

St. Thomas Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting
April 20, 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 by the council members. Father asked for a revision of the notes regarding the council's discussion of the parish renting space for private events. He asked for and the council agreed to the addition of the statement, "After the Mission House renovations are complete, the council will make a decision regarding renting space for private events" at the end of the paragraph noting the council's discussion in the March parish council minutes. The minutes were then approved with a motion by Dixie Reid and a second from Robert Valencia.

Charity Committee: Dixie Reid

Dixie reported on the following:

- The new parish nursing program is ready to begin serving the parish with a start date of May 22nd. There will be an official announcement made to the parish on May 20th. Brochures will be available for parishioners. Office space for the new program will be in the Mission House. Barbara Neely and Diane Rutherford, parish nurses, will use their personal cell phones for the time being. CPR training has been scheduled for June. Ushers will be encouraged to attend. Barbara is also installing first aid kits in the Church, Mission House, and the Parish Center.
- Shannon Sicilia, St. Thomas' new receptionist, will be overseeing the creation of a prayer chain. She has established a link on the Parish website for parishioners in need of prayer. Several people have already volunteered to make phone calls. Standards for confidentiality in the process has been created to ensure parishioners will feel secure in sharing their problems and requests.
- Kathy Barger attended a St. Pius class on *Toolbox of Resources for the Aging Population*. The information provided at the class will be invaluable for setting up resources for those in need.
- Susan Walker will be setting up a Stewardship Weekend to present information concerning the various ministries and organizations of St. Thomas. These events will happen in the Spring and Fall of each year. Each ministry/organization will be encouraged to set up a table with information about their group. Incentives will be created to encourage each group to be represented.
- The committee wants to develop a pie chart that would show each St. Thomas ministry/organization with contact information for the group. This would be used at the Stewardship Weekends and be on display at the back of the church.

Liturgy Committee: Father Mariusz

Father reported everything went well for Lent and the Easter Triduum. There was good attendance at the reconciliation service for Lent and the Easter masses at 8:00 and 10:00 were overflowing. More parishioners need to be encouraged to attend the Easter Vigil. There were also seven new baptisms this month. Upcoming events are the Dynamic Catholic presentation on May 6th along with a St. Pius workshop on marriage on the same day.

Social/Hospitality Committee: Ellen Jaeger and Robert Valencia

- After Mass Socials – There has been good feedback concerning the increase of days for the Coffee/Donut and Wine and Cheese Socials after mass. In June, the socials will be twice monthly on the first and third Saturday/Sunday. There has been discussion of having nametags for new parishioners at these events.
- Work is proceeding on the development of a new parishioners packet. Dixie suggested posting pictures of new parishioners on poster board in the back of the church and possibly on the website.
- The first meeting for the parish picnic is scheduled for April 25th. The picnic is scheduled for July 23rd. The same activities will be available for children. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and lemonade will be provided. Parishioners will be asked to bring side dishes and desserts. Jennifer McDonald, last year's chairman, will not be able to chair this year. There is an anticipation of more attendance this year due to the changes in parking and the installation of the carousel. Joe Dahmen will contact Lee Lamb at HFCS to ensure the school is represented at the picnic.

Building Committee: Pat Lenz and Father Mariusz

The Building Committee met on April 4th and the members walked through the parish buildings and grounds. The committee addressed the following issues.

- Jeff will be securing a bid from Great Floors for replacing the flooring in the pantry, kitchen, stairs, and other small areas. Pat will follow up with Jeff on the bid proposal.
- Jeff was given a credit card with a \$500 limit to make supply purchases.
- Daily reports will be written by Jeff with expanded notes to inform the committee and Father about the maintenance and needs of each building.
- During the walk through, it was noted that many maintenance projects have not been completed and need to be addressed. The glass blocks in the Parish Center being one of them. Several have been broken over the years and need to be replaced.
- One of the pressing issues is the heat tape for snow and ice build up during the winter. This project will be done this summer.

Religious & Adult Education: Joe Dahmen and Andy Finney

Joe and Andy reported there were seven to eight baptisms at the Easter Vigil. There will be twenty-three First Communions on April 23rd. Andy gave an update for the Serra Club who will be inviting people to share their vocation stories. Presently, seminarians are raising money to go to Africa. The bible study continues to meet with good attendance.

Legacy Moves Forward: Ellen Jaeger and Joe Dahmen

- Total donations for the Mission House are \$571,520 in cash and \$304,250 in pledges. The target date for completion of the formal fundraising campaign is Pentecost Sunday, June 4th. In order to begin construction on the project, the diocese requires 70% of the \$1/1 million dollar budget in hand. We need \$198,440 more in cash to reach that goal.
- There are still naming opportunities for rooms in the Mission House.
- Potential speakers are still being sought for the Summer Garden Event at Duane and Lola's Hagadone home to raise funds for the campaign.
- A push will be made in the month of May to increase the donations. People will be scheduled to speak at each mass.

Old Business

Joe asked to make a comment regarding the Parish Council's previous discussion on private party events being scheduled at St. Thomas. He stated St. Thomas should have a goal of being "community based". The Council discussed various aspects of private party events including having a person in charge of

scheduling events and overseeing them and creating legal documents to protect the interests of the church. The consensus of the council was to table discussion and decisions until the Mission House project is complete.

New Business:

- The council read and confirmed the by-laws for the procedures regarding annual nominations and voting of new council members. Voting procedures will need to be made clear to parishioners. Nominations will be at all masses on May 13th and 14th. Biographies and pictures of the nominated parishioners will be made available the next week. The June Parish Council meeting will be on June 15th with old and new council members present. The meeting will take place at Ellen Jaeger's residence.
- Pat suggested the council and St. Thomas at large should send Father Roger a thank you for his years of service in our area. Father reported there will be a goodbye mass on June 4th. The council agreed St. Thomas should present him with a gift. A special collection will take place for parishioners to contribute and send Father Roger best wishes on his retirement. The collection will take place outside similar to the St. Vincent collection. Father Mariusz will announce it on May 20th and the collection will take place on May 27th.
- The next meeting will be on May 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Mission House.

Father led the Council in a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Lenz
Parish Recording Secretary