

**THOMAS MORE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 21, 2007**

Council Members in Attendance: Fr. Bill Wagner, Vic Ivers, Kathy Hornschmeier, Larry Bush, Janet Tate, John Duncan, and Ralph Bedel.

Council Members Absent: Jim Conrady.

Others in Attendance: Mike Gennett

The St. Thomas More Parish Council meeting was called to order by Vic Ivers at 7:00 PM EDT. Fr. Bill Wagner opened with a prayer.

Business Manager Report: Mike Gennett gave the report:

The Finance Committee met since the last Council meeting and approved next year's budget. The budget is balanced. However, the 2007-8 school budget is a "flex budget" and funding will be based upon the actual school enrollment numbers. As the enrollment increases, the funds for school teaching levels rise.

School enrollment through May 21st stands at 301. The numbers have been growing due to new families and current families enrolling late for next year.

Two companies have been here regarding a railing for the Sanctuary. One never returned the bids or three phone calls. The other bid made no sense. Suggestions for alternative sources were asked for: Bromwell's and Schutte Manufacturing were offered.

The first meeting of the in-parish school family program Mass attendance and contribution committee is May 22nd. John Duncan is representing Parish Council. Chris White is from Finance and Joe Evans is from the

School Committee. The goal is to launch the program when school starts in late August. The criteria established by this committee will be reviewed with Fr. Bill before launching. St. Veronica and many other parishes have been very successful with this program. It requires in parish school families to attend Mass at St. Thomas More and contribute to the financial needs of the parish.

The teacher contracts for next year have been issued to the existing teachers that want to return and the school wants back. They are due to be returned by June 1.

The Ohio Attorney General Audit to inspect our Bingo and Festival records is this Wednesday. We are in good shape and expect no problems.

The West Clermont Schools recently dropped off a draft document they said would be required in all Ohio schools this fall. This document is very detailed and mandates state regulations for everything in a school. It could cost us and all schools a lot of money to be at this new standard. The Archdiocese is reviewing the validity of this document. This could loom as a major issue for us if we have to implement everything that is expected.

The PTO continues to work on raising money for the Playground. At this time they do not have a specific number to report that has been raised. They are still paying invoices for this school year and won't know the Penny Party results until after this Friday. Right now, the number raised could be somewhere in the \$10,000 range, plus or minus.

Lastly, Mike briefly discussed our 5th/3rd Direct Banking program. We have all our accounts on the Internet in this very secure system. This system allows us to do a lot of banking via the Internet. We can transfer funds between accounts, process electronic contributions, offer direct deposits, obtain just in time information, current statements, track all our organization accounts, etc. By having immediate access to all our account information, it allows us to immediately correct any errors. A recent example was a \$400,000 keying error by the bank. By seeing all our account information up to date, it allows us to spot errors and get them corrected. This costs a little more than having just individual checking

accounts, but it worth what we get in return. On the other hand, there has been a lot of activity involving “phishing”. (Phishing is when the bad guys try to get account holders to release personal information so they can steal your money.) This has been going through both email and voice activated systems. We have sent warnings to all our organization treasurers. Despite the diocese-wide warnings, someone in one parish answered one of these bogus emails and had \$40,000 taken from their account. We plan to keep those who are on our accounts informed about this.

Pastor’s Report – Fr. Bill gave his update.

Fr. Bill stated he has been appointed as the “substitute bishop” for our parish Confirmation this Wednesday evening. The schedule of both the Archbishop and Bishop prevent them from being available.

The school 8th grade Wizard of Oz performance was just terrific. They did a great job!

The parish is going to apply to the Marge Schott Foundation for a security camera system for the west Heider Hall door. The application will be filed in mid to late June.

Now that the parish has 4 Deacons, Fr. Bill may begin to take his required 24 hours off. This would begin Sunday afternoon to Monday afternoon. Monday morning’s Mass would become a Communion Service.

Archdiocese Meeting – Space Issues - we had our meeting with the Archdiocese on May 2. We made a presentation to their Finance and Building Council regarding our situation. A lot of data was presented about the parish and the surrounding area. (Copies of the report that was presented to the diocese were passed out.)

A few days after the meeting, the Archdiocese responded favorably to our request. They stated we can begin to work on a master plan that provides for future classrooms, office space, and meeting space. The master plan

must allow for multiple phases of the project. It can't all be done at one time. In addition, we received permission to conduct a feasibility study for a capital fund drive campaign.

The other requirement is we must continue to operate in the black and pay all our bills including our payments on the existing debt. The existing debt and interest will be retired in 13 ½ years. We can't shift money from day to day operations to the planning process of this project or to the capital fund drive.

An architect will need to be selected. A small core group of parishioners who are qualified will be selected to meet with the architect. The master plan will be developed and then broken into phases. A fund raising company needs to be selected and a preliminary study conducted. All of this will take some time to complete.

In addition, there are no loans available. We can not build and spend money with out having it in the bank first. 100% of the cost of each phase of the project must be in the bank. The timing to begin the work is unknown. It just depends on how fast we can plan and raise the money. It will not happen overnight.

Fr. Bill then asked council for a motion to proceed with the developing of a master plan. Vic Ivers asked if there was a motion to proceed with the Master Plan and Capital Campaign Feasibility study. Kathy Hornschemeier made the motion and Ralph Bedel seconded it. The vote was 6 to 0 to proceed.

New Business – It was stated that some of the food that is donated to the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry is outdated and opened. It was suggested something be written for the bulletin that we can not accept opened and outdated food. This will be in the May 27th bulletin

Next meeting – even though meetings are on the schedule over the summer, the next meeting will be September 17th unless Council is notified otherwise.

Term expirations - There are currently two open seats. The following are the beginning dates of the current members (3-year terms):

- Vic Ivers – Second term began Fall 2006
- Kathleen Hornschemeier – Term began September 2005
- Ralph Bedel – Term began September 2004
- Larry Bush – Term began September 2006
- Jim Conrady – Term began September 2005
- John Duncan – Term began September 2005
- Janet Tate – Term began September 2004

A motion was asked for adjournment. Kathy Hornschemeier made the motion and Larry Bush seconded it. The meeting ended at 8:15 PM.

Fr. Bill led everyone in a prayer.