

St. Thomas Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting
January 19, 2017
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS:

Father Mariusz Majewski: Pastor
Ellen Jaeger: President
Joe Dahmen: Vice-President
Pat Lenz: Recording Secretary

Robert Valencia
Dixie Reid
Andy Finney

Opening Prayer: Father Mariusz
Ellen called the meeting to order.

Minutes were read and approved from the previous meeting with a motion from Ellen and a second from Dixie.

Parish Nurse Program

Presentation by Diane Rutherford and Barbara Neely with Linda Eaton and Diana Decker in attendance.

Diane and Barbara presented information to the Council regarding establishing a Health Ministry for St. Thomas Parish. This program would provide a parish nurse to help educate parishioners about health prevention and wellness. It would also guide parishioners to community services they might need. The program would require a budget for printing and office supplies along with an office that provided privacy for meetings with individuals. Services would include reaching out to expectant mothers, blood pressure screening, and health fairs. This is a parish ministry not a community service. The Council discussed the benefits of a Parish Nursing Program and agreed that the program would benefit the parish.

Holy Family Catholic School

A student from HFCS, Owen Keith, was in attendance to inform the Council about a raffle fundraiser for the school. Tickets are available for a chance to win a 2016 Chrysler 300 automobile with only 750 tickets being sold.

Committee Reports:

Legacy Moves Forward: Ellen Jaeger and Joe Dahmen

Many donors have stepped forward to have rooms named in honor of their families or designated person. Only a few rooms are left without donors. There has been a good response to letters sent out to parishioners for donations. Jim Faucher will be following up with phone calls to those who have not responded. Currently, the campaign has 65% of its goal with \$723,236 in cash and pledges. Seven hundred seventy thousand in cash will be needed to begin construction, 70% of the goal.

The summer fundraising event continues to be organized with Duane and Lola Hagadone donating their residence, food, invitations to the event and boat transportation for attendees. The committee is discussing a silent auction and entertaining multiple possibilities for a speaker at the event. There will be 500 tickets sold at \$100 a piece.

Social/Hospitality Committee: Robert Valencia

More members are needed for the Social/Hospitality Committee. A notice will be put in the weekly bulletin and Father will mention the need at each Mass.

Jennifer McDonald will once again chair the Parish Picnic this summer. The location has already been reserved for the fourth Sunday in July. There is a core group of people who are committed to work on the picnic. Robert Valencia submitted a written summary of last year's Parish Picnic.

The Council continued to discuss possibilities for welcoming new parishioners. A possible option is pamphlets with photographs of St. Thomas during the various seasons. Father commented that the parish continues to grow with four new families joining last month.

Charity Committee: Dixie Reid

Dixie reported that more work needs to be done to identify parishioners who are taking communion to the sick and elderly. There is no information currently tracking those who minister and those who are served.

The Charity/Outreach Committee has approximately 14 people who have volunteered to help with Dixie leading the committee. Dixie presented the Council with the requested Mission Statement and Goals for the Charity Committee.

Liturgy Committee: Father Mariusz

Sally Klaumpe is overseeing the music ministry for St. Thomas. She has begun weekly practices and has introduced the new mass setting for music. More people are needed to participate. Announcements requesting volunteers will be in the weekly bulletin and Father will make pulpit announcements. John Kaestilic continues to direct and train altar servers for mass.

Building Committee: Pat Lenz

The ice build up and large icicles hanging from the roof was discussed along with possibilities of how to correct the situation. Obviously, the heat tape is not working and will need to be fixed. In other business, the new stoves have been installed in the Parish Hall kitchen and are working well. The Building Committee had to cancel its scheduled meeting due to illness. The committee will be discussing Jeff Clay's upcoming evaluation and also the goals of the Building Committee for 2016 at its next scheduled meeting.

Religious & Adult Education: Father Mariusz, Joe Dahmen, and Andy Finney

Joe Dahmen and Andy Finney submitted notes regarding religious education. All classes and bible studies have resumed from the Christmas break. A Bible Study of Matthew: The King and His Kingdom will begin in March. Registration forms are at the exits of the church. Immaculate Heart Retreat Center will be hosting dinners and a series titled *Historical Connections from the effects of the Reformation and the Catholic Church in America, to the Middle Eastern Conflict and its Effect Today*. The first dinner/session will be on January 31, 2017. The cost for the dinner is \$38 per person.

Other Business:

Serra Club will host Sister Eucharista as a guest speaker at a parishwide event on April 1st after the 8:00 and 10:00 Masses. A new program called the Traveling Chalice will be introduced soon. The chalice will be presented to an individual parishioner or family at mass to take home for a week and pray for vocations.

The Ecumenical Food Kitchen requested each church participating in the food kitchen to donate \$150 to replenish its staple goods. The Council approved this expenditure.

Dynamic Catholic: Robert Valencia

On May 6th Dynamic Catholic will be hosting an event at St. Thomas titled *Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission*. Four hundred tickets will be sold at \$20.00 a piece. All three parishes and HFCS will be selling the tickets. The Dynamic Catholic organization will also advertise on an I-90 billboard.

Father reported the new website construction is still underway. St. Thomas will be using *Our Sunday Visitor* domain.

Nominations for openings on the Parish Council are scheduled for May. The Council discussed last year's voting procedures. There was a glitch last year with ballots being placed in the collection basket versus the ballot box even though Father gave specific directions about the process. Ballots put into the collection basket instead of the ballot box resulted in those votes not being counted in the election as they were not discovered until the following Monday.

Ellen Jaeger will be gone for the next few months and will not be in attendance for a few Council meetings. She will send an agenda and any other material to Pat for printing and distribution.

Father Mariusz and Andy Finney will also be gone April 29th through May 14th while they travel to the Holy Land.

New Business:

Dates for the upcoming meetings are February 16th, March 16th, April 20th, May 18th, and June 15th.

Ellen closed the meeting. Father Mariusz led the Council in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Lenz

Parish Recording Secretary

Next Council meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2017; 6:00 p.m. – Mission House