at this time.

- Key activities over the next 2 months:  
Major Awards Sponsorship Party

## Ordering of Games/Tents

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- What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council? Pray that area chairs will come forward.

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## Parish Council Committee Report Form

(Please copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page. When completed, send via email no later than Friday, January 13, 2006, to all parish council members at [parishcouncil@sttm.org](mailto:parishcouncil@sttm.org))

**St. Thomas More Organization Report for  
the Monday, January 16, 2006 Parish Council Meeting**

Organization Name: PTO

Key Organization Leaders/Officers: Katrina Shepherd

Highlights/Key Accomplishments during 2004-5: PTO helped contribute to: upgrades in library, Heider Hall, new furniture for conference rooms/classrooms, PA systems for modulars, amplification systems for classrooms.

Short list of old issues not resolved from 2004-5: We anticipate being able to provide only a fraction of improvements/spending this school year due to lack of support for the fundraising efforts so far.

Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of:

Please support upcoming Max & Erma's fundraiser 2/20/06 and 2/21/06 and

Chuck E Cheese fundraiser 2/6/06.

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**St. Thomas More Organization Report for  
the Monday, January 16, 2006 Parish Council Meeting**

Organization Name: St. Thomas More Education Committee

Key Organization Leaders/Officers: Peg Fischer, Principal  
Joan Cardone, President

■ Highlights/Key Accomplishments:

- Two STM eighth graders were awarded scholarships to McNicholas High School based on their performance on the high school entrance test. Joey Schoettelkotte earned the top score of all students taking the test, and was

awarded a full scholarship. Emily Bradley earned a 75% scholarship for placing in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile.

- Terra Nova scores showed STM students performing significantly above the national average in all areas at all grade levels. Students scored above the archdiocesan averages as well in all areas in grades 2, 4, and 8.
- The school Marketing Committee completed development of an ad campaign which saw a postcard mailed to selected homes in the parish boundaries of STM and Holy Trinity, Batavia. Registration packets are available in the back of church and on the website. PDS was used to send a mailing to all parish families with children of kindergarten age for 2006-07, inviting them to the school Open House and providing information about our school. A letter will also be sent to parish families with children in grades 4-5 inviting them to consider our elementary school.
- A redesign of the school website is in process.
- The school has begun using our new communication tool: One Call Now. The first call was made last week to remind parents of the PTO meeting, which saw more than 100 parents in attendance. Exceptional for January!
- The targeted virtue for the month of January is tolerance.
- Catholic School Week activities have been planned to make the 2006 observance a truly festive and meaningful week. A list of events is attached; parish council members are welcome to join our celebration!
- The school budget for 2006-07 continues in the planning process but is making good progress. Tuition will likely be set by the end of January. A large class of fifth graders (over 40) will make a second sixth grade a necessity for 2006-07. This will require re-evaluation of available space to allow all junior high classrooms to be in the same building.

### ■ What can Parish Council do to help?

The Distinguished Graduate Award will be presented on January 29 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. This award is typically presented by the STMEC and Parish Council presidents. The reception following, in Heider Hall, would be a great opportunity for Parish Council members to give their congratulations to the recipient.

## Catholic Schools Week 2006

Sunday January 29

- 10:00 Mass: CSW Mass with Children's Choir, student readers, greeters, procession and presentation of Distinguished Graduate
- 11:00 Reception for Distinguished Graduate-Heider Hall

Monday- January 30

- STM Spirit Day! Spirit-wear out of uniform
- 10:00 Pep Rally to kick off service project for the week

Tuesday- January 31

- Parent Appreciation Day
- Open House 6:30-8:00 PM in all classrooms. All parents are invited to come to school to view student work on display and visit classrooms.

Wednesday- February 1

- Crazy Hat Day!
- AOC Catholic Schools Week Mass at the Cathedral (STMEC and class officers)
- 2:00 Ice Cream Social for students

Thursday- February 2

- Prayer Partner Bingo (volunteers needed!)
- Teacher Brunch (volunteers needed!)

Friday- February 3

- 9:00 AM All School Mass
- Balloon Launch
- Faculty/Student Volleyball Game

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**St. Thomas More Organization Report for  
the Monday, January 16, 2006 Parish Council Meeting**

**Organization Name:** Cub Scouts

**Key Organization Leaders/Officers:** Dee Archer, Chartered Organization Representative

Jim Schmidt, Cubmaster

■ **Highlights/Key Accomplishments:**

October Campout at the Cub World Fort – Over 60 people (Scouts and parents) attended. Demo by Miami Township Fire & Rescue, presentation by Cincinnati Planetarium, followed by dinner and Mass at the campfire by Father Paul Donahue, hiking, fishing tournament.

October – Popcorn sale was a record success. Sales of over \$7,500 netted the

Cub Scouts a profit of approximately \$2,500.

November Father/Son Cake Bake – Many very creative cakes were entered.

Prizes awarded, patches earned by all entries.

Veterans Day Memorial Display and Ceremony – Cub Scouts and Boys Scouts placed over 2,000 flags. Paul Bronthaver, back from Iraq, was the guest speaker. The display honors heroes who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

December – The Pack Christmas caroled for the residents of Mt. Washington Care Center.

**Upcoming Events:**

January 25 – Pinewood Derby annual race.

January 26 – Memorial ceremony at Vietnam Veterans Park to welcome Ohio Flags of Honor traveling display.

February 4 – Saturday, 4:30pm– Scout Sunday Mass followed by pot luck reception.

17 Cub Scouts will receive Light of Christ or Parvuli Dei religious emblems.

February Pack Event – Bowling tournament at Cherry Grove Lanes

February 12 and 26 – Scout Ski at Perfect North.

March 29 - Annual Blue & Gold Banquet to celebrate the birthday of Scouting. Webelos will bridge to Boy Scouts.

■ **Short list of old issues not resolved:** None

■ **Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of:**

A photo from the Veterans Day Memorial event was featured in Time Magazine's Year in Review 2005 issue (it is the first photo). We're very proud of our Scouts!

Chris White, Tiger Cub Den Leader, has taken over the Treasurer position for our Pack. His accounting experience will be a big plus in managing the Pack finances.

Pursuant to the Archdiocesan directive in the recent issue of Clergy Communications, Dee Archer reminded all leaders that volunteers may not work with Scouts unless both fingerprinting and Child Protection class have been completed.

**St. Thomas More Organization Report for  
the Monday, January 16, 2006 Parish Council Meeting**

**Organization Name:** Boy Scouts

**Key Organization Leaders/Officers:** Dee Archer, Chartered Organization Representative

Mike Neff, Scoutmaster

■ **Highlights/Key Accomplishments:**

September Yardsale/Bake Sale/Cookout – The Troop made over \$200; we were able to donate \$100 to Matthew Ministries for Hurricane Katrina victims. The Scouts donated a large box of canned goods to the Ministries as well.

October 28-29 – District Event: “Battle of Lower Craig” Civil War Reenactment/Campout – we had a good turnout and the Boy Scouts all had a great time. Event was featured in a Sunday issue of the Cincinnati Enquirer.

November 18 Campout – Kelly's farm in Clermont County.

Veterans Day Memorial Display and Ceremony – Boys Scouts assisted the Cub Scouts by building some of the crosses and placement of flags at the ceremony.

Religious Awards - Boy Scouts from our Troop have completed requirements to receive the Ad Altare Dei emblem at a special ceremony on January 22, 2:00pm, at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral.

2007 World Scout Jamboree in England. Applications being accepted until March 1; twenty slots are available for Scouts ages 14-17 in our district.

**Upcoming Events:**

January TBA – Scuba diving at M. E. Lyons YMCA

February TBA – Webelos/Boy Scout overnight at the Troop Hall.

February TBA – Bill Fehn will begin instruction for Pope Pius XII religious emblem.

February 4 – Saturday, 4:30pm– Scout Sunday Mass. At the reception following the Mass, Mrs. Robert Lamping will present a check to the Boy Scout Troop which represents donations in memory of her husband, our former Scoutmaster, who passed away last September.

February 11 & 18, March 4 – 19 of our Scouts have signed up for the Merit Badge Challenge.

February 12 and 26 – Scout Ski at Perfect North; 16 Scouts and adults have signed up to attend.

March 3 – Annual Boy Scout Fish Fry begins.

March 29 - Scoutmaster/Boy Scouts will attend Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet to accept any Webelos into the Troop.

■ **Short list of old issues not resolved:** None

■ **Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of:**

In gratitude for their service, the Troop has ordered a plaque to display the names of all Scoutmasters, past and present.

Troop reorganization is underway. We requested (and have received) additional help from parents at weekly meetings and events. All Scouts who recharter this year and their parents will be required to sign a Troop Contract and Code of Conduct outlining expectations pertaining to participation and behavior.

The Scouts are in the process of disposing of yard sale/other items in the Hall basement.

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**St. Thomas More Organization Report for  
the Monday, January 16, 2006 Parish Council Meeting**

**Organization Name:** Girl Scouts

**Key Organization Leaders/Officers:** Theresa Bradley

■ **Highlights/Key Accomplishments:**

- **Annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale:** From January 6 to January 22 our Girl Scouts will be taking orders for the famous Girl Scout Cookies. We offer 8 varieties of cookies. To further sales, most of the troops will also be selling the cookies at various businesses in February and March. This is our only fundraiser and it allows each troop to earn money to be used for camps, meeting activities, and field trips. Thank you for your support of our troops.
- **Family of God:** The 12 members of the second grade brownie troop have completed the requirements for the “Family of God Medal Program” and will be receiving the medals at the scout mass on Saturday, February 4.

**Upcoming Events:**

All of the STM troops will be participating in the following activities:

- **Scout Mass:** All of the Girls Scout troops will be attending the scout mass on Saturday, February 4. After the mass this year, along with the Boy Scouts, we will hold a potluck dinner in the Parish Dining Hall for scout members and their families.
- **Thinking Day:** On Tuesday, February 21 the STM Girl Scout Troops will be celebrating Thinking Day. Thinking Day is a day set aside each year in February to think about other Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Each troop explores a different country to gather information about such things as: food, traditions, crafts, language, and other culture differences. The information is then shared with members of the other troops to celebrate our diverse world of Girl Scouting.

■ **Short list of old issues not resolved:** None

■ **Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of:**

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