

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 21, 2009**

Council Members in Attendance: Fr. Bill Wagner, Vic Ivers, Kathy Hornschmeier, Larry Bush, Jim Conrady, John Duncan, Janet Tate, and Neil Kamphaus, Jr.

Council Members Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Mike Gennett, Chris Osgood (Seminararian).

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

Business Manager Report: Mike Gennett gave the report.

Our Sunday collections continue to do well. We are 2.8% ahead of plan and 6.2% ahead of last year. Our mini stewardship drive that began in late September has not only turned our collection results around, but continues to grow each week during the past for three months. Fr. Bill stated we pointed out the facts and the people responded.

The first draft of the 2010-2011 budget is being prepared and will be sent to Finance in January. More on this later. One decision that has been made is we will offer All Day Kindergarten at the same tuition rate for in parish and out of parish families as we do for grades 1-8. Tuition fees have not been set.

We received word on Friday afternoon from the Archdiocese that the revised Ohio budget accord reached last Thursday may have restored all funding reductions to private schools. We are waiting for more information on this development. This would restore funding for this year for both the administrative cost reimbursement and school auxiliary funds. The majority of the money would be for the school's auxiliary funds. This

should also apply for next year's budget since the state budget is a two year agreement. *(There was some skepticism expressed by council about not getting too excited about this until we actually see the money.)*

The JulyFest 2010 application for a gambling license (Type III) has been submitted to the state Attorney General's office. It is due each year by the end of December for the following year.

In September, we reported a very serious problem with the number of printing overages on the school copier. From the end of June until the start of school in August, 97,805 copies were printed when there was seldom any one in the buildings. A meter was installed in late August that placed a ceiling number on each user and now tracks their use. Since school started, only 106,416 copies have been printed. In addition to the meter, the school has stopped printing newsletters and other documents. The issue has been resolved. Clearly, the school copier was being used inappropriately.

This morning, the Board of Health dropped in for a routine audit. We did well and no concerns were reported. Regarding the future of Jarrod's Law in Clermont County, there is a small task force looking at taking the most practical pieces of Jarrod's law and re-implementing them in the future.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati risk audit is back. Most of the findings were minor that included the use of household versus commercial grade extension cords and the like. One recommendation was to require annual physicals be submitted for all the children playing in Booster sports. This is not likely going to happen since it is not currently required for grade school sports anywhere else we know of. (Fr. Bill stated he brought this to the attention of the Archbishop who said he knew nothing about it and would look into it.) The audit asks we record all the property within the buildings and we plan to do a video of in the near future. They also found burnt candles in a couple of rooms that are not in the church. Candles usage is supposed to be limited to the church and burning candles left unattended can pose a fire risk.

Recently, all the Business Managers in the diocese met with the Archdiocese CFO and Controller regarding theft and fraud. The diocese is seeing a great deal of these problems in a number of locations. The

Business Managers were all encouraged to be vigilant and be on the lookout for suspicious activities. Numerous specific warning signs to raise a concern were presented.

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

Our parish Music Director is now working just part time. She has opted out of teaching in the school two days a week. She has accepted our offer to be retained as a part time employee.

The St. Veronica Boosters are going to make a proposal to our Booster organization to merge some sport programs. Both parish Pastors have issued a joint letter supporting and encouraging any collaborative effort between the two parish organizations.

Fr. Bill stated he attended the St. Bernadette church dedication as the Dean of St. Martin Deanery. They had a beautiful ceremony and a fantastic reception that followed.

Fr. Bill stated he also attended the Archbishop Pilarczyk 50th Ordination Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday. The ceremony was moving and the Archbishop was candid in his talk. He received a standing ovation. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr became our Archbishop today, December 21. Archbishop Pilarczyk has now officially retired.

There is a going to be a diocese sponsored Sunday collection enhancement program for all parishes. Our first meeting on this project will be February 4. We are looking at kicking this program off in the fall of 2010. All 230 parishes in the diocese are going to be participating at one time or another over the next two years.

Parishioner Ray Conti wants to get more involved with the parish. He has suggested doing a spaghetti dinner. Vickie Ditchen has agreed to help. The dinner is to be a fundraiser for the parish. Fr. Bill suggested maybe Project Renew can help. Neil Kamphaus suggested maybe this can be expanded into a volunteer recognition event. Fr. Bill said he felt this needed to be just the dinner the first time and once we get that rolling

smoothly we can build from there. Council agreed this was a good idea and supported the concept.

Regarding volunteer recognition, Fr. Bill stated the staff is going to submit candidates to him to recognize in the bulletin beginning in January.

We are testing a hearing enhancement feature in the church. A transmitter has been added to the sound system that broadcasts the sound to radios. You can wear an earphone and tune to 108.1 on the FM dial and you can hear everything on the radio. Mike Gennett said he tried to test this on Saturday and he kept hearing the sound system outside the radio. More tests will be conducted on this soon.

Fr. Bill will be away in January at school in Texas. He is taking a class on "Spirituality and Culture".

Pastoral Staff & Organizational Reports

Parish Council asked for updates from all Pastoral Associates and Organizations in advance of the meeting. There was a response from everyone! Submitted Pastoral Staff and Organizational reports follow.

Council engaged in a lively discussion about supporting various issues raised in the reports. One consistent theme was, "How do we reach out to those not involved?"

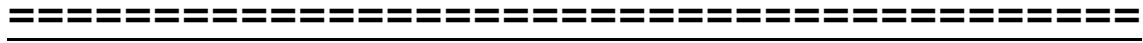
It was also proposed to bring back the Ministry Fair and maybe do it in conjunction with the Stewardship program that is forthcoming. This idea will be discussed at a future meeting.

The use of the list serv was discussed. Not everyone in the list serv received copies of all the reports. Jim Conrady pointed out that list servs can be blocked as spam messages especially in businesses or by a spam filter.

Two organization representatives and/or staff members will be invited to the next meeting to discuss their ministry or program and how Council might assist. Vic Ivers will extend the invitations.

Kathy Hornschemeier made a motion to adjourn. Neil Kamphaus seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM. Fr. Bill led the group in a prayer.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY JANUARY 25TH, 2010.



Parish Council Committee Report Form

(Organizations will copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page. Please save and email to: parishcouncil@sttm.org)

<p style="text-align: center;">St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting December 21, 2009</p>

Organization Name:

Music Ministry (Adult Choir, Children's Choir)

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee:

Terry Wenninger, Director of Music

Prepare a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

The mission of the Adult Choir is to support congregational singing at weekend liturgies, primarily the 10:00 mass, and sing selected choral anthems during special liturgical seasons. Rehearsals are spent learning basic principles of music, choral singing and vocal production.

The mission of the St. Thomas More Children's Choir (grades 4-8) is to provide advanced vocal music education for students, while teaching the values of responsibility, service, self-discipline, leadership and commitment. This group of students will be enhancing selected All-School and parish liturgies.

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

Our Adult Choir continues to increase in size (16 members of which 6 are men and 10 are women).

Children's Choir is currently comprised of twenty members.

Cantor (Sam Ivers) at 8:00 Sunday liturgy and other special liturgies.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

Continued work on reorganizing/reestablishing choral music library.

Continued efforts to adequately maintain organ in church. In order for the instrument to function properly, a repair/general will be necessary in the future. This repair should cost approximately \$2,000. I am uncertain as to what the cost of the cleaning is.

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

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<p>St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting December 21, 2009</p>
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Organization Name: **JulyFest**

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: **Rhonda Roberts**

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement: **JulyFest provides funds for the operation of St. Thomas More Parish.**

Highlights/Key Accomplishments: (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the group has done, but rather an overview of the key accomplishments this past year): **Income was down however our goal was to keep expenses down and we obtained that goal.**

Our area chairs did an excellent job of maintaining their area and running it without incident.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved: **Chairmanship. Dave McCarthy will not be returning in his capacity as General Co-Chair. The Roberts will be making a decision in January as to our status.**

Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of: **JulyFest is a PARISH fundraiser. There are numerous ways that profits could be increased such as having a parish organization assist with the parking (this year we paid \$500 to a NON PARISH organization), trash and after hours clean-up (this year we paid \$1500 to a NON PARISH organization) as well as security (this is for the time frame of Wednesday evening until Monday morning- \$1150 was paid.) This is a minimum of \$3150 that could be saved by utilizing parish organizations.**

Additionally, we need assistance on Monday following festival to assist in the clean-up/putting away of the festival. While the Super 8 group is phenomenal and does an awesome job; we need adult help with removing the electric service, putting away of supplies, and general clean-up. This would be a wonderful volunteer experience for the Dad's group, CRHP, Project Renew, or Mom's group to step up and assist

with. If there were 15+ adult volunteers on the grounds Monday morning beginning at 7:00 a.m. to assist, we could officially say on Monday evening that JulyFest was complete. **This is probably the biggest issue with the festival....volunteers for Monday.**

Support of the festival by our parishioners continues to be an issue. We are continuously requesting volunteers beginning in April until the beginning of JulyFest. It takes over 500 volunteers to make JulyFest successful. Our website is user friendly and is now the model for other parishes in the area. We need to continually remind the parish of the importance of the festival and the need for volunteers, sponsorship...this needs to come from the pulpit, parish staff members and Parish Council.

Our sponsorship has decreased in past years (the economy certainly plays a part in this) however we have many area business owners who are parish members who do not support the festival.

While I understand that recognition is not an area that Parish Council wishes to tackle, it should be and not just for JulyFest but for ALL areas of the parish. JulyFest is a year round process and requires significant time contribution by our area chairs...a thank you in the bulletin would be appreciated.

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Organization Name: St Vincent de Paul

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: Bob Guenther

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

A ministry of volunteers who administer to the poor in our parish area. Assistance is provided for food, rent, utility bills, clothing and other basic needs. Clients are visited to determine their needs.

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

Based upon the state of the economy, we have experienced a significant increase in requests for help. With the financial help and food donations we have been able to meet these needs.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

None

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

Continue our invitation to serve program, to recruit new members.

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**St. Thomas More Organization Report for
Parish Council Meeting December 21, 2009**

Organization Name: St. Thomas More Parish Staff

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: Pastoral Associate and Deacon – John Convery

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

Serve as one of two Pastoral Associates and Deacons to serve the needs of the parish. Specific responsibilities include:

Pastoral Associate: Manage Parish Marriage Preparation Program and Baptismal Preparation Program. Lead a Bible Study group on Wednesday morning. Serve as staff liaison to the Social Justice Commission and St. Vincent DePaul Society. Prepare Declaration of Nullity Cases as needed. Make pastoral visits to parishioners at home and in the hospital and bring them communion.

Deacon: Preside at marriages, baptisms and occasional prayer services for the deceased. Preside at Communion Services, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction Service. Diaconate and preach at Sunday Liturgy.

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

1. Began to implement recommendations of the “Plan for Growing an Engaged Community” by including younger parishioners in planning and implementing the Marriage Celebration Dinner.
2. Attained Archdiocese certification for preaching faculties at Sunday Liturgy.
3. Social Action Commission had Christmas tree ornaments made and sold to raise funds for family assistance with student tuition costs.
4. Initiated a Ministry of preparing food for 40 people at the Clermont County Homeless Shelter one night a month.
5. Helped prepare about 30 engaged couples for marriage.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved: None

Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of: None

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St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting December 21, 2009

Organization Name: Faith Formation

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: Becky Ready

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

The Primary function of a DRE is defined as the person who plans, integrates, implements, oversees and evaluates the religious education of the total parish community. Some more specific responsibilities of this position include:

- Manages and supervises our Parish School of Religion (PSR) encompassing preschool age three up to grade eight.
- Recruits, trains, supervises and evaluates all catechists
- Administers the Archdiocesan Catechist certification process for parish and also school catechists including observation, assessment, application and renewal.
- Oversees selection of curriculum and resources for all programs
- Works with parish leadership, committees and volunteers to design, plan, promote and implement new program models and occasional events and opportunities for faith formation.
- Responsible for direction and coordination of Reconciliation, First Communion, confirmation in conformity with current guidelines and employing a parish and family focus.
- Responsible for direction, coordination, and implementation of the RCIA process for adults and youth.
- Plans and assists in the implementation of adult faith formation opportunities such as Moms and Dads study groups, Bible study groups, Returning Catholic process, Christ Renews His Parish Retreats, Days of Recollection, Topics on Catholicism, speakers and family events.

For a more detailed listing of all the responsibilities, see attached document titled, “Responsibilities of the Director of Religious Education.”

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

Supervised the closing of 2008-09 and the opening of 2009-10 PSR, preschool sessions, Children’s Liturgy of the Word and Sunday Child Care. Also, conducted a survey offered to all PSR parents evaluating the progress of our program and managed the ACRE standardized testing to all fifth and eighth graders. We have also initiated a weekly email newsletter to all PSR parents through our PDS computer system. In addition, we have initiated a new junior high curriculum in PSR which will save us money in the long range and is being received by both teachers and students as a more integrative and interactive learning experience.

Maintained the preparation and receiving of sacraments: reconciliation, Eucharist and confirmation. We offer a completely family oriented process in all sacramental prep programs now.

Directed and coordinated the RCIA process. We now have the capacity to utilize our PowerPoint Presentations on Catholic doctrine via a Smart Board. Our Scripture sessions continue to expand the base knowledge of our new candidates. We are also in the process of transferring all our data from past classes into our PDS computer system.

Directed and coordinated the beginnings of our new Faith Formation Commission. We have been meeting every other month working together to establish goals, develop curriculum ideas, and implement faith formation practices that will help us stay current and meet the needs of our Catholic parish in a continually changing and challenging culture. Last year we studied and reflected on the book, “Becoming a Church of Lifelong Learners.” This year we are tackling the bishops’ directive on adult catechesis titled: “Our Hearts Are Burning Within Us.” We are also working on an initiative to bring Matthew Kelly to our parish so that everyone has the opportunity to hear his engaging and encouraging message of “Rediscovering Catholicism” by becoming the best versions of ourselves.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

How to reach out most effectively to all the school age children in our parish who are not attending our day school or registered in our PSR programs.

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

We welcome any input and sharing of how to think about the future in terms of faith formation. The last two decades have seen dramatic political, economic, social and cultural changes affecting virtually every dimension of American Christianity. The new environment in which Christian faith formation will operate in the decade from 2010 to 2020 will demand new thinking and new models, practices, resources and technologies to address the spiritual needs of all generations. We need to be seriously thinking about the following ideas:

1. Maintain a framework for providing religious formation and education at the parish level that involves ALL ages
2. Developing a comprehensive approach that is lifelong, centered in the events of Church life, and nurtures faith
3. Stress the reality that faith formation should be a complete ongoing process not just a program for faith formation in certain ages or levels
4. Work together with the hope of forming adult Christians of mature faith who know, live and celebrate the gift of our Catholic faith
5. Deepen and enrich people's faith with a greater awareness that they are the People of God in all areas of their ordinary lives in the workplace and at home
6. Encourage an understanding that Catholicism is a comprehensive way of life not just something we do on the weekends

Responsibilities of the Director of Religious Education

The following are the responsibilities of a DRE according to the Archdiocese faithfully performed to support our pastor, and to fulfill our mission at St. Thomas More:

- Manages and supervises PSR (now Parish School of Religion formally called CCD) encompassing preschool age three up to grade eight. This involves:
 - planning the schedule
 - overseeing the weekly necessary tasks (newsletters, bulletin articles, fliers, teacher aids, room requirements, class resources, etc.)
 - managing the budget to provide program needs
 - designing strategies, plans and programs to reach goals
 - maintaining records for attendance and staffing

- communicating with staff, catechists and other involved persons
- Recruits, trains, supervises and evaluates catechists in various capacities.
- Recruits and supervises coordinators for Early Childhood programs.
- Provides training and support for all catechists and volunteers including the planning of meetings and in-service opportunities.
- Oversees selection of curriculum and resources for all programs, PSR, Preschool, Children's Liturgy of the Word, RCIA, adult faith formation according to Archdiocesan guidelines.
- Provides for mainstreaming of students with disabilities and special needs including parent consultation and ongoing monitoring.
- Acts as liaison for clerical, facilities and maintenance needs for program.
- Initiates and maintains needed communication with catechists, parents and parish staff.
- Provides resources, assessment and guidance for home school students and parents.
- Works with parish leadership, committees and volunteers to design, plan, promote and implement new program models and occasional events and opportunities for faith formation.
- Supervises preparation and selection of materials for various special programming and other parish needs.
- Administers the Archdiocesan Catechist certification process for parish and also school catechists including observation, assessment, application and renewal.

- Establishes an annual calendar for all catechetical programming and negotiates space and facilities for same.
- Oversees implementation of parish and archdiocesan policies and guidelines related to religious education.
- Represents the catechetical ministry within the parish; represents the parish in Archdiocesan and inter-parish catechetical meetings and functions.
- Responsible for direction and coordination of Reconciliation, First Communion, and confirmation in conformity with current guidelines and employing a parish and family focus.
- Recruits, forms, and supervises catechists and sacramental teams.
- Develops curriculum, processes and program components for sacraments.
- Prepares schedules, materials handouts, planning sheets, etc.
- Provides parents sessions, family/sponsor/candidate workshops, retreats and home activities.
- Coordinates plans and preparation for related rites and liturgies in cooperation with presider, musician and parish liturgist.
- Communicates relevant information to catechists, parents, candidates, pastor, music director, sponsors and parish-at-large.
- Oversees the completion of important data in parish records.
- Responsible for direction, coordination, and implementation of the RCIA process for adults and youth. This involves:
 - marketing the process
 - leading the inquirers to conversion
 - teaching Catholic doctrine
 - creating opportunities to involve parish ministries

- teaching Catholic scripture and Tradition
 - coordinating the major and minor rites
 - coordinating sponsor training and awareness
 - developing breaking open the word sessions
 - constantly updating, studying and applying new materials and theological understandings of the process.
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- Oversees changes, schedules and informative additions to the STM website as well as the school Edline.
 - Maintains professional growth opportunities to remain currently certified as a DRE.
 - Plans and assists in the implementation of adult faith formation opportunities such as Moms study groups, Returning Catholic process, Christ Renews His Parish Retreats and Days of Recollection, Catholic Matters and family events.

Parish Council Committee Report Form

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<p style="text-align: center;">St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting December 21, 2009</p>
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Organization Name: Cub Scouts, Pack 452

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: Mark Duff, Doug Wenk, Mike Mencsik, Dick Bader, Dee Archer

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

The Mission of Pack 452 is to provide a positive atmosphere where Scouts will grow and develop spiritually, mentally, and physically. Our ultimate objectives are Character Development, Citizenship Training, and Personal Fitness.

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

The pack continues to grow with over twenty new scouts signing up this year. 100% percent of the scouts who completed the full year earned their rank advancements. In the five years I have belonged to the pack, this is the most dedicated set of leaders I have seen. I am excited about the future for the boys of pack 452.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

None

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

Every scout is currently working on their religious awards that are appropriate for their age. This has not always been the case in recent years; however, it will be the norm from now on.

We will continue to recruit more boys, and we are always searching for adult volunteers to help the pack grow.

Parish Council Committee Report Form

Organization Name: St. Thomas More Education Committee

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee

Mark Barton, President

President: Mark Barton

Vice President: Amy Dugan
Secretary: Emily Aleshire-Mulvey

Other members: Doreen Noble, Ann Kamphaus, Joan Cardone (representative to Finance Committee), Kris Bartel, Gary Durgin, Melanie Bailey, Ex Officio Members: Pastor- Fr. Bill Wagner, Principal- Peg Fischer

The STM Education Committee serves as an advisory committee to the principal. The chief role of the committee is to develop and review school policies. Members are appointed to the committee by pastor's appointment and serve three year terms.

Highlights/Key Accomplishments:

- Completed survey of cafeteria operations; reviewed data and made recommendations to principal.

- Responded to request for consideration of a policy regarding a gym uniform. Collected and reviewed data and disseminated decision to parents.

- Completed primary recommendation for school structure and offerings for 2009-10, including recommendation to expand the Spanish program to include grades 4-8. Current, only junior high (grades 6-8) students take Spanish.

- Assigned a liaison to the Catholic Schools Week planning committee and committed to assisting with the school Open House on Thursday, February 4 from 6:00-8:00 pm.

- Selected a nominee for the 2010 Distinguished Graduate Award.

- The STMEC finalized and issued the school's policy manual that meets and exceeds the guidelines set by the archdiocese. .

- As part of the curriculum review, the committee supported the addition of Spanish for junior high students. The addition of a foreign language was necessary for the school to be eligible for Blue Ribbon certification.

- A parent satisfaction survey was sent to all parents.

- A recycling program was developed and initiated.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

- Blue Ribbon School Application has been considered. The application is dependent on Terra Nova scores, a written application and a lottery drawing once application is submitted. STMEC hopes to complete an application in the 2010-11 school year.

- The calendar for 2010-11 is in process and should be completed by March 2010.

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

- As the cost of education continues to rise, additional sources of income to supplement our tuition aid.

- Spacing issues for 2010-2011 have not been finalized. The current 8th grade class is a smaller class that requires only one classroom. All other STM classes require two classrooms. A space must be identified for the upcoming school year.

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St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting December 21, 2009

Organization Name: Elizabeth Ministry

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: Maria Pour, Linda Bader, Becky Ready

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

“To support women and their families in the childbearing years, particularly in special situations related to fertility, pregnancy, and child rearing while proclaiming through word and actions the value of all life, born and unborn under the guidance of she who we honor, Mary our spiritual mother, the first Elizabeth Minister.”

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

- In January 2009, we hosted the Epiphany Celebration with PSR. Parishioners were invited to bring gifts for “baby Jesus”. All “gifts” were donated to A Caring Place.
- We launched the “Baby Bottle” campaign for A Caring Place during the Epiphany Celebration. Parishioners filled empty baby bottles with loose change or dollars, proceeds donated to A Caring Place. Close to 90 bottles were returned with donations.

- Held a Diaper Campaign in March, July and October. Diapers, baby wipes and monetary donations were collected from our Parishioners and donated to A Caring Place. This campaign will run continue to run in March, and October.
- Held a *Rosary Workshop* for the 1st Communicant's at the First Communion Retreat in April. The purpose of the workshop was to explain the church's honor and devotion to Mary, teach them the rosary and prepare them to be "beads" in the Living Rosary by each taking a turn beginning a prayer of the rosary.
- Participated in the May Crowning and Living Rosary.
- Held an Ice Cream Social after 1st Communion Rehearsal to thank the kids for their participation in the Living Rosary.
- Developed the Prayer Program for Life for the school, in which the children pray at morning assembly for the *health* of the unborn child. The upper grades pray a special prayer during the lunch hour, praying for the *life* of the unborn. Upper grades also have posters in their rooms to see the developing baby. A website has been added to Edline which includes all the prayers, posters and information about this special program. PSR is also participating in this program.
- A Spiritual Adoption Program was launched through the parish to pray for the life of the unborn, and inviting parishioners to spiritually adopt a baby. Prayer cards were set into the pews, inviting participants to pray a special prayer, daily. Posters are on display at the church entrances to allow parishioners to "track" the development of "their" spiritually adopted baby. Thank you notes from the baby are also on display. A Spiritual Adoption Website has been added to our Parish Website for parishioners to find out more information about this special program.
- We prayed for those asking for our intercession through our Blessing Bouquet, prayer journal, and emails.
- In October, held the 3rd annual Memorial Service for Babies Born and Unborn. This special service was presided over by Deacon Michael. It is a prayer service for those who have lost babies through miscarriage, stillbirth, infant or child crisis, failed adoption or abortion. A social was held afterwards.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

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

- PSR/Elizabeth Ministry – We will partner with PSR to host coffee and donuts at the celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord, January 10th. Baby gifts will be donated to A Caring Place.
- Prayer Program for Life/Spiritual Adoption Program - A Baby Shower will be given in May, in coordination with the school and parish, to celebrate the newborn lives of the unborn babies we have been praying for through the year. Families will be invited to bring gifts for the babies, all donated to A Caring Place. A Baby Bottle Campaign will also be part of this celebration.
- Worked with Deacon Michael to begin Monthly Pregnancy Blessing. The first "blessing" will be held Dec. 20, 2009, and occur monthly on the 1st Sunday of the

month after the 10am mass (beginning monthly in February). A St. Gerard Medal (patron saint of expectant mothers) and prayer card will be given to the parents by an Elizabeth Minister.

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Organization Name: Athletic Boosters

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: Dan Hornback President, Perry Gerome Vice President, Neil Kamphaus Treasurer, Rich Farr Seceratry, Angel Miller-Ell AD.

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement: To promote and further the teachings of the Catholic Church through sports and athletics, by teaching teamwork, good sportsmanship, leadership and fair play.

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

- 1) We raised the money to upgraded the gym floor.
- 2) Number of participation seems to be growing.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

- 1) The boosters needs some storage on the parish grounds.
- 2) We need support for the parish with cleaning the gym floor a couple of times a month with floor cleaning machine.

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

Below is a list of upgrades that the boosters will be doing in the next couple weeks.

- 1) We will be replacing the team benches with chairs.
- 2) We will be replacing the green pads under the baskets with new red ones that are bigger.
- 3) We will be having the 3 bay sink installed in the concession stand.
- 4) We will be getting a bigger trophy case in the gym lobby.
- 5) We will be installing a TV in the gym lobby and adding cable. I think that the school/parish my already have cable. If so we would like to get a outlet in the gym lobby.
- 6) We are looking into a new scorers table.
- 7) We will be implement an 8th grade recognition banquet.

Parish Council Committee Report Form

(Organizations will copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page. Please save and email to: parishcouncil@sttm.org)

<p style="text-align: center;">St. Thomas More Organization Report for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Council Meeting December 21, 2009</p>
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Organization Name:

Christ Renews His Parish Men and Women

Dads Group

Chancellor's Club, Ministry to seniors

Altar Servers

Worship Commission

Communion to Homebound

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee:

Men's CRHP Lay Director Steve Cox

Women's CRHP Lay Director Lisa Martin

Dads Jerry Harpring

Chancellor's Club Mary Fran Walter

Worship Commission Fr. Wagner

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

All of the listed groups in their own unique way daily make the mission of our parish; "We devote ourselves to sharing our faith, strengthening family bonds, and growing in love. We commit ourselves to each other through prayer and love." a reality that affects the lives of many of our parish community.

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

Christ Renews His Parish

Both groups have been in formation since the summer and are growing in their faith. Both groups have begun promotion of the upcoming weekends.

Women's Weekend February 6 and 7, 2010

Men's Weekend February 27 and 28, 2010

Christ Renews His Parish Continuation Committee

We are currently meeting with and helping St Peter's Parish in New Richmond and Saint Mary's Parish in Bethel to begin Christ Renews in their parish. This is being coordinated by; Kim Steinmetz and Tom Candelaresi.

Dads

The group meets monthly. Attendance varies. Usually there is between 10 and 15 men. Jerry Harpring has been mailing out discussion topics before each meeting. All participate in the discussions. Topics have included, Balancing Time between job, spouse and children. Talking to your child about sex. Talking to your child about drinking. At each Baptism we have given out by the deacon a little folder inviting the Dads to join us.

Chancellor's Club. We meet monthly for lunch at different restaurants. In the past year the group under the direction of Deacon John took an overnight trip to St Meinrad's monastery in Indiana. On December 10 we had our Christmas luncheon at the Iron Skillet in Newtown. Instead of a gift exchange the group took up a collection for Father Bill and gave him a check to help with the unexpected costs that came up for heating system repairs. About twenty seniors attend the monthly lunch.

Altar Servers:

I have met up and trained six new PSR fifth grade servers. Right after the first of the year it is my plan to train those fifth grade servers in the parish school who wish to become altar servers.

Worship Commission.

We are in the process of coordinating the Parish Mission which will take place at the end of February.

Arts and Environment under the direction of Rosemary Weimer are busy preparing the Church for the Christmas liturgy.

We will return to offering Holy Communion under both forms after the first of the year.

Holy Communion to the home bound. So far this year volunteers have made 206 visits to the homes of people who are unable to join us for Sunday Mass. This does not include home visits made by Father Wagner and the deacons.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

None to report

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

Please help us promote Christ Renews His Parish. We extend a warm invitation to those members of parish council who have not yet made the Christ Renews weekend to come join us.

Report submitted by Deacon Michael Thomas

St. Thomas More Organization Report for STM PTO

Parish Council Meeting December 21, 2009

Organization Name: St. Thomas More PTO

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee:

President: Lori Knight; VP Ways & Means: Gwen Farwick; VP Family Involvement: Julie Ciulla; Treasurer: Theresa Willenbrink; Secretary: Stephanie Haap

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement: The STM PTO promotes the welfare of the students in our school, advances the interests of the school as a “Christ centered” educational institution, creates and fosters a spirit of community among parents, students and parish; and encourages active participation by the members in school affairs.

Highlights/Key Accomplishments:

2008 – 2009 School Year: PTO funded over \$21,000 in budgeted expenses

School field trip transportation (\$3,200)

Fine Arts programs and equipment (\$5,200)

Furniture & fixtures (\$5,800)

Teacher Appreciation Team, teacher professional development, teacher general fund (\$3,000)

Parish debt & school financial aid (\$1,500)

Other miscellaneous expenses (\$2,300)

PTO raised funds through programs that focus on:

Money Spent Anyway: Scripts gift card program, Box Tops, Cincinnati Bell Learn, Kroger Reloadables, Target Take Charge, Meijer Community Rewards, Funding Factory

Social/Community Building events: PTO dining out days/nights at local restaurants, skating parties, Father/Daughter Snow Ball, Family Night at the Movies, other miscellaneous family events

Outside Sourced: Blue Water school uniform sales, Entertainment Book, Market Day, Scholastic Book Fair, Schoolkidz school kits

Fundraisers: Walk M.O.R.E., Spring Spiritwear Days

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved: None

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

2009 – 2010 School Year Budget: \$27,000 in budgeted expenses

Parish debt & school financial aid (\$1,500) ***Already paid to the parish***

Computer Instruction K – 5th grade (\$5,000 budgeted)

Field Trip Transportation (\$3,400 budgeted)

Fine Arts (\$4,000 budgeted)

Furniture & Fixtures (\$5,000 budgeted)

Playground Maintenance (\$500) ***Already paid to the parish***

Teacher Appreciation Team, teacher professional development, teacher general fund (\$3,250 budgeted)

Other Miscellaneous Expenses (\$4,350 budgeted)

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THANK YOU!!!

The PTO Board would like to acknowledge the following STM groups that purchase Scrip gift certificates for their “money spent anyway” expenses:

STM School Office, STM Cafeteria, STM Latchkey, STM Boosters, St. Vincent de Paul, STM Julyfest

A big THANK YOU also goes out to STM families and staff who regularly purchase from the PTO scrip program.

Visit www.shopwithscrip.com

for more information or to place an order.

Parish Council Committee Report Form

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<p>St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting December 21 2009</p>

Organization Name: Rosary Makers

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: **Diane Brennan, Rita Brennan**

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

Parishioners are brought to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ through their gifts and talents in making rosaries for our parish and for anyone who needs them.

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 meet on a monthly basis and we make rosaries for the parish, for the CRHP teams to give and to receive and we repair broken ones when asked.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved: none

Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of: none

Parish Council Committee Report Form

(Organizations will copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page when assigned.
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<p style="text-align: center;">St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting December 21 2009</p>

Organization Name: Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: Diane Brennan/
Michael Thomas Chaplain/ Scout master : Jack Stevens/ Cub scout master:
Mark Duff

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement. Boys are brought to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ in the Scout community through their gifts and talents according to the Scout laws and principles.

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): Youth camp, meet weekly and have regular activities to build up the organization and move regularly to earn badges of merit. We just

recertified both groups in the last two months. A major reorganization has been happening in the troops and we are getting the adults through the certification processes. The Pinewood Derby is coming as is our parish fish fry and our parish wide mulch sale.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved: We continue to seek ways to get the youth more involved along with parents. Training is an issue we are actively working on. We are still working on improving the facilities of More Martyr Hall on a regular basis. We are working on more crossover between the cubs and the boy scouts, as well as maintain the involvement of the Eagle scouts once they have completed the Eagle project.

Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of: Most of this group of leaders is relatively new to their positions. Support and a higher parish profile are essential to the continued success of the groups. We may need to upgrade the building at More Martyr Hall with some technology down the road if we continue to use it as often as we are. We recently purchased a program to help organize us to a database format.

Parish Council Committee Report Form

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<p style="text-align: center;">St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting December 21 2009</p>
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Organization Name: Sewing Ministry

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: Diane Brennan,
Patricia Rieck

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

Youth are brought to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ through their gifts and talents and their sewing machines!

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 meet on a monthly basis and we make the baptismal garments for the parish, make baby blankets for the Parish Social Action Baby

Shower, make repairs and do any projects needed including helping fix the school curtain for the stage.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved: We continue to seek ways to encourage new membership.

Short list of new issues that Parish Council needs to be aware of: Nothing at this time.

Parish Council Committee Report Form

(Organizations will copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page when assigned.
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<p style="text-align: center;">St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting December 21 2009</p>

Organization Name: Youth Ministry

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: Diane Brennan,
Sylvia Guthrie, Joanne Buchanan, Rita Brennan

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

Youth are brought to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ through the faith community and in responding to their baptismal call; we provide opportunities to build youth through spiritual, social, intellectual and emotional activities and experiences throughout the year, including providing service opportunities both on and off the campus of St. Thomas More.

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 meet on a weekly basis and we do everything and anything under the sun to encourage fellowship and faith!

We have crafted, scrapbooked, sewed, made rosaries, cleaned, built, prayed, played, sung, studied, laser tagged, roller skated, recycled, and even cooked Thanksgiving for 40 people at the Batavia shelter this year! We support the parish in servitude and continue to look for opportunities to get the youth involved here and in the larger community of

Clermont and Hamilton Counties. We planned and facilitated the annual parish Bible camp and have two other monthly support ministries in our sewing and rosary making groups.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved: We continue to seek ways to get the youth more involved in worship. Training has not been provided of late for them to be Eucharistic ministers nor lectors, ushers and greeters nor have they been involved in the youth choir. Opportunities need to continue to expand for worship to be engaging to youth and young people and to work on justice matters especially high school youth. We hope to keep bringing the youth into fuller communion with the faith community in the various current organizations.

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

- Support and participation in the planning of events to also have a youth component will broaden our appeal.
- Seeking involvement at the outset for the youth to be actively engaged in praise and worship experiences here would be wonderful.
- Affirmation for youth through various avenues would be helpful, ideas welcome on this.

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<p style="text-align: center;">St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting December 21, 2009</p>

Organization Name:

Girl Scouts

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee:

Brigitte Gentile – STM Recruiter/Organizer & 6th Grade Troop Leader
Carmen Maggard – Kindergarten Leader
Lisa Nelson – 1st Grade Leader
Amy McMath – 2nd Grade Leader
Jenny Sommerville – 3rd Grade Leader
Penny Barton – 4th Grade Leader
Amanda Scales – 5th Grade & 7th Grade Leader

Prepared a brief statement as to your organization's contribution or your contribution as employee to the parish. This would be like a brief mission statement:

This program is designed to help each girl achieve her highest potential, and is open to all girls in the parish.

The Girl Scouts program meets the developmental, educational, emotional and social needs and interests of girls, ages 5-17. Girls grow and learn through experiences that involve making decisions and discoveries for themselves. The program is carried out through ways of work that support the aim of helping each girl develop to her fullest potential through group experience. The Girl Scout Promise and Law form the foundation of the Girl Scout program. The goals of the program, referred to as our Goals for Girls, represent the ways in which each girl will grow as a result of her participation in the program. In Girl Scouting, a key ingredient for girl development is the process in which girls and adults in partnership plan and carry out the Girl Scout program.

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

- Family of God Medals (2nd - 3rd grades)
- I Live my Faith Medals (5th – 6th grades)
- St. Vincent DePaul Food Drives
- Fund Raising
- Eye Glasses Collection
- Caring Place – Blankets made and donated
- Self Protection Classes

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

N/A

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

N/A