

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 28, 2011**

Council Members in Attendance: Fr. Bill Wagner, Kathy Hornschemeier, Janet Tate, Sam DeBonis, and Jim Conrady.

Council Members Absent: Vic Ivers, John Duncan, & Larry Bush.

Others in Attendance: Mike Gennett.

The St. Thomas More Parish Council meeting was called to order by Kathy Hornschemeier at 7:08 PM EST. Fr. Bill Wagner opened with a prayer.

Neil Kamphaus and his family have left the parish. They moved to Oxford, OH and he is no longer on Parish Council. Everyone appreciated his service.

Business Manager Report: Mike Gennett gave the report.

Stewardship Campaign update - Here are the results through November 15th:

- 320 regular envelope users said they would increase their regular weekly donation by \$2,266.50.
- 78 non-envelope users said they would give an average of \$1,057.83 per week.
- We received 16 outright gifts totaling \$36,455.00
- 48 additional households requested information to switch to electronic giving
- 33 requested to start receiving envelopes
- 150 said they would not be able to increase their donation at this time

The grand total responding were 398 households (envelope plus non-envelope) responding with increases with a weekly total average increase of \$3,324.33. The average increase reported was \$8.35. The respondents are about 25% of our total registered households. (There has also been approximately another 10 commitment cards received since the last report from the consultant firm.)

For the seven Sundays since commitment weekend, excluding onetime gifts, \$115,633.87 has been donated. This represented a 7% increase over plan and a 21% increase over last year.

Electronic donors now number 122 households totaling \$10,880 on the first Sunday of the month and \$1,472 the other Sunday of the month. This is a record high for our parish. The first Sunday electronic contributions are about 45% of the total donated.

The stewardship results have been very gratifying to say the least. The key to the success will be the length of time these increases continue.

Common software-platform update – The diocese has entered into intense negotiations with two vendors for a common platform for accounting. The Archbishop would like a vendor recommendation made to him in December. St. Thomas More will likely be a pilot location. The Business Managers that have served on this committee will be the first locations to make the change.

The **transition from the current school monthly tuition provider** will soon begin. Families wishing to pay on the 10 month payment will be required to set up their new account on line at the time they register for school next year. This will be a onetime exercise and will be imperative each family completes this process if they want to pay over a ten month period. We cannot transfer account information from one provider to another. Our current provide, Tuition Management Systems, is vastly reducing their portfolio of K-12 schools.

The **2012 festival license application** has been filed with the Ohio Attorney General's office.

Work on the **2012-2013 parish budget** will begin soon. This is the first phase of the budgeting planning process.

The **second tire of flood lights** has been installed in the church. Council members made numerous positive comments about the lighting improvement.

The new copy of the Guidebook should be in all the homes by now.

The **Heider Hall roof** section needing extensive work is now underway. The part of the roof that needed to be replaced is the four south side 1952 classroom sections. The other roof sections were replaced in 1999. We have been aware this part of the roof has needed extensive work for a number of years. We have continued to make repairs as needed. In October, an inspection determined that replacement of this part of the roof could no longer be delayed. Work commenced earlier this month. Once the two old roofs and insulation were removed, some of the wood decking had to be replaced. In addition, the small west canopy roof that connects to the Parish Hall needed work. The valleys and the flashing along the center domed section are also now leaking and are being repaired. The end result will be a 25 year roof for this part of the building. This was without a doubt has been our most critical capital need for some time. The cost of this project is now \$60,000.00. The funds are coming from the money recovered from the festival theft reimbursement (not in our budget) and we are delaying hiring an Assistant Business Manager (this position was in the budget.)

We have received three bids for the **replacement of the handicap ramp** in the front of church. They range from \$50,000 to \$65,000 and all three bids are from reputable contractors. Fr. Bill has decided to launch a ramp fund drive to raise the money to pay for the ramp replacement. One \$10,000 donations has already been made. A copy of the proposed new ramp has

been posted in the back of church. An announcement will be made in the December 4th bulletin regarding the ramp.

We also met with two vendors on **chair lifts**. None of the options are ideal for a variety of reasons. A chair lift at the SE church door would be the least expensive option but handicap parking might have to shift to the east lot. There is still a long walk from the east lot to this door. The NE school entrance door would require a chair lift track that would turn and go up the stairs. But parking would be an issue. The area outside this door is currently a fire safety zone and would have to be cleared with the fire department. There is also little handicap parking in that area requiring walking to the lift. The west entrance stairway is not large enough to accommodate a chair lift with parishioners walking up and down the stairs.

Pastoral Regional Planning update – Kathy Hornschemeier gave the update. The committee is working on a planning document they plan to cover with each of the parish councils in the near future. This document is a plan that could be implemented if the region is activated some day and the two parishes have to share a Pastor. Our pastoral region planning is different than others. Our parishes are both growing and this is unique. Other parishes planning a region are either stagnant or have declining membership. The hope is the final plan is presented to the Parish Councils by May. There is also some discussion that the two Pastors may switch parishes for some weekend Masses.

Christmas and Easter have been very difficult to plan. Both parishes currently are filled to capacity for all their Masses. There is no facility big enough in the area to have joint services.

At the January Parish Council meeting, each parish council will be asked to develop a plan how to present the pastoral regional information to their parish.

Pastor's Update – Fr. Bill gave a brief update.

There has been no recent Dean or Deanery meetings so there is nothing new to report.

The first weekend with the new changes to the Masses went very well. All the council members noted the laminated prayer cards were a terrific help.

Other - Sam DeBonis asked how the Italian Dinner did. The dinner made a profit of \$1,699.14 after all expenses were paid. The 7th grade worked the event and earned some funds to help cover their Washington trip in 2013. After they were paid, the final net profit was \$1,384.31.

Fr. Bill commented that some menu changes might be made for next year. Spaghetti and Pizza are on the table as possibilities.

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

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH, 2012.