

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 17, 2008**

Council Members in Attendance: Fr. Bill Wagner, Vic Ivers, Kathy Hornschmeier, Janet Tate, and Jim Conrady.

Council Members Absent: John Duncan and Larry Bush.

Others in Attendance: Mike Gennett.

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

Staff & Organizational reports were requested for this meeting and were turned in from St. Vincent de Paul Society, Deacon John Convery, Elizabeth Ministry, Boosters, Youth Ministry, DRE, and PTO.

Reports were not received from the school, any of the Scouts, and Seniors/CHRP.

The reports were reviewed and copies follow the minutes.

Business Manager Report: Mike Gennett gave the report:

The initial 2008-9 budget was presented to Finance on January 22 and was approved. This budget currently has a small deficit of \$41,515.68. Our goal is to work out of this deficit through increased Sunday contributions through a staff change Fr. Bill will discuss. The budget includes existing staff levels and future cost projections to run the parish. The school budget is on "flex" and their final budget will be based upon their actual registrations. Registrations currently stand at 263 or 82.4% of plan and are much better at this point than last year. The budget could increase or decrease based upon actual enrollments. We staff to the actual need. The school wants to issue contracts starting in April and we will continue to allow contracts be released in relation to the confirmed registrations. We

can't allow more contracts to be issued without the confirmed registrations so we can pay them. Council members stated they agreed with this process. (We continue to have some families procrastinate in registering.)

Sunday collections continue to do well. We are up over last year and to plan. However, Mass attendance falls off in May when PSR ends. Most of our increases evaporate during the last 6 or 7 weeks of the fiscal year.

We have not planned any capital projects for this summer at this time. We are waiting for a Jarrod's Law inspection from the state in order to get a handle as to what is going to be required to ensure our school meets the new state standard. We understand there is a possibility we may get an inspection in April. We need to hold on to our capital dollars until this picture is clearer. What is interesting is what may happen if we do not do this work over the summer. The new law prohibits some maintenance work "when the buildings are occupied". We could be looking at the summer of 2009 if we don't get contractors booked soon for specific required modifications.

Mike said he completed an analysis of the three capital fund drive presentations from a cost stand point. One company was far lower than the other two. However, they did not include a feasibility study and all the work and printing costs for the capital campaign was expected to be done by the parish. We would have to hire personnel and pay for our own printing if we selected them. When you take all three proposals into consideration, the costs did not vary that much when you added the bid price plus the parish would have to pay to successfully complete the campaign out of our own pocket.

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

The Connector Project - We are slowly moving ahead on the Connector Project. The architect has been contacted to prepare construction blue prints for the work. We will hire the consulting firm the group recommended from the March 2 presentations. The first step will be to do a feasibility study to determine the willingness of the parish to raise the necessary money for the work as well as surface any major issues. We don't know how that study will turn out but we will base our next steps on

the results. The current economic conditions may play a role in the timing of the project.

March 8 Snow Day – Due to the heavy snow on Saturday, March 8, the 4 PM Mass was canceled. We had some issues with what was reported to the TV stations. Channel 12 broadcast the correct information while Channel 9 said everything was closed not just Saturday but Sunday as well. Only RCIA and PSR were canceled on Sunday. We need to do a better job in communicating to the public our plans when this happens. Council also stated that Channels 5 and 19 must be added to the communication mix in the future.

Eastside Sports – We have met with Eastside Sports. We are working to get our parking spaces back. We have gotten the diocese involved as well. We can not allow our parking lot to be tied up with their patrons. Our parking places must be used for those attending our services and events. Plus our insurance does not cover their patrons regardless who they are.

We made a proposal to allow Eastside Sports to use identified parking spaces in our back north lot behind Eastside Sports. Only identified places may be used and they must obtain the proper insurance. The diocese is going to write the contract for this proposal once everything has been agreed to.

We will tow unauthorized vehicles off our property if conditions warrant.

Personnel Policy review – The question has come up regarding our personnel policies. Some in the school feel additions need to be made for more paid time off and for some special circumstances such as child care.

There was a brief discussion that personnel policies must be consistent and fair for all employees and between employment categories such as full time and part time. You can offer additional benefits such as vacation time based upon tenure. Family leave can be paid or unpaid and is up to the employer (ours is unpaid).

Our paid time off policies were stated. Council responded that our policies were already “very liberal” compared to most employers. The consensus was most employees do not have any sick time or limited vacation time

compared to ours. Most employers expect you to be at work unless there was an emergency and not abuse taking time off.

New Music Director – We have hired a new full time Music Director. Her name is Terry Wenninger and she has an extensive background in all types of church music. She has a long successful history in the Archdiocese and is considered one of the best in the diocese. She can play Georgian chant, classical, in addition to contemporary music. In addition to playing at our liturgies and forming new choirs, she will teach in our school a couple of days a week beginning next year. We want to do whatever it takes to have the best music program available. When a first class program is implemented, additional people join and come to church and therefore contributions increase. Terry will start sometime in early April. Margaret Osinski will probably become our number one sub. Margaret announced in February she and her husband plan to travel.

The 8th grade lasagna dinner that was postponed to this past Saturday because of the snow did not do all that well.

Vic Ivers made a motion to adjourn. Kathy Hornschemeier seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Next meeting is April 21st.

Organization and staff reports follow.

Organization Name: St Vincent De Paul Society

Key Organization Leader: Bob Guenther

Highlights/Key Accomplishments: (1) We are in the process of completing a major renovation of the Thomas More House. Do to the age of the House it was necessary to do some upgrades to the Bathroom and Kitchen. Hopefully the work will be completed within the next two weeks. We will be putting a notice in the bulletin asking our Parishioners to donate certain items. When completed we are going to schedule an open house for our Parishioners on a weekend after the Masses.

(2) Over the past year we have seen a significant increase in the number of calls for assistance especially from individuals who have lost jobs. With the generosity of our Parishioners we have been able to meet these needs.

(3) We are always trying to recruit additional members. We would like to see some younger Parishioners join our ministry as most of us are not getting any younger.

Old Issues Not Resolved: None

New Issues: We would like to see Ministry Sunday revived. This was a good program for us to recruit new members.

Organization Name: Parish Office

Key Organization Leader: Deacon & Pastoral Associate - John Convery

Highlights/Key Accomplishments:

- (1) Managed the Marriage Preparation Program
- (2) Planned and conducted the Wedding Celebration
- (3) Managed the Baptismal Preparation Program
- (4) Initiated an Adult Faith Formation Program entitled Catholic Matters. Completed two of the three parts of the Catholic Catechism for Adults (Approximately 25 Chapters)
- (5) Conducted weekly Bible Study to break open The Word for next Sunday
- (6) Serve on the Social Action Commission and participate in their events
- (7) Serve as Chaplain for the St. Vincent DePaul Society
- (8) Served as Deacon at Liturgies of the Word and Eucharist and least twice each month
- (9) Conducted Communion services and delivered reflections at Communion Services every other week.
- (10) Presided at 8 Baptisms, one wedding and one funeral.

Old Issues Not Resolved: None

New Issues: Initiated the Stephen Ministry

Organization Name: Social Justice Commission

Key Organization Leader: Charlene Kiefer (Report Prepared by Deacon John)

Highlights/Key Accomplishments:

- (11) Sponsored Advent Giving Trees - Recipients included: St. Leo Parish, A Caring Place, STMSVDP, Hope Emergency Project and The Joseph House.
- (12) For Lent we conducted Operation Rice Bowl with the school and put on The Simple Supper on Ash Wednesday
- (13) Served meals to the migrant River Downs workers who care for the horses.

- (14) Held a 'baby shower' for A Caring Place
- (15) Sponsor monthly food collections for areawide food pantries including: STTM SVDP, SEM, Hope Emergency and St. Joseph West Union
- (16) Active member of the Archdiocesan Social Action Collaborative

Old Issues Not Resolved: None

New Issues:

- (1) We plan to start a new food ministry at the Clermont County Homeless Shelter once a month on Tuesday.
- (2) We plan to initiate a project to raise funds (\$3,500-\$4,000) to build a well in Dafur in the Southern Sudan. The Archdiocese has again selected Dafur as an area for social justice education and action in the parishes. The other two areas are Catholic Faith Teachings and the immigration issue.

St. Thomas More Organization Report for

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Organization Name: Elizabeth Ministry

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

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):

- Welcomed a new minister.
- We ministered to 11 families.
- In February 2007 and throughout the year, we ministered to the Casavant Family, who lost their wife and mother of 6, Rachael (a fellow minister) and their unborn baby girl. For approximately 6 or

so months we coordinated meals, childcare, housekeeping, and financial support through the generosity of the STM parish community and West Clermont schools.

- In March 2007 we hosted a “Memorial Service for Children Born and Unborn” with Fr. Bill. The service was held for those who have lost babies through miscarriage, stillbirth, infant crisis, or abortion. The service was well attended with 25 Memorial Candles taken by those who lost their baby/child. A Fellowship was held afterward in the parish dining hall. We prayerfully anticipate this to be an annual service.
- We taught a workshop at the First Communicant Retreat, explaining the church’s honor and devotion to Mary and demonstrating with the students how to say and participate in a Living Rosary.
- We participated in the May Crowning by coordinating the Living Rosary with the 1st Communicants and supporting the ice cream social afterwards in the parish dining hall.
- We welcomed an additional blessing for expectant parents held during mass during Advent, thanks to the Worship Commission.
- In January 2008, 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 70 bottles were returned with donations.
- We prayed for those asking for our intercession through our Blessing Bouquet, prayer journal, and emails.
- We added numerous books and resources, donated to the Elizabeth Ministry Library (housed in the Fr. Wack Library), to the STM School’s Library Catalog. We are also adding miscellaneous religious resources, donated to the Parish, that will be housed in the Fr. Wack Library (non-Eliz. Min related).

Upcoming Events

- April 2008 SAM’s Fundraiser – selling STM Family Favorites Cookbook and baked goods

- Continue adding Parish Resources and Elizabeth Ministry books and materials to the STM Library Catalog and stocking them in the Elizabeth Ministry/Fr. Wack Library. We anticipate completion by the end of spring 2008.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

- Date of the 2008 Memorial Service for Children Born and Unborn (working with Deacon Michael)

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

Parish Council Committee Report Form

(Organizations will copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page when assigned.
parishcouncil@sttm.org)

<p>St. Thomas More Organization Report for Parish Council Meeting March 17, 2008</p>

Organization Name: St. Thomas More Athletic Booster Club

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee:

Brian Jones, President

Perry Gerome, Vice President

Jeff Roberts, Treasurer

Lisa Marcinko Miller, Secretary

John Clements, Athletic Director

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):

- The Boosters paid off our remaining dept on the gym floor. The majority of the money raised was from our second annual Winterfest this past January.
- We provide CPR classes for our parish.
- Record of teams participated in CYO sports.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

- Gym time availability – As the parish and school grows so does our program. This winter was very difficult scheduling teams for practice time.
 - Getting parents to volunteer at our fundraiser. The boosters are literally run by few people.
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Parish Council Committee Report Form

(Organizations will copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page when assigned.
parishcouncil@sttm.org)

St. Thomas More Organization Report for

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Organization Name: **ROC Youth Ministry including Sewing Ministry
and Rosary Makers**

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

Highlights/Key Accomplishments:

1. Since the last time we reported to parish council, we have had a large increase in numbers of weekly youth participating at Sunday night meetings, on average 22 per week plus some regular parent volunteers. Many others, especially our high school juniors and seniors drop in when work and school commitments permit. This brings our registered members at well over 100.
2. Youth are participating in many parish ministries, including servers, ushers, greeters; Stations of the Cross, choir and they continue to help with CRHP meal prep, prayer, and poster warriors. Youth continue to help with Sewing ministry and Rosary Makers. They have also worked on the Thomas More house again this year cleaning and getting the home ready for guests. They also supported the many outreach ministries like Project Merry Christmas and SEM as well as St. Vincent de Paul and the weekly food collections. Youth sold magnets and are selling raffle tickets for the Knights of Columbus this year.
3. We have a large number of youth who are also involved in scouts and this year will be a banner year of Eagle Scouts moving through the process.
4. Two students have been asked to join as representatives on the Social Justice Commission. They will be reporting to Youth Ministry to bring opportunities for youth to be more involved in the commission over the next year including the Race Track ministry and the Soup Kitchen program as well as increased support for Operation Rice Bowl this year and Simple Supper next year.
5. We have committed to the Super 8 program again this summer.
6. We have three students going on the Archdiocesan T.A.C.K.L.E. program. The parish is providing the registration funds for these young people to participate in this Social Justice and Outreach program.
7. We have two students and perhaps a few more going on the Laudete Music program sponsored by the Archdiocesan Worship Office. These students are active in the choir.

8. We hope to send students to the TCL program which is an Archdiocesan leadership program later in the summer.
9. We may have sixth and seventh graders going to the Junior High Camp in August.
10. We have pledged to have two booths at festival again and are seeking new options for this fundraiser so we can contribute funds as well as ministerial support. We are thinking a social justice coffee booth but have not yet met with the Julyfest committee.
11. There are many other areas which youth are working and living their faith especially Bible Camp. We have begun plans to have this annual program in August.
12. Sewing Ministry is now hand crafting every baptismal garment for our youth baptisms.
13. This year Rosary Makers has made and supplied all CRHP rosaries and rosary's for every new family to STM. We handmade over a thousand rosaries in 2007, and by mission requirements no rosary may be sold so every one has been gifted to the recipients in the name of the children who make them.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:
I do not believe we have any outstanding issues other than repairs awaiting the spring weather out in More Martyr Hall. The building had a leak and needed major work that is not yet complete. Scouts and Youth Ministry have been working hard to get along as we share tighter quarters.

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

We have a major fundraiser coming up with other STM youth and parish organizations at Sam's Club on April 5th. Come support all our organizations!

We are hoping to go to Atlanta for a Franciscan Youth Retreat. We have the rooms, the bus and we need the bodies. The whole Eastside Cluster is supporting the trip.

Jesse Manibusan is coming to STM on April 4th. This is a global Catholic Performer and we have joined with McNick, St. Veronica's and some parishes from Dayton to work to expose our youth to this caliber of a performer. Fliers have gone out to youth and will go to the parish over Easter break.

Thank you and if you have any questions or I have missed anything please let me know!

dbrennan@stm.org

St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: March, 2008

Committee Name: Adult and Children's 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)

Parish School of Religion (PSR):

The year has gone by smoothly and quickly. We have thirty dedicated catechists in PSR. This year in our junior high program we have begun to alternate a liturgy of the word led by Paul MacDonald each Sunday with a computer class led by Brad Broerman. This has been well received by catechists and students alike.

We recently gave the ACRE tests in January which should show us areas of strength and areas of weaknesses in our program as we

continue to use the RCL Legacy Faith First Series. We will be sending home the individual results of the ACRE test to the parents of participating 5th and 8th graders in PSR as well as the 5th and 8th graders in the school.

Also in January families with school age children enrolled in STM and registered in PSR received a letter outlining our challenge as parents to teach our children about stewardship. To assist them in this regard, we offered the opportunity for their children to receive envelopes designed just for children to give when they are at Sunday Mass. To date the school received 51 requests but only five requests have been received in PSR. We are continuing to publicize this opportunity in the bulletin.

In February our catechists were treated to a Day of Reflection at the Milford Spiritual Center organized by the Eastside DREs. This is an event we offer each year to all catechists in this eastside vicinity for their spiritual growth.

The registration and ordering process for next year will begin shortly. Any help or ideas you can give to encouraging people to register their children now would be helpful. Typically still too many wait until August which doesn't help us in planning, preparing and processing for the needs of those who will be attending.

We are currently planning an End of the Year brunch for our catechists not only to thank them for their many hours of dedicated service, but also to plan and prepare for next year's needs.

Michele Klysz Robben has continued this year as our Preschool Catechist Coordinator. Leslie Fehlinger joined us this year as our new Preschool Program Coordinator. Together they have consistently nourished the catechists, reached out to parents and grown the preschool program. We are totally indebted to their

efforts. Many new and exciting events have been offered to our preschool families this year because of their dedication and loyalty to Christ and our parish church.

We also added a Sunday Child Care this year which watches over kids ages 1 -3 during the 10 Mass. Liz Hornback is our coordinator for this program. Each parent registers their children at a cost of \$10 per child for the year. Parents are asked to sign up to help watch the children for a certain amount of Sundays. This necessitates that they have successfully passed the fingerprinting process and attended the child protection workshop.

Sacraments

We are currently preparing for first communion with the second graders. We have met for our initial meeting to go over the entire process and to offer support ideas for parents. We will be meeting again on Saturday, April 26, for our big Jesus Day Retreat. Photos will be May 6 followed by our May Crowning Service. Rehearsals will be May 13th followed by an ice cream social. The first communion masses will be May 18.

We also are preparing for confirmation with the 8th graders. We are continuing the process we began last year of dividing the confirmandi into gender like groups, all girls or boys. Each group is led by the gracious efforts of parents. This underscores the principle that they are the primary religious educators of their children and we are here to support them in this effort. They are given a set of suggested plans a month in advance so they are better prepared to lead each group. Their dedication is a blessing. We have had two sessions concerning the theology of confirmation with our small faith groups so far. We have two more sessions to go. The confirmation retreat is scheduled for May 3 which will be led by Diane Brennan and Becky Ready. Confirmation will be celebrated at the Cathedral on Wednesday, May 7 with St. James of the Valley and Our Lady of the Rosary.

RCIA

We are currently in the third phase of RCIA, purification and enlightenment. This is a time similar to a long retreat in which the candidates and catechumens are reflecting more interiorly on their relationship to Christ and his Church. We are organizing a special retreat for them on Saturday, March 15, on which day we will also be rehearsing for the Easter Vigil when they will become fully initiated. We have 10 elect, men and women who have not been baptized and four candidates who have been baptized. Five people are presently awaiting their marriage annulments to be granted. In our RCIIY, we have two girls and one boy who have not been baptized. We will also be baptizing six children under the age of six along with their parents at the Easter vigil.

Following the vigil, we will enter into the 4th phase called Mystagogy. This year we will focus on a study of the Eucharist and its central place in our Catholic life. We also will be looking at how our new neophytes can be better connected in our parish. They will be taking a spiritual assessment survey to help them reflect on which ministries they would most like to participate in.

I am already beginning to interview persons interested in joining our next group of RCIA candidates. Our brochures are located in the plastic holders at church entrances. Please encourage the council to evangelize and invite any one interested in inquiring about our Catholic faith.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Our Moms group has begun a new series with our present moms and extending an invitation to any other women in the parish who are interested. The new series is called *Adventures in Matthew* which is designed to help us better understand our first gospel book. We have

almost reached maximum capacity in the Faith Formation Room with 29 women who attend on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Our weekly book club is also going strong. Currently we are reading a book by Ralph Martin called *Fulfillment of All Desire*. He is expanding our understanding of what saints have taught us about the three stages of our spiritual journey. We will continue to reach out to others who are interested in sharing and discussing the wisdom of reading spiritual books together in our journey of faith.

We are continuing our adult faith formation class called *Catholic Matters*. This is being led by John Convery. With John's love of the Church and his teaching background, he is a perfect match for our efforts to grow adult faith formation in the parish.

In an effort to utilize our website more, with Mike Gennett's help I have been adding links to adult formation sites on the world wide web. As more people become use to searching the web for information, we are ready with ways to engage them in questions of their faith right here at their own parish.

My hope is to find more and better ways to utilize our website for adult faith formation in the future. Here is our most recent example:

WHAT ARE YOU HUNGRY FOR?

We're all hungry for something that only God can fill up. We think we can fill it up with things, but we still end up hungry. That's because what we're hungry for is God. All the "stuff" in the world will never fill us up. To help ourselves and our youth understand that only seeking a relationship with God can satisfy, go to our website at <http://www.sttm.org/adultfaith.htm>, click on to "Families Challenging Materialism" and you will discover family action suggestions from the Institute for Peace and Justice.

A challenge for the immediate future is to find ways to sustain and deepen the faith formation of those teams who have participated in our parish renewal program: *Christ Renews His Parish*. Currently, I am studying different processes recommended by the archdiocese and

also outstanding resources being developed throughout the country and practiced in various parishes.

Another need I envision is for a group of dedicated people to gather together and plan family formation events. A couple people have come forward interested in this endeavor. Today when the family is so stressed and running in so many directions, offering a way to help them spend time together talking and learning about their faith could be a positive experience in helping them grow spiritually. It could also help build community. The difficulty is finding time and space.

Key Activities over the next 2 months

- PSR Registrations for 2008-09
- RCIA and Easter Vigil
- RCIA and Mystagogy
- First Communion Preparation, Retreat, Pictures, Rehearsal and Masses
- Confirmation Prep Sessions, Retreat and Celebration at Cathedral

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

- Encourage PSR registrations
- Evangelize people interested in becoming Catholic
- The recently published "National Directory of Catechesis" states: *"The most pressing need in the church is the evangelization and catechesis of adults as the General Catechetical Directory so forcibly reminded us. The catechesis of adults is the principal form of*

catechesis, because it is addressed to persons who have the greatest responsibilities and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form. The catechetical formation of adults is essential for the Church to carry out the commission given the apostles by Christ. Because of its importance and because all other forms of catechesis are oriented in some way to it, the catechesis of adults must have high priority at all levels of the Church."

Reflecting on this message let us try and think "outside the box" and share any ideas related to encouraging adult faith formation.

**St. Thomas More Organization Report for
Parish Council Meeting March 17, 2008**

Organization Name: PTO

Key Organization Leaders/Officers/Pastoral Employee: Lori Knight, Gwen Farwick, Doreen Noble, Beth Farr, Robyn Yates

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):

- Concentrated on planning non-fund raising family events that helped to build the STM Community
 - Father Daughter Dance
 - Family Night for Cyclones game which coordinated with their Christian Night
 - Family Involvement/Education Speaker Nights - Raising Financially Responsible Children - Overstressed Children - Raising Responsible Kids (to be rescheduled due to weather)
 - New Family Welcome Picnic

- Family Movie Nights (also makes a small profit for PTO)
- Hosted the first Little Elves Workshop that replaced the previous Little Angels Workshop. Combined with Youth Ministry, we hosted this event where parents could drop off their children for 4 hours to make pottery, cookies, cards, and other crafts for the Christmas Season. This afforded parents their own opportunity to prepare for the season without their children, and allowed the children the opportunity to use their own hands to make precious gifts for their family.
- Introduced Physical Fitness Awareness Theme
 - Sponsoring a weekly Zumba exercise class
 - Purchased new fitness equipment requested by the gym teacher
 - Revamped Annual walk - a- thon (to be held Apr. 21)
 - Walk M.O.R.E (Moving Outside for Recreation and Exercise)
 - To include multiple fitness awareness booths (hydration, stretching, cardio, etc)
- Completed Phase 1 of playground
- Raised additional \$ and ordered phase 2 of playground equipment
- Increased funds designated for eighth grade scholarship fund from \$400.00 to \$750.00
- Added a donation of \$250.00 to Parish Financial Aid fund
- Continued communication through our newsletter (copy attached)
- Focused fund-raising on events that could reduce the amount of volunteer time required and on activities that families would be spending money on anyway. We reduced fundraising that had a focus of supporting other businesses in addition to our cause to gain the advantage of the full profit adding value to STM.
- Supported Julyfest with gift certificate donations
- Financially supported the Teacher Appreciation Team
- Financially supported the school field trips and visiting arts programs.

Short list of old issues your organization has not resolved:

- How to get more volunteers involved on a regular basis to help reduce the time spent by “the regulars” who always answer the call, but are bound to feel the burn-out.

- How to bridge the gap between School and Parish. We have opened our events, fundraising and non-fundraising, to Parish and PSR, but involvement still seems to be school only. We wanted to build the community of STM by having more combined involvement.

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

- Volunteer Committee Chair - this is a suggestion that was made this year and there is an interested party; however not all board members were in agreement with how this position would be organized or utilized. Since it is late in the year, we will move this to the agenda for next year's board.
 - 2008-2009 elections behind originally planned schedule, but process is now underway to seek nominations. The individuals in the Treasurer and Presidents role are not eligible to return in their same positions under the current by-laws.
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