

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, January 17, 2011**

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

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 EST. Fr. Bill Wagner opened with a prayer.

Business Manager Report: Mike Gennett gave the report.

Some of the latest news and projects being worked on currently include:

This time of the year is busy with a lot of routine, but important projects:

- Close out the calendar year from a payroll/tax/benefit standpoint
- Issue W-2s to the employees (everyone had theirs by January 4)
- Prepare the budget for the next fiscal year and submit to the Finance Committee (their meeting is January 27th)
- Prepare, print, and mail the 2010 contribution statements to all households that contributed at least \$250 or more (they will be mailed before January 31)
- Prepare, print, and communicate to the school families the results of their Sunday Mass attendance for in-parish tuition
- Work with the school on the next year's registration system
- Set up and prepare to administer the financial aid process

There have been a couple of other recent changes that have taken place.

We moved to a **new payroll system** through Paycor starting this month. We are now on Paycor for Windows which is a more detailed system. Our old system, Internet Entry, did not allow for the location see the new 401k benefit. All entries had to be called in and you had to rely on your Paycor rep to make the entries. Once the new system was installed, we found that 7 of our employees had not been coded as eligible for the new benefit. This was important to be accomplished before the first payroll in 2011 so their pay accrues beginning January 1 for the 4% matching fund. The errors were caused due to the fact some employees work part time at another location and the other location noted them as not eligible. They were therefore marked centrally as ineligible. New employees were not marked because the lists provided by the diocese were prior to their enrollment in the pension plan in October. There was no cost to the parish to make this change to the new payroll system or the benefit.

For those families that pay their tuition on the monthly payment plans through Tuition Management Systems (TMS), there has always been a processing fee that covers the costs of managing the plan paid to TMS. We always collected the money from the school families and processed it as part of the total amount due over 10 months. We were invoiced by TMS and forwarded the payment to them. Under the new financial reform legislation, we can no longer collect the \$38 monthly fee since it is not our money. Families that re-register through the rapid re-enroll program will have their account of record electronically charged by TMS within two weeks of processing their registration. New families will be required to submit a credit card number for TMS to charge the \$38 fee. The tuition, interest, and any credit card fee due St. Thomas More will continue to be processed in the same manner as in the past. The only change is on the \$38 Tuition Management Systems Fee that now must be paid directly to TMS. There is no additional cost involved. It now has to be processed differently than in the past.

The 2011 Festival is going to be lead by a committee including Darline Foltz, Rob Ell, Pat Lindsey, Fred Schoolfield, Gwen Farwick, and Dave McCarthy. They have been sent a lot of information about the festival and will be meeting next week. Our 2011 Festival license has been approved. This is the earliest that has ever happened. We took a proactive approach with the Ohio Attorney General's office on what happened and it has paid off. We believe the Union Township Police assisted on this matter.

Two security enhancements recently were installed. The west school entrance now has a camera and security latch. The Business Manager's office also now has a camera security system with security latch-buzzer for entry. Part of this cost was paid with a donation. The Business Manager's office was added because the general public just will walk in to the office during the day. The west school door was added to ensure that entry to the buildings is only by confirmed identity. Neil Kamphaus suggested maybe a similar system be installed at the Rectory front door.

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

In the Deanery, discussion and planning continues on St. Ann, St. Philomena, St. Louis, and Holy Trinity Parishes. Only one priest is available for the four locations. Numerous options are being discussed.

The 2011-12 budget has been prepared and tuition will have to go up at least \$200 or more per child. We held the cost down last year because we did not want to go over \$3,000 for in-parish tuition. That helped to contribute to our deficit this year. Even with this increase, our rates will still be below most neighboring parishes. Some eastside parishes' tuition is as much as 15% to 25% higher per student with more children in each class. All the schools work off the same expense structure for benefits which is set by the diocese.

The 25 student per class cap will have to be flexible in the future. Our school is a parish school and it needs to serve all the parishioners. Neighboring parishes have larger classes and charge more for tuition than we do. We can't continue to offer low tuition and smaller classes. Our costs continue to soar especially in the health care arena.

Fr. Bill stated he attended a meeting on sports. The diocese wants to come up with an overall policy and guidelines for the entire diocese. Sports are a ministry and a part of the church. But guidelines need to be put in place that is consistent throughout the diocese. One issue is sports program Catholic in name only will end. Training is being contemplated for coaches that help to teach Christian values to our youth. Centralized scheduling would be a part of the new program. One piece everyone

agrees on is there would be no games before 1 PM on Sunday afternoons. It will be a year or more until something is formulated.

The music over Christmas and the weeks thereafter was just great. Special kudos goes to the Music Director, the choirs, and the musicians.

We collected more than enough money on Sunday to enroll the parish in the Fenwick Club at the seminary. We will hold the extra money over to apply to renewing the membership in the future years.

As our income improves, we want to look at putting in a second bank of lights in the church behind the row of flood lights that were put in a few years ago.

Dee Archer recently received a special recognition, the Silver Beaver Award, from the Boy Scouts for all her years of service. *(The Silver Beaver Award is presented for distinguished service to young people within a BSA local council. More than 50,000 recognitions have been conferred to date. A recipient must be a registered adult member of the BSA, and the awards are bestowed at appropriate local functions. Silver Beaver Awards are presented on the basis of the number of units in a council. The awards are bestowed at appropriate local functions. Silver Beaver Awards are presented on the basis of the number of units in a council.)*

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. Fr. Bill led the group in a prayer.

**THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21
AT 7:00 PM**