

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 16, 2005**

Council Members in Attendance: Fr. Bill Wagner, Ray Neltner, Vic Ivers, Michelle Stultz, Matt Malott, Duane Bradley, and Janet Tate. Ralph Bedel was working on the Parish Photo Directory. Ralph Bedel was not a voting member at this meeting.

Council Members Absent: None.

Others in Attendance: Mike Gennett.

The St. Thomas More Parish Council meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM EDT by Ray Neltner. Fr. Bill opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The last meeting was held on Monday, April 11th. Ray Neltner asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes. Mike Gennett stated there was no feedback. Ray made a motion that the minutes be accepted as written. Duane Bradley made the motion and Matt Malott seconded it. The minutes were approved.

Business Manager Report: Mike Gennett gave the report.

Parish Photo Directory - has gone very well so far. 556 appointments have been made thru tonight. About 70% of the appointments are being made on the Internet. All 1,521 households will have been called by Tuesday, May 17th. We have added another week....we are now scheduling through June 4th. The vendor, Lifetouch has reported they are pleased.

Cancellations are a big problem. We are experiencing 4-7 a day. Some are even no shows. Reasons for not coming are generally not very good. We

are going to try to close it up....tell callers time is running out and urge them to try to make it. Cancellations are shifting into open dates.

Ralph and Sandy Bedel are working six days a week and are doing an excellent job. This does not take into account all the prep work they have done. Bottom line: they are doing a spectacular job. Michelle Stultz said we need to thank them publicly with a letter, notice in the bulletin, with some dinner scripts, etc.

Budget 2004-5: We continue to be doing better than last year. We are operating in the black and foresee continue doing so into the future barring an unforeseeable major maintenance breakdown.

Our Sunday collections appear to be softening a bit. The number of envelopes returned has dropped to 28-29% of those issued. Fr. Bill commented that attendance seems to be down somewhat.

School invoices for 2005-6 will be mailed on Friday. There is only one delinquent account from this year amounting to \$112.72 which has been promised to be paid on May 27th.

Budget 2005-6: The Finance Committee met on May 3 to discuss the impact of actual school registration on the budget.

The school registrations fell 26 children short to plan. That resulted in a budget reduction. The deficit after the budget cuts is \$27,535.40. The deficit is mostly due to a number of capital projects that have been approved for this summer that can not be postponed. The tuck pointing, caulking, sealing, and painting of the church windows can no longer be delayed. Two roofs have to be replaced: the maintenance/Rectory rook and the Parish Office. The parking lot needs work, but has not been scheduled at this time.

In order to help pay for these projects, Fr. Bill will be speaking at all the Masses the weekend of May 21-22. A letter will follow up in the mail on Monday asking for one time donations to help pay for these repairs.

The letter will also ask for volunteers for Bingo which is scheduled to begin on September 8th. Any profits from Bingo will not be part of our operating budget, but will be used pay on the principal of our debt and for any capital expenditures.

Ministry Fair Review – The Ministry Fair was held on the previous weekend.

Matt Malott said he had no idea we had so many things going on here. Ray Neltner stated there were 37 signs at the fair.

Fr. Bill was disappointed that 90% of the people in church went to their cars and did not come in. There are only five people after the 4:30 Saturday Mass. He stated we have to look at a different way to get this done in the future.

Michelle Stultz suggested choosing a ministry of the week and promote it in the bulletin and on the Internet. Michelle mentioned she likes the way St. Veronica does their bulletin cover with a listing of all the ministries and who to contact.

Fr. Bill stated that we are only going to continue to grow. Realtor John Trautmann told the Finance Committee that there are 3,000 new homes going up in our area. Road problems are real and are only getting worse.

St. Bernadette – Fr. Bill gave an update on our parish to the east, St. Bernadette in Amelia.

Fr. Bill stated he has been trying for years to talk with St. Bernadette about sharing ministries and possibly someday a Pastor. They have not been willing to talk to us even though they are so close.

On April 12th, a Deanery meeting was called that included Principals and Business Managers regarding schools in our Deanery. The day before, a new Pastor was appointment at St. Bernadette, Fr. Bill Stockelman, effective in July. Fr. Stockelman has been Pastor in Batavia and

Williamsburg. St. Bernadette was now willing to sit down and talk. We agreed to meet with them on April 19th to discuss the future of our schools.

We met at our parish and discussed current registrations levels for next year. The end result of the meeting was for each Pastor to ask their Parish Council to approve establishing a task force to explore ways to share our schools. We agreed to meet again on May 17th after both parish councils met. Both councils would have to approve the formation of the task force.

In the meantime, St. Bernadette School launched a marketing blitz of upscale Legendary Run. Brochures were left at the homes in this area promoting the St. Bernadette School. Legendary Run is totally within the boundaries of St. Thomas More. We further learned an attempt to put up yard signs was turned down by the development. The individual who conducted the campaign we were told was a realtor and St. Bernadette parishioner. St. Bernadette admitted the campaign took place and they had prepared the brochure, but they did not orchestrate this specific campaign.

Fr. Bill stated as a normal course each year, we do some marketing in our area as well. Our school recently launched a marketing campaign in area neighborhoods and has installed road signs promoting our school.

Nevertheless, Fr. Bill asked Parish Council to vote on a proposal to form a task force to look at all future options between St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette Schools. Both Parish Councils would be kept informed of the work of the Task Force. Council voted 6 to 0 to approve the formation of the Task Force.

May 4 Discernment Meeting – Michelle Stultz opened by saying the meeting was great.

25 names were submitted and letters were written inviting them to the discernment meeting. There were 8 responses regarding initial interest.

Initially, Dave Archer, Larry Bush, Jim Conrady, Terrill Denton, John Duncan, Kathleen Hornschemeier, Mike Noday, and Doug Young all expressed interest.

After an extensive review, Jim Conrady, John Duncan, Kathleen Hornschemeir, and Doug Young were reported as interested in joining Parish Council. Fr. Bill stated he would extend an invitation for them to join.

Ray Neltner than summarized when the current members' terms expire:

Ray Neltner - 2004 (already one year over term)
Vic Ivers, Duane Bradley, Matt Malott - term expires now
Michelle Stultz - term expires 2006
Ralph Bedel and Janet Tate - 2007

Duane Bradley offered to do whatever was best. Matt Malott said he would step down. Ray Neltner said he would open up his seat as President for transition. Vic, Janet, Ralph, and Michelle would stay on.

With the current four members and the new four members, it was discussed a ninth member would really be needed to help break and tie votes. Duane Bradley said he would be willing to stay on for now, one to three years.

Fr. Bill pointed out that Council could be faced with major challenges in the future. Once the Pastoral regions are decided, a plan will need to be devised to manage with just one Pastor some day in the region. Setting the Mass schedules, having programs on multiples campuses will be very challenging. Council will need to approve these changes.

The next council meeting will be with the new members. A new President would then be selected. That meeting was set for Monday, August 8, 2005, at 7:00 PM in the School Library.

Michelle Stultz proposed having a fall retreat with all the organizations. It was decided this would be discussed further in August.

Fr. Bill mentioned a few other things:

- Confirmation is this Thursday at the Cathedral.
- Bishop Moedell is still recovering and needs therapy.

Duane Bradley echoed what Michelle Stultz said earlier: something special needs to be done for Ralph Bedel. A thank you note and a gift certificate would be appropriate.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Vice Ivers made the motion and Matt Malott seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM. Fr. Bill offered a brief prayer.