

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, October 20, 2003**

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

Others in Attendance: Mike Gennett, Peg Fischer, Dee Archer, Julie Hawkins, Pete Bouley, and Jerry Cain. Margo Gerwe was the Youth Ministry representative.

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

Fr. Bill announced that David Lees had resigned his position as Parish Council President. Ray Neltner has been appointed the new President.

Reports were received in advance of the meeting from Education, Worship, DRE, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Festival, PTO, and St. Vincent de Paul.

(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, September 15th. Ray asked if there were any questions to the minutes. Mike Gennett reported he was asked to make some modifications to the Booster section of the minutes.

All requests by Carl Lamping to modify the Booster notes were accepted except for the closing comment piece regarding monitoring any future

developments. Fr. Bill stated he had made the comment and Duane Bradley also said it was important to watch the situation closely.

With the approved modifications, Matt Malott made the motion that the minutes be accepted. Duane Bradley seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the minutes were approved 6 to 0.

Finance Report: Mike Gennett gave the Finance Report.

The 2003-4 Guidebook has been put to bed and is being printed. It should be in all the homes by the end of the month.

The information regarding our ministries and services that is in the new Guidebook has been posted on the Internet. The goal is to have the Guidebook, Internet, and our pamphlets saying exactly the same thing.

The purchase of the house at 804 Ohio Pike is proceeding. A full inspection was conducted last week. There were no major issues. There are a couple of issues that will need to be addressed if the house is used by St. Vincent de Paul for housing. These include the heat grate (that gets very hot) in the floor and raising the electrical amps from 60 to 100. A new survey was taken on the property since some old deeds show some minor discrepancies. All in all, everything is proceeding as planned.

The 2004 Sunday envelopes will be issued after all Masses the weekend of November 15 and 16. We have a new vendor that initially seems to be doing a good job of paying a lot attention to the details.

The collection this past Sunday was not good. The number of envelopes returned was down 15.7% from the same Sunday last year. Since the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1, 16 Sundays have passed. The numbers of envelopes returned are down 8% to last year while the average amount in each envelope is up 10.9%. The average contribution has risen from \$22.74 to \$25.25.

Ray Neltner commented this past Sunday's shortfall can be partially attributed to the cancellation of CCD classes. Nice weather and Tall Stacks were also cited.

A report was issued and briefly discussed showing what our database shows in regards to the profile of the St. Thomas More member base. Some of the information needs to be cleaned up.

Ray Neltner asked if there was any feedback regarding the recent Sunday Stewardship talks. Both Fr. Bill and Mike Gennett said the responses were positive. The biggest comment was getting those who do not come to church to start to contribute.

PTO - Julie Hawkins reported that the money earned from the recent Oktoberfest had risen to \$1,400.

Worship/Deacon's Report - Jerry Cain gave an update regarding Parish Council's concern with the issues regarding Worship.

Jerry reported that David Lees came to him after the last Parish Council meeting with four concerns: (1) the hymn numbers (2) the sound system (3) the music program and (4) the servers.

(At this point no one in the room remembered any discussion regarding the servers at the last meeting.)

- (1) **The Hymn numbers.** There are three ways to communicate the hymn numbers: verbally announce them, use the hymn boards, or use a music aide.

The hymn boards are difficult to change especially between the 10:00 AM and Noon Sunday Mass. The Contemporary group does not have enough time to make the change. The Music Director also is not able to set-up the numbers for the other three Masses.

When the hymns were announced at Mass, it turns out that the microphones were not being used to make the announcements, The sliders on the mixer would be moved up for the Noon Mass and the sound would then be okay. The sound company has been here a couple of times and the volume has been turned up.

The Worship Commission is looking to add a "Greeter" program in the future that would include a worship aide. This new worship aide would be used as a program that would be handed to folks when they enter the church. Ray Neltner asked when this program would be in place and Jerry's response was it depended upon the number of responses he receives from the bulletin announcement on October 26th asking for Greeters.

Ray also asked if the music groups are not in favor of the hymn boards. Jerry reaffirmed that this was the case.

The "Greeter" position would be scheduled like the other ministries on the Ministry schedule.

- (2) **The Sound System.** The sound system has been turned up and there is no problem hearing what is being said. Monitors are going to be added to the Sanctuary. The delays have also been removed from the system.
- (3) **The Music Program.** The Archdiocese is in the process of auditing our entire music program. They will attend each of our Sunday Masses and make suggestions. This evaluation is being done by trained musicians.
- (4) **Servers.** Since no one remembers this issue being discussed, the comment was made that Michael Thomas continues to work with the servers.

Both Ray Neltner and Duane Bradley commented they have noticed positive changes in the music the past few weeks.

On other matters, Jerry reported that there were 13 new people that went through the Women's CHR program this past weekend. The next Men's weekend is scheduled for late January and a second Women's program will be held in May of 2004.

Twelve weddings are already scheduled for 2004.

Youth Ministry – Even though no written report was filed, Margo Gerwe gave a brief update. She stated the Kings Island trip was a huge success. A big project is in the works for Christmas.

Boosters – Even though no written report was filed, Pete Bouley, Booster Vice-President, gave the update.

The girls CYO season is underway and the boys sign ups are done. Girl's volleyball sign ups are now underway. Boys practice is starting and there are two more teams this year. Games start in December. The Fall Classic will take place over the Thanksgiving weekend and is now in the planning stage. 8th graders will be working the tournaments again this year to help raise money for their class trip.

St. Vincent de Paul - Fr. Bill mentioned that the house at 804 Ohio Pike would probably be a home for homeless families. The parish was receiving some donations to help the project. This would be finalized once the property has been sold to the parish.

It was discussed that the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas school donation program be expanded to include CCD. This would help the response to be much larger.

Festival – Michelle Stultz stated that the work on the 2004 Festival will begin in two weeks.

Bingo – Two issues were discussed: How to recognize Darline Foltz for her years of service and how to manage Bingo in the future.

A discussion took place how to honor and thank Darline. Fr. Bill suggested a \$75 gift certificate to DeSha's. (Mike Gennett and Julie Hawkins will handle the gift as a script.) Darline would be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to receive the certificate and receive a big thanks. Mike Gennett was asked to send Ray Neltner what he wrote about

Darline in the recent bulletin. Ray would also prepare an article about Darline for the next More About Us.

The Bingo subcommittee reported on their findings for the future of Bingo.

The BINGO Options were presented by Matt Malott and Bob Brennan:

1. Discontinue BINGO and find another revenue source
2. Find a chairperson and a team of 8 people willing to be at STM every Tuesday to insure seamless operation on a weekly basis. This is how St Veronica's has such success. Having the same team run BINGO every night makes a consistent "product" and therefore - they get a nice following.
 - a. If we can find 8 people willing to take this responsibility - **this would be the BEST** and most profitable option. Workers could fill in as needed, but the core must run BINGO every week.
3. De-centralized chair (only option including Gregg Gentile)
 - a. 1 Chair - responsible for BINGO strategy & marketing - maximizing revenue, forecasting & advertising
 - i. Will train team captains - so they can train and recruit their teams
 - ii. **Will not** be "BINGO man on-call" as Darline Foltz has been over the years
 - iii. **Will not** be available for phone calls every Tuesday night
 - iv. **Will not** be the complaint department
 - v. **Will not** be accountable for day to day operation (including stocking of materials)
 - b. 8 sub-chairs (Team captains) responsible and accountable for their team - recruiting, training, trouble shooting and staffing - STM **must enforce accountability** at the team level
 - i. Chair will train these 8 team captain volunteers
 - ii. If not enough volunteers - **STM will assign** a team captain (sub-chair)
 - iii. Team 8 captain accountable for developing and training new Kindergarten class
 - c. Supply manager
 - i. Volunteer or appointed by chairperson & finance manager

- ii. Will be solely responsible for all materials needed for complete operation of BINGO on a weekly basis
 - 1. Pull-tabs, paper BINGO sheets, daubers, paper bags, marquee statement
- iii. Would suggest someone that is at the school everyday (parish office)
- iv. Will be trained by chair
- d. Concession manager - currently Alicia Gavieries & Theresa Mahon
 - i. Volunteer or appointed by chairperson & finance manager

After the presentation was made, a discussion took place as to which option might work the best.

Fr. Bill reported the same problem came up at St. Andrews when he was there. There was going to be no Bingo leader. He called a mandatory Town Hall meeting of all school parents. He explained if Bingo was closed down, what the additional tuition costs per child would be for this year and each year thereafter. Leadership surfaced and many took responsibility.

Mike Gennett reported a vendor has already come in and written orders without a Purchase Order or authorization from Darline. It was generally agreed that without a new Chair our program would begin the slide. Also, the 2004 Bingo license application is due no later than December 15.

It was decided that Fr. Bill would have a meeting with the Bingo Captains and the Bingo Committee to discuss the matter.

Deanery Update - Fr. Bill gave the report. The latest information regarding clustering was presented.

Bethel and New Richmond are probably going to share a Priest beginning in July of 2004. Amelia & Batavia are looking to collaborate and share a Priest possibly in 2005. Owensville, Stonelick, and Williamsburg may also collaborate at some point.

Fr. Bill has asked about clustering a number of times in the Deanery. Our parish has offered to cluster and have been declined. We have offered to do our part.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Bill asked if anyone was interested in designing a Christmas ornament for the Cathedral representing our parish. Denise Dyer accepted the challenge.

Fr. Bill gave an update as to what has been accomplished since he became Pastor 2 years and 3 months ago:

- held three staff vision meetings
- established an Elizabeth Ministry
- established a Sunday Children's Liturgy
- instituted both men's and women's CHRP weekends
- established a MOMMS ministry
- established an all day Kindergarten
- planned an Engaged Couples evening
- held two World Marriage Dinners
- established a Helping Hands Ministry
- established a Hospitality Ministry
- established regularly scheduled Bible Studies
- instituted a Worship Commission
- began Evensong services
- began an annual Mass for Healing
- established a Martha Ministry
- installed the Memorial Garden

And soon to add:

- a formal Seniors program headed by Michael Thomas
- a Social Justice program
- a Parish Mission during Lent 2004
- broadening our hospitality...how can we be more hospitable to outsiders?
- opening our St. Vincent de Paul house

- possibly hold another Parish Council vision meeting next year

Ray Neltner suggested putting all these accomplishments in a “state of the parish” letter.

New Business

No one has come forward to take over Coffee & Donuts. Three school pancake breakfasts are being planned, but something needs to be held on the other Sundays other than fundraisers. It was mentioned that maybe some service organizations could take it over. Scouts were already exploring the issue.

Duane Bradley said he would contact the various organizations. Mike Gennett would provide the list of organizations to him.

A Silent Auction fundraiser was also discussed. Matt Malott and Bob Brennan would investigate the possibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM. Fr. Bill closed with a prayer.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 2003, at 7:00 PM in the Library.