

9-15-2014

St. Thomas More Parish Council Minutes

Attendance: Fr Bill Wagner, Dick Berish, Vic Ivers, Sam DeBonis, Kathy Hornschemeier, Larry Bush, Tom Buchheit, John Duncan Absent: Jim Conrady

Meeting opened by Fr Bill with a prayer

Fr Bill began the meeting with a festival report. We will be reporting to the parish the final profit of approximately \$68,500. He complimented the new chairpersons and the entire group that they had made a great effort to make the festival success and all the workers who helped the festival committee.

We have had to postpone the Spaghetti Dinner due to unforeseen circumstances. We are looking to January 18th for the dinner.

We have had computer issues at our site. Updates caused a problem with the server and we are working thru the problems and have a new IT company who is mapping the system in order to make it easier to pinpoint problems in the system. We had a few computers crash and needed to replace them as well.

We have a student population of 252, which is slightly better than the forecasted budget. Our preschool is full and the summer latchkey program was a success.

We are looking to extend the A/C in Heider Hall with ductwork to the classrooms with bids for this work hopefully before the next cooling season. We are also working out the details on A/C for the classrooms in the undercroft area.

Dick Berish then started the reporting and updates of the parish projects. The debt has declined to under \$1.million as reported in the bulletin. The 1st two months with the debt reduction has allowed a \$50,000 reduction on the principal from the collections. One parishioner in August met the match from the envelopes. We have another parishioner ready to match donations in September. We are very happy with the support from the parish and have had good feedback to complete this quickly.

The parish is slightly down in regular contributions to meet the budget. This will be watched and reminders will be posted in the bulletin. There are mixed results and we will watch carefully.

We have 34 students in preschool which is ahead of the projections for when we started last year. The latchkey program this summer was very successful. We had a great response and felt great about the first year's program.

The number of students for the full year is 252. This compares favorably with the projections of the finance and educations budgets.

The network problems we have had in the last week have multiple reasons. We have decided to consolidate the IT with one company of professionals to upgrade all of the site

with a mapping and streamline of the server. We have used over the years a combination of volunteers, parents and professionals. Epiphany will be the IT vendor. With the completion of the map of the entire site and upgrades to make all parts work together well. The parish contract will be \$7,500.00

The festival profit in the budget was projected \$50,000., we will make about \$68,500. Since last year we needed to dip into the reserve we will be looking to replace some of the reserve money.

The parking lot repairs have been completed. We expect to continue the lot repairs next summer as well. We are looking to find a resolution to the drain repairs so the parking lot does not have the problem of freezing water in the winter. This involves the township and the state and we will be collaborating if possible with outside groups as well. Other items we are looking at are: the A/C in the school, and rectory repairs.

We will be repairing the roof of More Martyr Hall. The scouts have agreed to help defray costs.

The network project and hardware will not be completed until Christmas. We need 3 days of down time for this project to be completed.

We are completing the guidebook and the advertising to send to the publisher.

We are replacing the carpets at the entry to the church and school. They are 15 years old and the PTO is helping to defray the cost. These will also be the same mats so they hopefully will last 15 years as well.

Fr Bill reported that there are 17 children signed up for the choir. Sean Connolly, our music director, is very happy with the program for weekday masses. He is setting up several special choirs such as Easter and Christmas as well. All are welcome to sign up at any time.

The new Archbishop's Campaign is to start in 3 phases. The goal is \$130 million. Our goal is \$1.1 million the formula is 120% of last year's collection. The program will be over a 5 year payment plan. 20 % returns to the parish if we reach our goal.

2015 will be the 75th Anniversary of the parish. Fr would like to have a special liturgy for this on the feast of St. Thomas More in June. We would like to have a new pictorial journal of the parishioners for this as well. We would need a person to volunteer to coordinate the sittings and setup for this project. We did this for the 60th and most of the parishioners were involved. We would like ideas from the parish about other things we can do to celebrate.

The minutes were approved from the June 16, 2014 meeting.

We adjourned and concluded with a prayer.