

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, May 17, 2010**

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

**Council Members Absent:** Jim Conrady & John Duncan.

**Others in Attendance:** Mike Gennett, TR O'Brien (Boosters).

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.

**Football Field Update:**

TR O'Brien & Neil Kamphaus gave the update. They presented the "Fund the Field Campaign". A sign would be erected at the south edge of the field to help raise money to build the football field. It would be 4' X 8' and sections would be sold to vendors and families. Different sizes would be available. A voluntary drive would take place where each player would secure a \$50 donation to buy a section on the board. This would not be a requirement any team member.

For vendors, larger spaces could be sold. No promises would be made to the vendor and there would be no obligation on the parish's part. All the money raised would be used to build the field. Fr. Bill suggested maybe the space could be renewed after a set period of time.

A prototype of the sign follows.



The field installation will not take place until after the Festival. The playground vendor will move the swing set and benches in June. The contract has been signed and submitted.

We have 53 of our kids signed up for the new football program. This is nearly five times than last year.

Another fundraiser, a Wiffle Ball tournament for both adults and kids will be held inside the gym.

**Business Manager Report:** Mike Gennett gave the report.

The Finance Committee is going to meet on May 25<sup>th</sup> and review the budget for next year. The budget that has been submitted has a deficit for next year. We are looking at a number of options currently under review that may help to lower the projected deficit. We just can't continue to run deficits each year.

The school currently has 269 confirmed enrollments and 11 more state they are returning, but have yet to fully register. They have verbally confirmed

they plan to return. The project currently projects 280 for next year or a drop of 17 from this year. Compared to two years ago, the decrease is 39 students. When we enroll fewer students, there is ripple affect beyond fewer incoming tuition dollars. It also negatively impacts our state reimbursement money since it is figured on a per child basis. The Cafeteria and Latch Key are also impacted. Financial aid needs exceed \$60,000 and we are not going to be able to afford to help everyone to the extent they would like.

**State Fund restoration** - We asked last week about the restoration of state funds that were cut with the state budget accord last summer. We have been informed the state has a large deficit that needs to be fixed first and not to count on the money. The state needed to have a balanced budget before the funds can be restored.

**Federal Health Care Reform** - Three changes that are to be initially implemented under the new law include covering pre-existing conditions, no individual lifetime limits for coverage, and covering adult children until age 26. The first two criteria should little effect on our premiums since they are part of our current coverage. Adding adult children back into our plan no doubt will cause our premiums to increase. Obama Care changes to our plan are not effective until July 1, 2011.

**The diocese health insurance audit** is winding down and over 400 people to date have been removed from coverage. This audit has not significantly affected us although a couple of our employees had to submit substantial documentation in order to retain dependent coverage.

We recently implemented **the plastic security bags for the Sunday collection**. Most of the ushers understood the reason for the change. The diocese is also looking at issuing credits on our liability insurance if the bag program is utilized each week.

**Pastor's Report** - Fr. Bill gave his update.

Two new priests will be ordained this Saturday, May 22.

Fr. Del Staigers will be the new Pastor at St. Veronica in July. Fr. Flaherty is going to retire.

We are two years out in possibly getting a new Auxiliary Bishop.

Archbishop Schnurr is working hard on vocations and getting more candidates enrolled at the Seminary. He is finding interest! A \$15.7 million dollar seminary fund drive is underway and most of the money has been pledged. All the dormitory rooms are being redone. The Archbishop does not feel it is unrealistic to say all the rooms could be filled. He is also working with other bishops to send their candidates here.

The Fenwick Club has been established and parishes are encouraged to join. The annual fee is \$1,000. Fr. Bill asked if our parish should join. Kathy Hornschemeier suggested waiting until fall to make a decision. Our budget will be settled by then. Larry Bush suggested maybe a group of parishioners could respond to this need to help get the parish enrolled.

Confirmation is this Friday night, May 21 at the Cathedral. Fr. Bill is confirming our own candidates plus those from Our Lady of the Rosary and St. James of the Valley.

The Finance Committee will meet on May 25.

First Communion went well. 48 received their first Eucharist.

Monday Festival cleanup on July 12 is still an issue. Volunteers are needed.

### **Other Business**

Neil Kamphaus said the Girl Scouts sent him some additional information regarding the Pro Choice conversation at the last council meeting. This information may be found on the web at:

<http://www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org/whatsnew.htm>

Kathy Hornschemeier asked why the debt due to the diocese never seems to go down very much. Mike Gennett responded we pay \$80,000 a year on the principal and \$20,000 a year on the interest due to the diocese.

The total borrowed from the diocese was \$1,802,772.91. This includes the purchase of 804 Ohio Pike in 2003 (\$82,500) and the diocese rolled over unpaid parish high school equalization (\$55,000) from the 1970s into our debt in 2005. These additions caused the amount due to increase. Part of the debt was the \$144,000 oil environmental clean-up.

We have paid back \$982,889.64 on the principal due since 2000. Interest paid since 2000 was \$427,290.31 for a total of \$1,410,179.90 over the last ten years.

Our current balances due are \$819,883.27 on the principal and \$609,453.50 in interest for a total of \$1,429,336.77.

Our goal has been to pay as much on the principal as possible. We are currently paying \$80,000 a year on the principal and \$20,000 a year on the debt. The interest continues to build on the unpaid balance. We don't pay interest on interest. The interest is going up less than it was four years ago, for example, because the principal due keeps decreasing. In 2006, a quarterly interest accrual was over \$20,000. Our most recent accrual was \$13,185.

So, as we send money to pay on the principal, it goes down, but the interest will continue to rise until the principal has been paid. Then, we work on paying the interest.

We really incurred too much debt...some of it planned, and some unplanned. The environmental accident plus the old unpaid debt from the 1970s compounded the problem.

Larry Bush stated we need volunteers for all position at the 4 PM Mass. Fr. Bill said he has asked from the altar and in the bulletin. We have some new ushers.

Kathy Hornschemeier made a motion to adjourn. Neil Kamphaus seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. Fr. Bill led the group in prayer.

Next meeting is Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM unless the need arises for special meeting over the summer.