

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 8, 2004**

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

Council Members Absent: Michelle Stultz, Janet Tate, and Bob Brennan.

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

The St. Thomas More Parish Council meeting was called to order at 7:05 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, Music, Singles, and Youth Ministry.

Reports were not filed in advance by the Senior's (Chancellor's Club).

(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, October 18th. Ray asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes.

Mike Gennett reported that Matt Malott reported that the city the successful Texas Holdem was held in was Wilmington Ohio, not Williamsburg Ohio. He asked that this correction be made to the minutes.

Ray Neltner than asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes with the correction as requested by Matt Malott. Duane Bradley made the motion and Matt Malott seconded the motion. Council voted 6 to 0 to accept the minutes as proposed with the one change.

Business Manager Report: Mike Gennett gave the report.

Our 2005 envelope boxed sets are in and will be distributed the weekend of November 20-21. Be sure to encourage everyone to come by and pick them up. Wine & cheese will be served after the 4:30 Mass and the 8th grade will hold their annual pancake breakfast after all the Sunday Masses.

The numbers of parishioners who have been fingerprinted and/or certified in the Child Protection Program now total 434.

Some recent trends in our income and expenses for this fiscal year show the staff is doing an excellent job of controlling expenses. Our income is holding up and our expenditures are down. When comparing the results since July 1 for 2004 to 2003, the following is happening:

- Sunday collections are up \$26,762
- Our Festival/Bingo profits are down \$19,000
- School tuition collected is up \$57,049 with no delinquencies
- Parish expenses are down \$23,977
- School expenses are up \$9,883 mostly due by plan with an extra teacher
- Total maintenance expenses are down \$16,114
- Our net income is up \$70,241 this year compared to last year

Darline Grieco asked if we are saving too much on maintenance by scrimping on work that should be done. Mike answered we continue to use less of the contract cleaning service and we do things like not mowing

the lawn every week. We try to fix things rather than replace them if at all possible. We are going to have to spend some money on capital in the near future even though there is no money in the budget to do so.

The use of Adobe Acrobat is being used more and more on our web site. We are now storing old copies of our bulletin and parish council minutes.

A number of comments were made that our web site is a really complete site about everything going on in our parish. Mike commented the key is keeping it up to date which is almost a full time job. Web sites are of no value unless they are kept up to date. Mike hears from time to time about other parish web sites but they are not always up to date. They may look nice, but are not current. You really want your parishioners to use them.

DRE/RCIA: Ralph Bedel asked if anyone can just drop in to the RCIA sessions. Fr. Bill stated that anyone could still come this year if they came now and get “under the wire.”

Youth Ministry: Diane Brennan discussed her certification program she is working on at the seminary. It will take her 2 ½ years to complete.

Boosters: Fr. Bill mentioned the meeting with Sherwin Anderson went well. Everything has been resolved so he can work with the kids.

Scouts: “Hats off to the Scouts” for the terrific day last Saturday at Veterans Park. The ceremony honoring those who have died in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan was terrific and gave the parish great recognition in the press. Three local news stations covered the event.

804 Ohio Pike: Diane Brennan stated the floors are almost done. Rent a Center may be donating some furniture. St. Vincent de Paul Society wants to name the property the Thomas More House. Fr. Bill stated someone came forward who felt the name was rather bland and suggested a contest

to name the house. No decision was made and it was also suggested that a ribbon cutting ceremony be considered when the house is ready to open.

Seniors: Fr. Bill stated the seniors are having lunch at Abbott's in Amelia on Tuesday.

Singles: Diane Brennan reported that Karen Klysz will take over the group in January.

Old Business - One & Done: Two formats for the project have been prepared. One is an insert that can be used for the bulletin or More About Us. The parishioner completes the form and it is categorized in the parish office database. When someone is needed with a particular skill set, the file is pulled and the volunteer is called. Then, they are done. A post card version has also been prepared. This was termed a "toe in the water" approach and is not a big time commitment.

Duane Bradley asked if additional skills or help items could be added. Vice Ivers responded that each flyer and postcard will be assigned a code. That code will be matched up to a set of help/skill items in the database. That way we can change the items in future revisions and track them in the database. Vic Ivers added that any additional word-smithing should be forwarded to him. Matt Malott felt the process was "...thorough".

The cost of the post cards was reported as \$135 per 1,000 based upon a web site quote. Postage return costs would be .23c. Postcards are intended to be picked up at Church and mailed back by the volunteer thereby saving postage fees. The flyer is intended to go out in other mailings or as an insert for the Bulletin.

The decision was made to do the insert first and hold off on the post card for now. Mike Gennett mentioned that the latest edition of More About Us is about finished and will be going out soon if they wanted to include it in that mailing.

Photo Directory: Ralph Bedel volunteered to take on the Parish photo directory. Fr. Bill stated that the time frame to complete it would be before school is out or wait until school starts in the fall. Fr. Bill said he would sit down with Ralph and explain the process to him.

Pastoral Council update: Fr. Bill briefly discussed the Guide for Pastoral Councils that was handed out at the last meeting.

There was some discussion on how to market Parish Council to the parishioners. Duane Bradley reported people seldom ask questions. Fr. Bill stated only the hot issues raise concerns and questions. At his previous parish, council was asked to call 12 people and report back what the feedback was.

He reviewed the parish priorities on page 10, item #2. Many of the ministries have been implemented, but more needs to be done.

We have not had nominations and elections because we can not get enough people to serve.

The second handout was passed out called, "Models" which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Pastor's Update: Fr. Bill gave his update.

The Deanery is in total state of confusion. The next meeting is tentatively set for November 23. Everyone is still waiting on the number of priests that will be assigned to the deanery so the clusters can be formed. A small group of priests are going to draw the lines at a special meeting on Tuesday, November 9. The diocese hopes to have everything in place by next summer although the latest word is things are being slowed down.

Our **October count** was up an average of 62 people. Our weekend Mass attendance went from 1339 to 1401.

The next **Parish Mission** is not scheduled until November 2005. However, during Lent 2005, a series of speakers will be coming to discuss the Year of

the Eucharist. Frs. Seger, T. Smith, E. Smith, Staigers, and Deacon Bill Krumm will more than likely be some of the speakers.

The Archbishop will celebrate his 45th year as a priest in December.

There is a **moratorium on new construction** in the diocese.

The Clergy Communication states the **budget process** is to be handled differently than what Canon Law states. Fr. Bill stated he will get further clarification.

Regarding **the flu**, if one is sick, they should not come to Mass and if they do, should not take from the cup and even refrain from the Sign of Peace.

Other: Dee Archer asked that everyone pray for the repose of the soul of Jonathan Palmer who was buried this day. Also to pray for his family as well as for a local paraplegic who is missing.

Ray Neltner reported that Bob Brennan has resigned from council. This reduces the number to 7. Fr. Bill suggested leaving the matter alone or get two replacements. Ray stated he will flag the February agenda to start to find replacements because many members term expire at the end of this year.

The next meeting will be Monday, December 13, at 7 PM. There will be no January meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:13 PM. Fr. Bill led the group in a brief prayer.

Reports follow.

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: November, 2004

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 Fall Basketball is winding down. The busiest season of the year is upon us. Girls and Boys Basketball, and Girls Volleyball will be under way through March.

- Sherwin Anderson of Shining Star Sports met with Father Bill and Mike Gennett last week. He is providing the documentation required by the Archdiocese for insurance and workers comp.

- Any future offerings from Shining Star Sports through STM will be publicized via Edline, postings on the bulletin board and any other permissible means throughout the parish.

- Child protection compliance continues to be closely monitored by the Board through the AD in conjunction with the Business Mgr. and Parish Secretary as facilities are reserved.

- Key activities over the next 2 months

- The majority of our sports programs will be active through March 2005.
- Fall Classic Tournament begins 11/19/2004.

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Prayers are appreciated, thank you.

(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: November, 2004

Committee Name: Faith Formation

Committee Reporter: Becky Ready, DRE

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:

RCL (Resources for Christian Living), our religious textbook publisher, has invited us to participate in putting together their next marketing video for their newest publication coming out in January: the Legacy series. We will be shooting the video Nov. 8, 9 and 10.

SACRAMENTS:

The second gathering will be Thursday, November 18 when Fr. Bill will demonstrate how to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. The actual celebration is December 2.

RCIA:

Three more people have joined our sessions which now brings our total to 15 officially registered.

FAITH FORMATION

- The annual Advent Family Event will be held Sunday November 14 between 11 and 2. There will be four stations in which the families may participate: making an Advent wreath, songs and stories, family movie, and make & take crafts. Food will be provided. To date we have around 40 people registered.
- Following Christmas this year we will be offering a series of sessions called “Inviting Catholics Home.” This is an effort to welcome home those Catholics who have been away from church for a while and are seeking to return. Research tells us that they are 20 million in number. The sessions address their concerns and any changes that have gone on in the church since they left. We now have a new brochure to distribute and a flier is going home inside the Advent mailer to all our parishioner’s homes
- Tatiana will be performing a concert in our church on Saturday evening Dec. 4. A promotional DVD and CD’s will be played on the upcoming Sundays between masses and throughout the Advent celebration event on Nov. 14 and the distribution of envelopes on the following Nov. 21. Look for fliers, bulletin briefs and announcements in surrounding eastside parishes, local papers and radio shows. Check out our website www.sttm.org. for a comprehensive display of the event. We also have a special email address for inquirers: Tatiana@sttm.org. We will have tickets and CD’s both for \$10 available to sell prior to the event. St. Thomas More will receive 50% of the monies from all tickets sold as well as all CD’s sold prior to the event.
- Check out the Faith Formation section on our website for our new monthly Parent Talk newsletter suggesting ways for families to continue their faith formation in the home. AND there is a link containing many resources to help all of us deepen our understanding of the Eucharist.

Key activities over the next 2 months:

- Advent Family Event
- First Reconciliation preparation leading to celebration on Dec. 2
- Tatiana Concert
- Planning begins for confirmation sessions starting in January.
- Planning and marketing for the new Inviting Catholics Home series.

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Promote the Tatiana event and buy tickets as well as CD's.
Pray for the second graders and their families as they prepare for reconciliation.
Evangelize and promote our new Inviting Catholics Home series.

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

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: November, 2004
Committee Name: Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts

Committee Reporter: Dee Archer

Our Scout families were deeply saddened by the sudden loss of one of our former Boy Scouts, Jonathan Palmer. Jon's brother, Luke, is one of our Eagle Scouts, and is still very much involved in Scouting and with our Troop. Sporty's, at the Clermont County Airport where

Jonathan learned (and taught others) to fly, will dedicate a hangar in his honor on November 8.

We offer our prayers for Jonathan and our deepest condolences to Luke and his family.

Highlights/Key Current Activities:

Boy Scouts

- **New Tents** - The Troop was able to purchase 3 new 16 x 10 tents, thanks to donations from Scout parents and American Legion Post #72 in Mt. Carmel.
- **Pack Veteran's Day Project** - The Boy Scouts assisted our Cub Scouts in building some of the crosses for the Pack's Veteran's Day project. They also assisted in the ceremony on November 6 at Veterans Park.
- **Cash for Cans** - The Troop has begun collecting aluminum cans and turning them into cash; to date we have made \$150.27.
- **Veteran's Day Parade** - Boy Scouts will participate in the annual Veterans Day parade in Batavia on November 11.
- **Cub Winter Day** - Plans are under way for our Scouts to work at the Cub Winter Day event on December 11 and 12 at Cub World.
- The Troop is making plans for a community service project for the holidays.

Cub Scouts

- **Veterans Day Service Project** - Thanks to the generous donations of veterans, businesses, and individuals, this event to honor our fallen heroes in Iraq and Afghanistan was a great success.
- **Father/Son Cake Bake/Auction** - November 17 Pack meeting. Theme: Football.
- **Cub Winter Day** - December 11-12 at Cub World.
- **Popcorn Sale** - The sale will wrap up today; final figures are not available at this time.
- **Coat Drive** - The Pack will participate in the "Carns's Coats for Kids" drive this holiday

season.

Key activities over the next 2 months:

Boy Scouts

Rechartering will begin in December

YMCA Lock-In January 14

Winter Camporee January 28-30

Cub Scouts

Rechartering will begin in December

YMCA Lock-In for Webelos January 7

Pinewood Derby January 23

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Many thanks for your support of our popcorn sale!

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 **Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report**

parishcouncil@sttm.org

Month: November

Committee Name: Singles Enrichment

Committee Reporter: Diane Brennan

Highlights/Key Current Activities :

2. Had monthly meeting last month at Karen Klysz's home and

had record turnout of six members! Very enjoyable.

3. November meeting on 11/16/04 will be a THANKFUL theme and will be here at STM.
4. No one planned to attend the New Vision Dance. One member belongs to both Chancellor's and Singles.

■ Key activities over the next 2 months:

Meetings planned until January and we will determine if there is enough interest to continue into 2005. If they move forward I will be merely the staff advisor and Karen Klysz will take over leadership until she would feel it was not working.

- What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?
Please pray for God's will and more membership if He wants it to grow.

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 parishcouncil@sttm.org)

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: November

Committee Name: Youth Ministry

Committee Reporter: Diane Brennan

■ Highlights/Key Current Activities :

1. We began the formulation of ten senior high youth peer ministers who will be placed into two person teams to work with small junior high age groups. Please pray for them: Kristen Brandt; Andrea Rutherford; Ashley Neltner; Francis Brandt; Kaitlyn Simpson; Zachary Huprich; Kevin Johnson; Nick Rutherford; Jessica; and Kristy Grachek will lead the team.
2. Added senior high meetings, moving to a monthly format for these.
3. Working on Zone Book sales
4. Corn Hole project needs one more night, not yet scheduled
5. Paper Moon Rubber stamping night Dec. 5 from 7-9pm in MMH for any teen in the parish please invite your favorite youth to pre-register and join us!
6. Project Merry Christmas kicks off the week after Thanksgiving ends 12/19 (I think, but I have not heard from Glenmary for sure)
7. Little Pink house awaiting floors complete. Some furniture ready to move in when finished.
8. Rummage sale for Seniors is receiving help from youth to set up and they are donating any leftovers to Project Merry Christmas.
9. November Calendar on web page.
10. Advent celebration being aided by ROC youth kids in all areas.
11. Rosary makers continue to grow. This family ministry has really done well and has enlisted and taught many how to make rosaries.

■ Key activities over the next 2 months:

Dec and January planning underway and will be posted on web, including Confirmation and several social events. Hoping to have luminaria for Christmas Eve midnight mass again but only if better weather and more parental support.

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

None at this time.

Month: Nov

Committee Name: St Vincent de Paul

Committee Reporter: Bob Guenther

Highlights/ Key Activities: The Thanksgiving food drive is underway. The school children are scheduled to bring in their donations on Nov, 19 and the PSR children on Nov,21. Donations from parishioners will be accepted at the Thanksgiving Day Mass.

The food from the heart program, sponsored by Kroger will begin on Nov,10. We collect from Cherry Grove Krogers. There will be a barrel for food at the exit door.

We plan on putting up the giving tree on Nov,18. There will be a tree at each Church entrance.

Key Activities Over Next Two Months: Complete our holiday work. Get the homeless shelter operational

Help/Support from Parish Council: Support our food drives.

Parishcouncil mailing list

Parishcouncil@sttm.org

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

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: November, 2004

Committee Name: Deacon's Report – Worship Commission

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): 10 new participants on Women CRHP weekend. A total of 87 parishioners have made CRHP. Men's formation going well.
Worship Commission: Advent planning taken care of. Article in bulletin to address standing or kneeling after Communion.

- Key activities over the next 2 months: Christmas planning.
Forming next women's CRHP team.

- What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?
Continued support of the CRHP program

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: November

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)

Choir and Children's choir have sung at several liturgies. Things are progressing nicely. The Children's choir is learning percussion instruments along with singing. They are also learning a couple of songs on the tone chimes. (Tone chimes are a precursor to hand bells) We hope to be able to do "The Summons" at mass soon and a Christmas song at Christmas. There is one young lady who played the violin at mass, am hoping she will commit to more. Also am working on a flautist. She may be able to play this Sunday.

- Key activities over the next 2 months

We are busy getting ready for advent and Christmas.

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

We are still in need of instrumentalists and would especially like to have some for Christmas. Not sure how to promote this. We may need to consider some paid musicians which is not currently in the budget.

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: November 6, 2004

Committee Name: STM Education Committee

Committee Reporter: Peg Fischer, Principal

Highlights/Key Current Activities

- Continued development of policies required to comply with AOC policies
- Review of vacation policy
- Review of service hour requirement for new families
- Planning recognition program for families who have gone above and beyond required service hours
- Supporting St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry collection

Students

- Participated in Kids Voting
- Lego Robotics Program and Spanish instruction have both begun as after-school enrichment opportunities
- First trimester ends November 18; report cards will come out after Thanksgiving.

Staff

- New Auxiliary Math teacher hired-Debbie Burris will work half-time helping students who are struggling with math.

Key activities over the next 2 months:

- Developing budget and programs for 2005-06 school year
- Planning Catholic Schools Week activities and marketing

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: November 2004

Committee Name: JulyFest 2005

Committee Reporter: Rhonda Roberts

■ **Highlights/Key Current Activities:**

We received a letter of appreciation from the Johnson's; it is attached as a separate attachment for you to read. Thank you to Fr. Bill and to Parish Council for allowing us to honor Darline Foltz (although she was ill and unable to attend-she was very appreciative) and the Johnson's.

Unfortunately, we have lost 2 very valuable members of our JulyFest team, Terri and Ed McCarty have left the parish and therefore they will not be chairing Bid-N-Buy and Casino. We are looking for replacements at this time. We will be placing a flier in the bulletin asking for volunteers for the above positions. We are also adding a Grounds Chair; this will be a new position and will be responsible for scheduling volunteers for set-up and tear-down, trash detail, keeping the food tent/entertainment area free of trash and tables cleaned.

We are going to meet with Murray Brothers Amusements. We are happy with our present vendor, but we would like to see what other companies will offer us.

We may be making some layout changes primarily to the amusement, and children's area. This will be an area of discussion with Happy H (our

current vendor) and Murray Brothers.

■ Key activities over the next 2 months:

Meet with Area chairs to begin planning for their respective areas.

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

Prayers that we will find Chairs for Bid-N-Buy, Casino, and Grounds.

Begin prayers for AWESOME WEATHER on July 8-10, 2005!!!!

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: November 2004

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)
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Preparations for rummage sale for Giving Angels Workshop are underway

Butterbraid pastries are available to order now through 11/29/04.
Entertainment books are available to order through December.

- Key activities over the next 2 months
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Rummage sale 11/27/04 for Giving Angels Workshop. This activity benefits our seniors of Clermont County who have been identified as needing assistance during the holidays. We are collecting donations of clothing, household items, furniture, toys, bikes, etc. We are looking for volunteers to help set up/ clean up and with the actual sale on 11/27/04.

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?
Donations of items and time are needed for rummage sale and Giving Angels Workshop. Support sale of Butterbraid pastries and entertainment books.

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: November

Committee Name: Girl Scouts

- Highlights/Key Current Activities

1. On Saturday, November 6 all of the Girl Scout troops from St. Thomas More joined other troops from our service unit by participating in a lock-in at the Clermont YMCA. They enjoyed swimming, sang songs, played games, made crafts, ate pizza, and were taught a few dance moves by members of the Amelia High School dance team. Before tucking into bed for the night, the Junior Girl Scouts stuffed over 100 boxes full of personal care items to be delivered to the YWCA shelter in Batavia. It was a successfully fun event.
2. As part of the "I Live My Faith" program, Michael Thomas has been asked to speak to the 5th and 6th grade troop on Wednesday, November 10th about his role in helping to bring our St. Thomas More faith community closer to God.

- Key activities over the next 2 months

1. In an effort to earn the required service for their "I Live My Faith" medal as well as their Girl Scout Bronze Award, members of the 5th and 6th grade troop will be making 2 blankets each (one fleece and one cotton) for the Project Linus program. This program donates new blankets to the kids at Children's Hospital who need a little extra comfort in their lives because of serious illness or trauma. It provides a way for kids to help kids.
2. Members of the 5th and 6th grade troop, along with their families, will be participating in the parish reconciliation program on Monday, November 29.
The girls will also be helping to distribute the programs at the doors before the service.
3. Cookie Training will be going on for the troop cookie moms.
4. Some of the St. Thomas More Girl Scout troops will be marching in the Amelia Christmas Parade held on Sunday, December 12.
5. The 7th grade troop will be going to the YMCA's Camp Kern on Friday, November 19 to spend a few hours learning how to care for horses before jumping in the saddle for an hour long horseback ride.

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

Thank you for your prayers and support.
