

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, September 13, 2004**

**Council Members in Attendance:** Fr. Bill Wagner, Ray Neltner, Matt Malott, Michelle Stultz, Vic Ivers, Janet Tate, Ralph Bedel, Duane Bradley and Bob Brennan.

**Council Members Absent:** None

**Others in Attendance:** Mike Gennett, Katrina Shepherd, Rhonda Roberts, Diane Brennan, Darline Grieco, and Peg Fischer.

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

Ray welcomed new members Janet Tate and Ralph Bedel.

Reports were received in advance of the meeting from the Education Commission, Worship/CRHP, DRE, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, St. Vincent de Paul, Julyfest, PTO, Education, Boosters, Music, and Youth Ministry.

Reports were not filed in advance by the Senior's.

(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. All submitted reports follow the notes.)

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The last meeting was held on Monday, May 10th. Ray asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes.

There were no questions or issues raised. Vic Ivers made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Michelle Stultz seconded the motion. The vote to accept the minutes as written was 9 to 0.

**Business Manager Report:** Mike Gennett gave the report.

33 new Grotto bricks were sold over the summer and installed last week. The existing walkway was also repaired.

The Guidebook final proof is back and the printing should commence soon. The goal is to have the new Guidebook in the homes in mid-October.

Regarding the decree on Child Protection, we have now over 400 parishioners who have been certified in the program.

Stewardship Sunday is September 25-26. A member of the Finance Committee will speak at each Mass that weekend to thank those who pledged to increase their Sunday contribution.

Regarding the Parish Council list serv, you have to use the email address that is posted in the list serv to communicate with everyone. If you use an alternative address, it kicks you out of the system. If anyone wants to add additional email addresses, please let the Business Manager know.

**2003-4 Financial Results** - The Finance Committee certified the financial results of the parish in August. They will be inserted in the bulletin on Stewardship Sunday and in the next edition of More About Us.

During the past year, we had a very small operating surplus of \$5,201.44. This was achieved by good expense control by the staff and a turnaround in the Sunday collections based upon a campaign conducted in the spring. For those who pledged and contributed, we are very grateful.

Our small surplus was also positively impacted by \$13,418 in Bingo income which can no longer be relied on in the future. Bingo was suspended in January due to the lack of a Bingo coordinator. Also, an

additional \$5,002 in tuition was paid in advance for the following school year. Without these two additional revenue streams, we would have had an operating loss of \$13,218.

Furthermore, we continue to curtail most capital improvements in order to conserve funds. This will clearly have an impact in the longer term if we don't upgrade our buildings and facilities. We continue to perform all routine maintenance work.

Our expenses were further impacted by soaring health care costs, pension costs, and the mandatory paid subscriptions to the Catholic Telegraph as required by the diocese. These programs alone cost us \$50,000 more than the previous year. There is no end in sight to these rising costs along with the additional costs we now incur for fingerprinting. Our school payroll and costs continue to rise disproportional to the number of additional incoming students. The school marketing committee did make great strides in enrolling 22 additional children this year than last. That's an accomplishment most parishes can not claim!

We also made the smallest payment on our debt (\$40,000) since the 1998-9 building construction. Our debt remains very high and needs to be addressed. The interest on our debt continues to grow at a faster rate than we are able to pay on either the principal or the interest. This will hinder us with any plans to build in the future.

Our budget for this year has a projected deficit of \$85,000 that includes scheduled debt payments.

It is the opinion of the Business Manager that unless we can find additional income to fund the parish, we will not be able to fund new ideas, successfully build to accommodate our growth, and in turn will eventually hurt us competitively when looking at our neighboring parishes. Even though we have paid over \$900,000 in principal and interest on our debt since 2000, we still owe the diocese over \$1,462,000. We no longer can made meaningful payments on our debt and yet fund a full service, growing parish at the same time. Our debt is growing faster than we can pay at this time. Our interest is currently \$82,000 a year.

The topic of Bingo came up. Ray Neltner suggested this be reopened on a future agenda.

**Deacon's Report** - Fr. Bill gave the update.

There are a few changes to the Mass that are forthcoming. The two biggest changes are that the wine would be poured into the communion cups at the Offertory rather than at Communion time. The other change, which is still not totally clear, is the use of patens at Communion time. They use to be used prior to Vatican II along with Communion rails.

**DRE's Report** - Fr. Bill stated we will have 12-14 candidates in the RCIA program this year. Becky will also soon be receiving her diploma from the Athenaeum in the DRE program.

**School Report** - Peg Fischer stated the date for the Terra Nova testing in the report is incorrect. The test will be in October, not August.

Title V Funding for all schools has been suspended by Congress. This was \$1,600 a year for our school. Peg said she would email the list serv how to contact Congress to help get the funds restored.

The issue of a Butterfly Garden was tabled for a future meeting.

**PTO Report** - Katrina Shepherd stated the first general meeting is this Thursday. The first project of the new year is to get the Buddy Family Program running. The Max & Erma's get-togethers will be starting soon. 20% of the total bill including alcohol will be going to the PTO fund.

**JulyFest** - Rhonda Roberts gave the update.

The Festival's profit for 2004 is going to be \$74,152. When compared to 2003, it is down from \$83,548. The rain all three days hurt the Festival. However, the addition of the Texas Holdem' Tournament saved the event.

Without it, our profits would have been down even more. Everyone thanked Rhonda and Michelle Stultz for their efforts as co-chairs.

There were two topics on the Festival report for Council's review.

The first was acknowledging a couple of out going chairs for their long time service. Duane Bradley voiced a concern about singling out specific individuals and possibly leaving others out when compared to the past practices. Michelle Stultz stated the "past was the past". Peg Fischer suggested naming all the booth chairs and give the special thanks to the two outgoing chairs. Matt Malott stated he had some concerns, but felt it needed to be done. Fr. Bill stated it was not a problem to acknowledge them at a Sunday Mass as long as it was not a lengthily pageant.

Rhonda also reported that former chair Joyce Ryan was very ill and recommended a note be sent regarding our best wishes and prayers.

Ray Neltner said he would write both of the cards and the copy for the plaques.

**Youth Ministry** – Diane Brennan was asked by Matt Malott what happened to high school CCD. Diane explained the program was merged with the Youth Ministry. Matt felt this was not clear in that he had been approached by a couple of students who were not aware.

Diane mentioned the work on the 804 Ohio Pike home was nearing completion. The painting was done and the work on the floors was next. It was going to cost \$450-\$500 to get the floors done. The Youth Ministry would begin to sell candy to help raise money for the floors. There was also going to be a special giving tree for special needs for the house. Fr. Bill said this was great because it would avoid just anything being donated for tax write-off purposes.

**Boosters** – Fr. Bill stated concerns were being raised about a personal trainer in our parish gym. This appears to be a private business which causes some concern regarding our insurance and diocese policy regarding non-parishioner use of our parish facilities. Also, if the trainer has staff

members, he can not determine if they meet the diocese policy on Child Protection. They must be certified and receive his approval. Darlene Grieco, Booster Treasurer, stated she did not know about the trainer but would find out and report back at the next meeting.

A brief exchange took place regarding the cleaning of the gym floor. Mike Gennett stated that when the decision was made in 1997-8 to build the gym in lieu of classrooms an agreement was made between Fr. John Fischer (Pastor at the time) and Charlie Randolph (President at the time) that the Boosters were responsible for the maintenance of the gym. The parish would not absorb these costs.

Mike also stated that the new Booster board is trying very hard to change the image of the Boosters in the parish. He has been working with the new board and feels that with time everyone in the parish will have a more positive view toward this organization.

**Scouts** - The Scouts are looking at doing some mulching work on the playground.

**Seniors** - Fr. Bill stated he did not know all the specifics as to what they were doing, but they have been having lunches and are looking at some trips.

**Music** - A number of people commented that the liturgical music was much better. Comments include, "a huge difference", "people are now singing", "the new music director has a gorgeous voice", and "the kids are being handled well." Fr. Bill was thanked by everyone for making the change.

**Old Business - Volunteer Recruiting** - The subcommittee of Ray, Matt, and Vic are going to meet again to work on the "One and Done" concept. They asked if they could have Leslie Molitor help them and Fr. Bill approved the request.

**Old Business - Coffee and Donuts** - Ray Neltner requested prior to the meeting that a report be prepared noting what the Parish staff showed as schedule dates and groups for 2004-5. The following dates and groups were approved for the year:

Current schedule and responsible group:

September 26<sup>th</sup> - 9 am - 1:30 pm - YOUTH  
GROUP/JULYFEST

October 17<sup>th</sup> - 9 am - 1:30 pm - PARISH COUNCIL

November 14<sup>th</sup> - 9 am - 1:30 pm - GIRL SCOUTS

December 12<sup>th</sup> - 9 am - 1:30 pm - CUB SCOUTS

January 23<sup>rd</sup> - 9 am - 1:30 pm - YOUTH GROUP

February 20<sup>th</sup> - 9 am - 1:30 pm - GIRL SCOUTS  
(President's Day weekend)

March 20<sup>th</sup> - 9 am - 1:30 pm - *NO EVENT*  
**(Palm Sunday)**

April 17<sup>th</sup> - 9 am - 1:30 pm - PTO

May 15<sup>th</sup> - 9 am - 1:30 pm - BOY SCOUTS

June 19<sup>th</sup> - 9am - 1:30 pm - BOOSTERS  
(Father's Day)

A request was made that Mike Gennett email this list to everyone as soon as possible so there is no confusion as to the schedule. A copy of this list has also been emailed to Marty Young and Steve Feist.

Dunkin Donuts on Beechmont Avenue is closed for remodeling. Peg Fischer agreed to pick up the donuts for the Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> event at the Miami Township location.

Ray Neltner stated that Parish Council had ample time to prepare for their day, October 17<sup>th</sup>. He would be in touch with council members.

**Old Business - Parish Photo Directory** - Fr. Bill stated he still wants to do a photo directory. The last one was done in 1990. The steps that need to be taken are: select a company, get organizations to take pictures, and find a coordinator. He stated he would put something in the bulletin asking for a coordinator volunteer. Matt Malott said he would be willing to work on the company selection. Vic Ivers asked if the project was self-funding and Fr. Bill stated it was.

**New Business - Texas Holdem'** - There is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser planned for October 8, 9, and 10. This is a very small 8<sup>th</sup> grade class and the funds needed are going to be more than normal. Many of the costs are fixed, such as the bus, etc. Fr. Bill stated he has agreed to allow the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to keep the profits from the Texas Holdem event. They are planning to have some other gambling which those profits would go to the parish.

Duane Bradley voiced a concern about the 8<sup>th</sup> grade getting all the profits, but he felt better if the parish was going to make some money on the event. Duane said, "Since the parish has to pay for the gambling license, and that license only allows 2 gambling events per year, the parish needs to realize some revenue from this fund raiser."

Fr. Bill stated council must approve the use of our bingo-gambling license for the event. Matt Malott asked why the Batavia Gun Club continues to have gambling event after gambling event and we have to limit it to two events a year.



Everyone stated it must be clear that this is a one time only fundraiser for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Peg Fischer made the proposal that council approve the fundraiser for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and that the proceeds from the event be award to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class **one time only**. This would **not** be available to future 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

Michelle Stultz stated she did not want to vote because she has a child in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

A vote was taken and was approved 8 to 0, with one abstention (Michelle Stultz) that the class of 2005 would receive the profits from the one time Texas Holdem' event.

**Pastor's Report** - Fr. Bill gave his update.

**Classrooms** - we are going to be running out of space if the school continues to grow. It may be difficult to get a loan from the diocese because of a formula change. He may have to ask the Archbishop for an exception to build 4-6 classrooms.

**Heider Hall** - The building is starting to get some cracks in it due to its age. An engineering firm is doing a long term study. There is no safety issue and we probably will caulk the cracks in the near future. One of the issues that might arise out of the study is, "what do you do with the building? How will this impact the building of new classrooms?"

**Fundraising Committee** - the group will hold their first meeting on Wednesday, September 15. Everyone involved with raising funds is invited. The goal is to getting everything scheduled, look at vendor coordination, and develop possibilities. Rhonda Roberts was in charge of this project. Fr. Bill stated this was not going to be a big deal.

**Deanery Meeting** - There was a deanery meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Matt Malott attended the meeting with Fr. Bill. Every parish was represented by their Pastor except for Amelia & Greenfield.

The current news is that Bethel and New Richmond may share a priest starting in July, Amelia & Batavia are trying to share a priest, and Amelia continues not to be willing to talk with us about the process.

The diocese is working on setting up 100 pastoral regions. Each region will have about 2,000 Catholics. Fr. John Fischer is our deanery representative and he stated the process must include St. Thomas More.

Fr. Bill stated we could have been working with Amelia on this for some time. Right now, there are not enough Catholics for Amelia and Batavia to combine. But if you put the October count together for St. Thomas More (1339), Amelia (555), and Batavia (200) you have 2,000 Catholics. This combination makes the most practical sense. Eventually everyone will eventually have to talk and begin the planning process.

Currently, there are 38 people working on this task force. The priests must approve the deanery pastoral regions before submitting it to the Archbishop. All building construction and priest assignments may be on hold until this is completed and approved.

**Role of Parish Council** – Fr. Bill stated that Parish Council is an advisory board to the Pastor. They are a consultative body. The Finance Committee also exists and is advisory in nature, but is not connected to Parish Council. Parish Council can not debate Sacraments, theology, and church dogma.

**McNicholas High School** – The principal has asked to use our marquee to market the school. We are a feeder from our school to theirs. Last year, 28 of our 31 students went there.

**Blood Drive** – Fr. Bill stated he was okay with doing a blood drive.

**Army** – Fr. Bill is still trying to retire from the Army. If this does not happen, there is always the possibility he may be in Iraq someday. Many in his unit are there now.

**#1 Goal** – Fr. Bill’s number one goal this year is to work on the music program and the Sunday Liturgy. He stated he has recently received some unsigned complaints about the role of music in the liturgy. Those who are complaining do not understand the process. Duane Bradley said he was pleased with all the staff and a “lot of good stuff” is going on.

**Other** - There is still a need for a speaker for a retreat in 2005. A guitar has also been donated to the parish.

Ray Neltner closed the meeting at 9:04 PM. Fr. Bill led the group in a prayer.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2004, at 7 PM.**  
The meeting will be one week later than normal due to the Columbus Day holiday on October 11.

Reports follow....

(Please copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page. When completed, send via email to all parish council members at [parishcouncil@sttm.org](mailto:parishcouncil@sttm.org))

## St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: September, 2004

Committee Name: Faith Formation

Committee Reporter: Becky Ready, DRE

Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a few key highlights of activities):

CCD/PSR:

Sessions for grades one through eight begin with a parent and child orientation on September 12.

Also on this day the Children's Liturgy of the Word will resume at the 10:00 Mass. We have received six new volunteers to serve on our team of leaders.

On September 19 we will be celebrating Catechetical Sunday in honor of those parishioners who have chosen to be a part of the catechetical ministry in our parish. This is a celebration that occurs in all parishes all around the country on this day.

Also on September 19 there will be preschool parent and child orientation sessions. At 12:00 on this day I will be offering a child protection class.

The regular preschool sessions at the 10:00 Mass will begin on September 26 directed by our new Early Childhood Coordinator: Kristyn Jossart.

## SACRAMENTS:

Letters went home with all second graders in PSR and the STM school making parents aware of the important dates where attendance is required this year for the celebration of first reconciliation and first communion.

Our first gathering for first reconciliation will be Thursday, October 14, 7 – 8:30pm.

## RCIA:

Throughout the summer Inquiry sessions have been offered every fourth Wednesday of each month. The last inquiry session will be September 22 when the inquirers will be making a commitment to begin weekly session on Sundays.

Key activities over the next 2 months:

PSR begins a new year with an emphasis on lectionary instruction.

RCIA Sunday Sessions will begin October 3.

Reconciliation preparation begins October 14.

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

I will be needing hospitality support again this year.

For RCIA we will be sending letters to leaders of different ministries inviting them once again to come to the RCIA at 10:30am on Sunday mornings to bring “goodies” and to speak about their ministry.

Prayers for our youngest members at St. Thomas More to be instilled with a love for Christ and his Church as well as a desire to grow in their spiritual life.

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Parishcouncil mailing list

## **St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report**

**Month:** September 10, 2004  
**Committee Name:** STM Education Committee  
**Committee Reporter:** Peg Fischer, Principal

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### **Highlights/Key Current Activities**

School started on August 24 with 307 students; this is an increase of 21 students. Particular growth was seen in our kindergarten program. Three new teachers were added to our staff: Amy Burns, grade 1; Mary Ann Lambert, grade 5; and Kathy Merman, grade 6. With the addition of a second fifth grade and a third kindergarten (an additional half-day program) we have 16 homerooms.

The school has been awarded a \$2000 grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities to install classroom sound amplification systems. Two infrared systems have been installed in the kindergarten classrooms. The project was initiated as a response to a parishioner with a hearing-impaired child. The student's older sibling attends St. Thomas More, and the parent wanted her younger son to attend. Research on the project indicated that sound amplification provides significant benefit to young learners; our goal is to eventually provide sound amplification in all primary grade rooms. Additional funding sources are being explored.

Two new members have been added to STMEC: Dick Schuler and Beth Farr. Additional applications are being reviewed by Fr. Bill.

### **Key activities over the next 2 months:**

Terra Nova Testing will begin the first week of August. Our annual Magazine Drive will start September 30. October is typically data collection month, with reports due to the Archdiocese, state of Ohio and Catholic Conference.

After school instruction in foreign language has been a frequent request from our parents. Programs are being investigated to fill this need; any programs will be self-funded (similar to our Band program.)

Staff and parent support for an Economics Education program is being explored; the University of Cincinnati has a curriculum designed for elementary schools. Grades 4-8 will be participating in the "Kids Voting" program.

**What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?**

Prayers, always.

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**St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report**

Month: September, 2004

Committee Name: Boosters

Committee Reporter: Laura Allen/Darlene Grieco

Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a few key highlights of activities)

- This summer the gym floor was refinished at a discounted rate of \$750 by parishioner, Kevin Mulloney. Floor refinishing in a gym our size is a multi-thousand dollar expense, so we are truly grateful to Kevin for the donation of his time and talent again this year. This expense is also something to consider as future uses of the gym are evaluated. With proper care, we can cut down on the frequency of floor refinishing as well.
- The annual golf outing was held August 21, 2004 at Lindale Golf Course. We met budget for the event.

- Girls fall basketball and cheerleading are under way.
  - Saturday gym parking restrictions will continue, i.e. use of the no parking cones.
  - The gym was re-keyed just before Labor Day due to missing keys.
  - Child protection compliance is being closely monitored by the Board and the AD in conjunction with the Business Manager and Parish Secretary as facilities are reserved.
- Key activities over the next 2 months
    - Girls fall basketball will wind down in November.
    - The annual Fall Classic Boys Basketball Tournament will be held in November
    - We are trying to start a new volleyball pre-season tournament

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Nothing at this time.

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### St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: September 2004

Committee Name: JulyFest 2004

Committee Reporter: Michelle Stultz and Rhonda Roberts

■ Highlights/Key Current Activities:

*A Financial report will be issued at Parish Council meeting.*

*The weather held down our attendance and therefore our numbers.*

*The changes that were made seemed to work well, however we will evaluate this at our wrap-up meeting on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

*The Texas Hold Em was a lifesaver and did very well.*

*We had an issue with the Grand Raffle Prize Winner— we finalized*



*that on August 16<sup>th</sup> thanks to Fr. Bill. The Grand Raffle Prize was donated by the Lamberts to the Comboni Missions.*

*Our wrap-up meeting will be held on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> with all chairs*

*We have welcomed Dave McCarthy into the ranks of "Co-chair" he is an invaluable component of JulyFest.*

- Key activities over the next 2 months:

*Begin Planning for JulyFest 2005*

- What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council :

- 1) *Notes of appreciation to Darline Foltz; and Kathy/Gene Johnson for their years of service to JulyFest. We would like to have plaques made thanking them for their service and would like to present them during a Mass if that would be acceptable with Fr. Bill*
- 2) *A get-well or thinking of you card for previous JulyFest chair, Joyce Ryan, who has been quite ill and has been hospitalized recently.*

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## Parish Council Committee Report Form

(Please copy and paste to a Microsoft Word Page. When completed, send via email to all parish council members at [parishcouncil@sttm.org](mailto:parishcouncil@sttm.org) ).

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<b>St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report</b>
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Month: September 2004

Committee Name: Youth Ministry

Committee Reporter: Diane Brennan

■ **Highlights/Key Current Activities:**

- 1- Youth event 9/11/04 here in church expect ~150 or more to benefit the food bank
- 2- 2- going to Appalachia for a immersion in Dec. with ROC members to donate toys and do service work for Project Merry Christmas
- 3- Confirmation plans are well under way for 2005!
- 4- Members are working on a larger service focus: Little Pink House needs floors to be finished and will be complete
- 5- painting for the Walnut Hills Soup Kitchen is in the works
- 6- Students and families have been participating in stronger numbers as lectors, Eucharist ministers, Greeters, welcome group, choirs and expect that to continue to increase
- 7-9/19/04 Paper Moon teaching youth to rubber stamp in More Martyr Hall
- 8- Social Justice and youth ministry will team up to bring Nora Stanger to speak on Appalachia on Oct. 3 for a Potluck supper at 6:30pm here in church
- 9-Looking to involve total youth to feel identified as members of youth ministry in all areas of parish life, an all welcome mentality.

■ Key activities over the next 2 months: as above

■ What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council? None at this time!

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i will not be able to attend the meeting do to a conflict with svdp meeting.

Month: Sept

Committee Name: St Vincent de Paul

Committee Reporter: Bob Guenther

Highlights/ Key Activities: The final touches are being made to the "little pink house". A special thanks to Diane Brennan and the Youth Ministry for all of their hard work. We now need to work out remaining processes. We will meet with Father B. and Mike G. to accomplish that.

Deanery quarterly mass and communion breakfast will be held at St Bernadette on Sept 12.

We are working with Michael T. and the Social Justice Commission to expand our ministry to visit the sick, bring communion to shut-ins and to possibly begin a prison (jail) ministry. To do so we need more members. Information regarding this will be published in future bulletins and More About Us.

Key/Activities Over Next Two Months: Get the homeless shelter operational. Recruit more members.

Help/Support From Parish Council: Support our homeless shelter when needed.

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Parishcouncil mailing list

Parishcouncil@sttm.org

<https://mailman.quic.net/sttm.org/listinfo/parishcouncil>

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## **St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report**

Month: September, 2004

Committee Name: Deacon's report

Committee Reporter: Deacon Jerry

■ Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a

few key highlights of activities):

The wedding season is winding down with the totals for the year:

15 weddings @ STTM, 5 convalidations, 3 prepared for out of town.

Both men and women CRHP in formation: Women's weekend Oct 23-24, 2004. Men's weekend Jan. 29-30, 2005

Worship Commission will meet Sept. 23 after not meeting through the summer.

■ Key activities over the next 2 months:

Women's CRHP weekend. Hope to get the Worship commission reorganized and look forward to working with our new music director.

■ What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Thanks for your support in the music search and continued support for Christ Renews His Parish.

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**St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report**

Month: September 2004

Committee Name: PTO

Committee Reporter: Katrina Shepherd

- Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a few key highlights of activities)

First PTO meeting is 9/16/04 at 7:00 pm. The Buddy Family Gathering will

start at 6:30 pm in the PDR. We will have refreshments and explain key fundraisers and committees.

We will have the first lunch/dinner at Max and Erma's Eastgate on 9/22/04

and 9/23/04. Max and Erma' will give STM 20% of sales from customers with flyer we will provide to parish/school members.

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- Key activities over the next 2 months

Guest speaker Jim Bisenius will be at the second PTO meeting, which is scheduled for 10/13/04. We also hope to kick off a new fundraiser with a

Company called Butterbraid. Butterbraid has very tasty pastries that are sure to be a hit for the holiday season.

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What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

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Encourage families that have a new Buddy Family to get their new buddies to come to PTO meetings and answer any questions they may have.

Encourage parish members to dine at Max and Erma's on 9/22/04 and 9/23/04 with flyer to get 20% of sales for STM school.

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Month: September

Committee Name: Girl Scouts

Committee Reporter: Theresa Bradley

- Highlights/Key Current Activities
  1. We are currently registering girls for this school year. We have troops established in grades 1-7 and are assembling a kindergarten troop. Our numbers continue to grow as our school adds more classes.
  2. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade troop had a wonderful time attending Troop Adventure Camp at Camp Stoneybrook in Waynesville from August 1-4.
  3. Many members of our various STM Girl Scout troops attended a service unit wide day camp at Sycamore Park in Batavia on August 1. They were joined by other scouts from Merwin and WT.
  
- Key activities over the next 2 months
  1. All STM troop levels will once again be taking part in a service unit lock-in held at the Clemont YMCA on Saturday, November 6.
  2. All STM troops will be working on a community service project with other troops in our service area. Our Girl Scouts will be collecting donated items needed to fill 100 Personal Care Boxes to be distributed by the YWCA in Batavia around Christmas time. These boxes will be

stuffed, and wrapped by the girls during our lock-in in November.

3. Religious medals: The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade troop will be working to complete the requirements for the "Family of God" medal and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade troop will be working to complete the requirements for the "I Live My Faith" medal. Both troops plan to be prepared to receive the medals during the Scout mass on Saturday, February 5.

### **What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?**

Thank you again for your prayers and support as we continue to guide our youth.

## **St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report**

**Month:** September, 2004  
**Committee Name:** Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts

Committee Reporter: **Dee Archer**

### Highlights/Key Current Activities:

Boy Scouts

- **Court of Honor** held August 29 at the picnic shelter. A number of Scouts were awarded merit badges and advanced in rank.

- **Survival Camp** September 24-26 in Mt. Orab. Survival skills, camping, fishing.

- **New Trailer** - We are shopping for a badly needed new trailer for our supplies.

#### Cub Scouts

- **School Sign-Up Night** - September 16, 2004, 5:30-7pm. For New Scouts only.
- **Service Project** - Scouts are planning a service project to honor the 1,000 servicemen and women who have died during the war in Iraq. The local Vietnam Veterans are helping us with this undertaking.
- **Pack Meeting** - Our first Pack Meeting of the school year will be September 22 at the picnic shelter.

#### Key activities over the next 2 months:

#### Boy Scouts

- **Peterloon** - Our Troop is currently gearing up for this event October 15-17, which brings about 4,000 Boy Scouts from all over the country (and from other countries) to Camp Friedlander. The boys are currently putting together the plans to build our Troop's gateway for this jamboree.
- **Renaissance Festival** - The Troop will attend and camp in the area in October.
- **Ten Commandments Hike** - October 30 in Montgomery, Ohio

#### Cub Scouts

- **Popcorn Sale** - Our annual sale begins October 2.
- **Pack Halloween Event** - Turpin "Maize" October 22.

#### What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Opportunities for community service.



## St. Thomas More Parish Council Committee Report

Month: September

Committee Name: Music Ministry

Committee Reporter: Margaret Osinski

Highlights/Key Current Activities (This is not intended to be a laundry list of everything the committee is doing, but rather a few key highlights of activities)

Choir rehearsals have begun; they have had three rehearsals and currently have 12 members. Some members sing at the 4:30 mass. About half of the members are new. The first meeting for the Children's choir met on September 7th. Although there were only three children in attendance, I have had several e-mails and personal communications from interested potential members.

Key activities over the next 2 months

The first rehearsal for the children's choir will be on September 28th. Preparation for Advent and Christmas will begin soon.

What specific help/support is needed from Parish Council?

Spreading the word and encouraging any and all to participate in the music ministry along with clear and loud singing from the pews is greatly appreciated. Also if anyone knows of some guitarists who could play at mass, I would love to speak to them.