

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, November 17, 2003**

**Council Members in Attendance:** Fr. Bill Wagner, Matt Malott, Michelle Stultz, Denise Dyer, Duane Bradley, Vic Ivers, and Ray Neltner.

**Council Members Absent:** Bob Brennan.

**Others in Attendance:** Mike Gennett, Julie Hawkins, Carl Lamping, Diane Brennan, and Jerry Cain. Chris White of the Finance Committee was a special guest.

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

Reports were received in advance of the meeting from Education Commission, Worship, DRE, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Festival, PTO, Julyfest, Boosters, and St. Vincent de Paul. The Youth Ministry report was passed out at the meeting.

(If a report was filed by a group in advance and no issues were discussed during the meeting, there is no mention of that organization's report in the minutes.)

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The last meeting was held on Monday, October 20th. Ray asked if there were any questions to the minutes. Mike Gennett reported Fr. Bill requested the word "combine" be replaced with "collaborate" in the Deanery report. The parishes are not combining, but are collaborating in sharing a Pastor.

Ray Neltner asked if there were any other changes to the minutes. None were mentioned. Ray then asked if there was a motion that the minutes be

accepted as written with the one change. Vic Ivers made the motion and Denise Dyer seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Finance Update:** Mike Gennett gave the update.

The Sunday collection this past week was over plan. We collected \$12,239. The collections so far in November as a total have been better and this is good news. Year to date, we are \$6,747 behind plan and \$5,569 ahead of last year.

The 2004 Sunday envelopes were passed out this weekend. We moved 529 out of 1007 boxed sets or 53%. This was better than the previous two years and was very good considering the pick up announcement was not made after one of the Masses.

Our fingerprinting sessions as required by the revised Decree on Child Protection are scheduled for January 23 and 24, 2004. There will be more information on this at a later date.

A brief comment was made regarding the Bingo meeting this Thursday evening. If Bingo is eliminated and the costs are passed on as tuition increases, the school more than likely will be smaller next year. There could be a 10% to 20% reduction in the school size because there will be those families that could not afford the increase in tuition.

There were a number of income and expense issues affecting the parish so far this fiscal year:

- Bank interest is down 80% this year due to a smaller bank account and higher bank fees.
- Bingo income is down 27%.
- Religious Education Fees collected are down 18% this year.
- Health care and pension costs are up 38% for the parish and 14% for the school.
- Teacher salaries are up 18% mostly due to one and one-half extra teacher this year over last year.
- Parish Utilities are up 28% and school utilities are up 23%.

- School instruction expenses are up 15%.

**Stewardship Seminar report:** Chris White of the Finance Committee gave a brief recap of the Stewardship Seminar he attended recently with Mike Gennett.

The Stewardship seminar involves putting together a selected committee that covers not just a traditional financial aspect, but includes prayer, time, and talents of our parishioners.

Fr. Bill commented we were already moving in this direction. We have been putting together all the programs that should be in a full service parish. Plus the technology has been put into place to help with a true stewardship program.

Chris reported that a true stewardship program takes a long, long time to get into place. It is a continuous process.

It was asked if all the fund raising programs that take place in the parish might be coordinated between the Finance committee and Parish Council. Chris agreed this is something that might be easily done.

Closing comments were made that a stewardship program was long over due.

**Deacon's Report:** Jerry Cain made a couple of points regarding his programs. There was nothing new to report on the music program since the music evaluation from the Archdiocese was not back.

Diane Brennan asked if the Children's Instant Choir was going to continue after Christmas. Jerry did not think that was the case.

At least 12 Greeters have signed up for the new Greeter program.

Denise Dyer commented that new, great things are being done.

Regarding CRHP, the men's weekend is coming. It will be held the weekend of January 31-February 1. The Super Bowl is that Sunday and everyone will be at home long before the game starts after 6 PM. The Women's weekend in October was very successful and the next one is being planned in May.

A new Social Action Project is underway and being spearheaded by John Convery. Our goal is to start a Social Action Committee. There will be a series of seven Wednesday evening meetings beginning January 14 through February 25, 2004. These are three and one-half hour sessions. There will be a cost to attend the Wednesday evening program. A number of positive comments were made about how aggressive John Convery has been in making this program a reality. Matt Malott stated he knew nothing about it. Michelle Stultz commented that there have been a number of names associated with the program and she recommends that one name be adopted so there is no confusion.

**DRE Report** - Fr. Bill reminded everyone that the Rite of Acceptance is this Sunday. A question was asked as to what "INTERGENERATIONAL" meant. Duane Bradley stated it meant that "all ages are included."

**Education Commission:** - Fr. Bill commented that all school policies are under review and will be compiled into one manual.

There was a discussion regarding a conflict between the Bingo Town Hall meeting and the parent teacher meetings. Fr. Bill commented that when he checked the schedule, there were no conflicts posted. The parent teacher conferences were not on the schedule. *(Follow-up... the school correctly reported last summer the parent teacher conferences on November 20<sup>th</sup> as from 3:30 to 8:00 pm, but the Parish Office incorrectly booked them from 8:00 am until 3:30 pm).*

**PTO:** - Julie Hawkins reported a Rummage Sale for seniors has been booked for Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8am until 2pm. There was some question about using Fr. Bill' garage to store the merchandise. The Pole Barn will be used instead.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society & SEM:** - Fr. Bill mentioned there are timing conflicts on drives for the needy between these two organizations. This might be something Parish Council might want to establish. Jerry Cain stated this would be something the Social Action Committee could do.

**Youth Ministry:** - Diane Brennan stated there are two field trips being planned. The first is December 14-19 as an Appalachian immersion and the other January 9-11 is a retreat at the Combonis.

A single's enrichment program for parishioners between the ages of 18-55 was also being planned. We have 223 single people in our parish. This would not be a dating or match making service, but would be adult formation in nature.

**Julyfest:** - Michelle Stultz gave the report and stated they are looking to make some major changes that would favorably impact profits in the longer term. The key was to have a bigger Bid 'n Buy. This would mean moving to a larger, new location. She asked for Council's approval based upon a document emailed to voting council members earlier in the day.

Fr. Bill stated he saw the proposed change report and did not think Festival needed Parish Council's approval for these changes.

Michelle also stated a new chair for Bid 'n Buy is needed. 2004 was also going to be the last year for Darline Foltz in Midway and the Johnson's who run the beer ticket sales.

**Booster's:** - Carl Lamping stated the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball teams were city champs. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball team came in second place.

Our Boosters also recently hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade city tournament here and good money was raised. It was pointed out that the west church parking lot was protected to allow patrons to park for the 4:30 Saturday Mass.

The practice screens and electric basketball rims are still in the long term plans.

Carl was asked if the ball game schedules could be on our web site. He stated it was the CYO site. Mike Gennett asked for the CYO web address so a link could be put on our web site.

**Misc.:** - Ray Neltner asked everyone to pray for Dee Archer's husband who had emergency surgery the end of last week.

There was nothing new to report on 804 Ohio Pike. Diane Brennan did say she was willing to volunteer her youth group to paint inside and outside of the house.

**Pastor's Report:** - Fr. Bill stated the new Guidebook is in the mail and should be in the homes any day.

Regarding Bingo, Fr. Bill stated he met with the Bingo Committee. The concept of a 4-chair leadership panel was discussed with 2 or 3 possible volunteer already to step up, but more were needed. He was hoping we could obtain some super volunteers to take this over.

The latest on priest allocations for the future was discussed. The convocation in Centerville recently discussed moving toward one priest per 5,500 Catholics in the diocese. In ten years, the number of priests would be half of what it is today.

**Coffee & Donuts:** - Duane Bradley gave the report. He is proposing a rotation be set up with 9 groups to serve coffee and donuts on the third Sunday of each month, beginning in January. Duane also is proposing a policy and procedure manual be written on how to set up and take down the event...leaving the Parish Hall in the same condition as it was before the event.

There was some discussion that this document could be used for all events in the Parish Hall. Some groups do a better job than others in cleaning the hall after events.

Mike Gennett was asked to check the calendar on January 18. Coffee & Donuts is already scheduled for that day from 9 AM until 1:30 PM. Duane was notified by email.

Duane did say they are planning to move forward and try to get this started after the 10AM and Noon Masses on the third Sunday of the month beginning in January.

**Future Projects:** - Ray Neltner asked everyone to think about what kind of special projects council could get involved with this year. He reminded everyone of the good work done last year on the Employee Benefit Manual and the Security Task Force. Ideas should be brought to the next meeting.

Some ideas that did come up included:

- Revising our on line and paper registration form to mirror what our new software input screens require.
- Preparing a Stewardship Census.
- Addressing our debt

**Other:** - Michelle Stultz asked that a sample of our Welcome Packet be brought to the next council meeting for review.

Fr. Bill asked for a representative to attend the Deanery meetings. They are held about once a month. Matt Malott volunteered provided there are no more meetings than one a month.

Ray Neltner stated that Darline Foltz did not want a public thank you for her years of service as our Bingo Chair. He would give her the DeSha's certificates and thank her on behalf of everyone.

**The next meeting is Monday, December 15, at 7:00 pm in the Library.**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM. Fr. Bill closed the meeting with a prayer.