

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 21, 2011**

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

Council Members Absent: John Duncan.

Others in Attendance: Mike Gennett.

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 deficit for 2010-11 continues to grow. Sunday collections are down 5% to last year. Total income is down \$27,550 for the first half of the year and expenses are down \$32,420. More recently, we had a record energy bill in January of \$11,200 along with higher than normal snow & ice removal costs. Jim Conrady suggested looking into geothermal heat replacements in the school buildings. The installation costs may save money over the longer haul.

The Finance Committee met on January 26th and reviewed the preliminary budget for 2011-12. A tuition increase averaging 6.5% was approved. The final budget will be reviewed in late May once school registrations have been completed.

School registration processing began last week. 32 students were enrolled with 9 Kindergarten students. That is a good sign!

There is a Festival Steering Committee in place. Darline Foltz is the chair and the other steering committee members are Dave McCarthy, Pat Lindsay, Gwen Farwick, and Fred Schoolfield. Minutes are being taken at each festival meeting and are being posted on the parish web site on a JulyFest page. A 2011 budget is being prepared by Linda Young and will be approved by the committee. The committee does not plan to make a lot of changes to this year's festival. The main goal is to strip out the waste and other issues from 2010 in order to raise the profit levels. Bid'n Buy wants to only have new items and are eliminating all garage sale items. The beer vendor is changing to Miller from Budweiser. Our JulyFest 2011 license from the OH Attorney General's office was approved on January 11th. The Union Township Police worked with the Ohio Charitable Gaming Office to ensure there would be no hurdles.

The new 401k employee benefit is underway. 14 employees are contributing to the program.

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

The Men's **CRHP team** completed their retreat this past weekend. 10 men started out and nine finished. The Ladies had their retreat weekend two weeks earlier. About 300 parishioners have gone through the CRHP program since it started ten years ago.

Music Director Terry Wenninger has resigned. She has accepted a full time position at St. Ann's in Groesbeck. Fr. Bill said she is one of the top ten musicians in the Archdiocese. Jim Conrady added that she was a "10". An ad is going to run in the February 25th and March 4th Catholic Telegraph for a replacement. Applications are currently being taken. Fr. Bill stated he is going to hire a professional consultant to help sift through the applications, backgrounds, training, and also to recommend a replacement. Each applicant's background and training in Catholic music and chorals skills is critical. The parish needs to hire the best qualified individual. Council suggested a very small committee be appointed to work with the consultant.

Fr. Bill stated that Ken Blue has been hired as the Interim Organist and Choir Director. He will start on February 27th and play through Easter. Ken has an extensive background in music and liturgy.

Jim Conrady stated if there is a task force to look at replacing the current hymnal, he would like to be a part of that group. Fr. Bill stated there are no changes planned at this time to make a change and a supplement will be added when the new Roman Missal goes into effect on November 27th.

Pastoral Region with St. Bernadette. There is a proposal to change our Pastoral Region to include St. Bernadette rather than Holy Trinity. The combination of Amelia/Bethel/New Richmond for one Priest will not work.

Fr. Bill state he recently met with Fr. Stockelman, Pastor of St. Bernadette, on this matter. A letter is going to be inserted in both parish bulletins soon. A Pastoral Region with the two parishes means that someday both parishes will someday share a Pastor. It does not mean a merger of the parishes or schools. The proposal is to have both Parish Councils get together how to plan the liturgy schedules. If the diocese can support the region with a Weekend Celebrant, it would help. More than likely each parish will probably have to eliminate one Sunday Mass. Weekday Masses would alternate between the parishes.

Jim Conrady suggested not bringing the schools into the picture. Fr. Bill stated there is a moratorium on schools anyhow as School Supt. Dr. Rigg works on a master plan for all the schools in the diocese. It makes no sense to plan something on our own when the entire school structure is being looked at by the diocese.

Mark Berwanger from St. Andrew's is going into the seminary next year. Some of his family has belonged to our parish in the past.

The Marriage Dinner was recently held and was a big success. We are getting close to maximum number of seats available.

Fr. Ben O’Cinnsealaigh, a Sunday celebrant at our parish, has been named the new Rector of the Athenaeum effective July 1.

A question arose about Mass on the web. Mike Gennett said we have a link on our parish web site called “Sunday Mass Streaming on the Web” which links to a library of recent Sunday Masses for viewing. This site was noted in Clergy Communications as a good link. Jim Conrady asked if there was any interested in adding a cam in our church for viewing Mass on our web site. Fr. Bill stated he did not wish to do that at this time.

Janet Tate asked that the arrows in the parking lot be looked at to see if they need to be re-painted. People are zooming around and not paying attention how traffic should flow.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. Fr. Bill led the group in a prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21.