

# ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 14, 2003

**In Attendance:** Fr. Bill Wagner, David Lees, Dee Archer, Matt Mallot, Michelle Stultz, Diane Brennan, Bob Guenther, Vic Ivers, Ray Neltner, Carl Lamping, Barbara Schmidt, Linda Young, and Mike Gennett.

**Absent:** Peg Fischer, Jerry Cain, Duane Bradley, Peggy Fangman, Rhonda Roberts, Darline Foltz.

The St. Thomas More Parish Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM EDT by President David Lees. Fr. Bill opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** David Lees briefly reviewed the minutes of the March 10th meeting. A few outstanding issues discussed at this meeting were brought up.

Carl Lamping was asked if the Boosters had followed through on hanging Pete Tekulve's retired jersey in the gym. Carl responded that Pete's name has been placed on a banner and will be hung next to a jersey above the scoreboard. Pete's number has been retired for 100 years.

Barbara Schmidt wanted to know why nothing has yet to appear regarding the definition of what Vision 2000 was. She was still confused about the difference between the Vision 2000 and the Debt Reduction envelopes. Mike Gennett responded that nothing had been done because the Finance Committee and Parish Council had not agreed on how to communicate this information. A write-up will be completed and sent to Fr. Bill for a communication decision for the bulletin and/or More About Us.

Ray Neltner reported he is in the process of contacting some landscaping companies regarding the Memorial Garden.

There had been a number of questions regarding the Yahoo Groups.

Becky Ready had reported she could not file her report through Yahoo

Groups. Matt Malott said it was because she tried to file it from home and if the email address being used is not in the Yahoo Groups, it will not work. Bob Guenther's report was filed with Word Perfect and a number of members were unable to open it. Many reported not receiving the agenda attachment.

The issue of the 10:30 and Noon Masses was brought up. Nothing has been done at this time. Mike Gennett reported the 2004 calendar will be due soon. The 2004 calendar (which lists Mass times) will be kept locked up and not released until this matter has been resolved. Mike alerted the group that the calendar is due in the summer as well as the information for the Catholic Telegraph Directory.

After these issues were discussed, the minutes were approved as written.

Reports were received from every group except the Seniors. Only topics that needed to be discussed were brought up in the meeting.

**Finance Report:** Mike Gennett gave the report.

The parking lot has a great deal of damage from the bad winter. Bids are being obtained from contractors that will range from just repair of the major problems to repair of every lot. This will allow us to complete what we can afford. Bids are now coming in.

The Finance Office has been moved to under the church in Becky Ready's old office. This move was done because of new Federal HIPAA regulations and the request from the Archdiocese to secure all confidential information and limit access only to the Pastor and the Privacy Officer (in our case the Business Manager.)

Sunday collections are slowly improving. For the last 10 weeks (excluding the icy Feb 16 Sunday and the Easter 2002 difference), the average collection is \$13,667 compared to \$12,426 in 2002 for a 10% increase. The average number of envelopes returned is up to 581.6 from 575.5 or 1%. The average amount in each envelope is \$23.49 compared to \$21.59. The Finance weekend is still scheduled for May 17-18.

Tuition fees have all been processed. All Option A families (agreeing to pay in full by July 15) will be billed in early June and all Option B families who signed contracts to pay over 10 months already have their information completed on the Tuition Management Services Internet site.

**Education Report:** Fr. Bill gave a brief report. The school is looking at an all day Kindergarten and possibly combining second and third grades into one class. There were a number of questions as to how this would work, but it was stated that is the responsibility of the Education Commission to make it successful.

**Worship Committee:** Fr. Bill stated there are changes coming to the Mass probably in July at our parish. "GIRM" - General Instruction of the Roman Missal is now taking place. The changes have more to do with the role of the Presider.

**DRE Report:** There was a discussion that the date for the Confirmation Reception has yet been worked out due to a scheduling conflict.

**Scouts:** Dee Archer thanked everyone for their support of the Fish Fry.

**PTO:** Michelle Stultz reported due to lower script sales, the PTO budget has been reduced by \$8,000 this year plus there are no funds for the Library.

**Bingo:** The new Bingo law has been postponed until July 1. Our licenses have been approved, but the amount of record keeping required will be cumbersome. The July 1 start date is not fair to the Festival...Festivals held before July 1 do not have to comply with the law while our Festival would have to comply since it is after the effective date. Michelle reported that one less Instant's booth is being planned at the Festival due to the potential negative impact of the law.

**Festival:** Michelle Stultz reported that they are looking to have a Festival-pre-party to help prepare everyone for the event. Becky Ready has yet to confirm she is going to have an appreciation day on June 22. She was willing to combine the events. Festival said unless something is decided in the next week or two, they plan to set their own date, maybe June 21. Council members reported they did not know about Becky's event and said Festival did not need Council's permission to have a pre-party on their own.

Duane Bradley is still in charge of the Council's Festival booth.

**Security update:** The team visited the Yavneh Day School that had a card reader access system. The conclusion reached was a card access system alone would only solve 75% of the problems. There still needs to be a human touch to locking at night. The group is now looking at a rekeying project that would include stricter rules on key distribution and when the porter would lock and unlock facilities.

**Parish Council Election:** David Lees reported that the revised constitution has been posted and approved that now calls for direct election of parish council members. Vic Ivers and Barb Schmidt are working to get this process in place.

**Pastor's Report:** Fr. Bill spoke on a number of things.

The Catholic Telegraph subscription issue is alive and well. The Business Managers had a meeting with the Telegraph. Almost all the parishes are now funding a free subscription to their parishioners. Pastor's appointed in 2001 were given a two year grace period. Fr. Bill intends to ask the Finance Committee for approval to pay for subscriptions for 50% of our base which would include only those parishioners using their Sunday envelopes. The alternative as to doing nothing would probably result in a call from the Archbishop requiring 100% participation.

The Futures Committee has been meeting regarding the reduced number of priests in the archdiocese. The convocation group did an exercise on how to appoint 6 priests for 13 parishes which resulted in a lot of

discussion. The problem will become very noticeable to all area Catholics in 5-6 years.

The owners of the little pink house at 804 Ohio Pike are now backing away from selling the property.

Fr. Bill also discussed the impact of HIPAA on sick calls. He can no longer go to the hospital and get a list of parishioners that have been admitted. He also reported that a parishioner must directly inform the parish regarding their illness, request for prayers, etc. He is also in the process of getting more information on this new law and the impact on pastoral ministry.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade is looking at a Memorial Garden outside of the west 8<sup>th</sup> grade window.

The Tekulve scholarship fund is approaching \$20,000. The bulk of the funds have been invested at the Archdiocese. The plans now are to keep the funds deposited and let the interest build on the total. Some of the interest may be withdrawn to help pay for teacher needs.

Fr. Bill also wanted to remind council that the Finance Committee is not a part of Parish Council per Canon Law. They are separate groups. Finance has more power than Parish Council. For example, if Finance was to spend money on a project and Parish Council does not, Finance has the final say. It was asked who was on the Finance Committee. Members are: Fr. Bill, Mike Gennett, Dick Schuler, Tim Jossart, John Trautmann, Randy Foltz, and David Kling.

The meeting closed at 8:14 PM with a prayer led by Fr. Bill.

THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY, MAY 12, 7:00 PM. This may be the final meeting of the year.