

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

## MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2007, 7:00pm Parish Conference Room

### 1) ATTENDANCE

#### **Present**

Members:

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Fr. Kieran Kleczewski    | Lory Charnetsky |
| Jerry Briner (president) | Jennifer Henze  |
| Ed Lavin                 | Jojo Concepcion |
| Helen Morton             | Caren Bailey    |
| Nathan Cottrell          | Tim Molnar      |

### 2) OPENING PRAYER

Jerry Briner called the meeting to order.

Fr. Kieran Kleczewski offered the opening prayer

### 3) APPROVAL OF OLD MINUTES

Jerry Briner requested a discussion or motion for approval of October 17, 2006 meeting minutes.  
Approved unanimously.

### 4) SCHEDULED DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### a) Report on Generations of Faith campaign - Fr. Kieran

- Discussed the number of active parishioners vs. inactive.  
3000 active families, 2000 inactive  
The inactive families were reviewed to determine their status  
Estimated 1000 are not in the area any more, 500 chose not to use envelopes, and 500 don't come regularly. An accurate number of families would then be between 3500 and 4000.
- 1000 pledges have been received to date (26% response)
- Pledge value is roughly 3.1 million
- The goal is to finalize the pledges by the end of May, with the last Sunday in May having a special 1-time pledge opportunity.
- People will have an opportunity to chose to extend previous building fund commitments in lieu of starting a new one.
- There will be follow ups on the parish activity for the next 3 years (4 times per year) to allow new parishioners to join in the pledges and contribute.
- Previous campaigns have received varying responses. 50% for the initial church building fund. 19% for the St. Clair Hall and the arcades

b) Parish camp opportunity in Prescott - Fr. Kieran

- The camp is Camp Patterdale Pines and is leased from the National Forest Service. It's adjacent to the Girl Scout camp grounds. The camp has been relatively unused for 10-12 years.
- There is a main building that is a 3500 sq.ft. log house with 7 bedrooms and a commercial kitchen.
- There is an option to pick up the lease on the property for \$1500 per year. However there is substantial work that needs to be done to the site.
  1. The building needs to be re-roofed
  2. There are 3 trailers onsite that are unused and should be removed
  3. There is a roof structure (open sides) that could be enclosed to add additional rooms/bathrooms/etc.
  4. Fr. Kieran is looking for a group to sponsor the site to be responsible for the work that needs to be done. He will be meeting to discuss this with the Men's Club.

c) Review of this year's parish activities

- Tim Molnar - The new bulletin format is excellent. Fr. Kieran indicated that this new format is due to a new contract with a different publishing company. The new contract provides significantly more revenue to the parish, while providing the higher quality bulletin.
- Caren Bailey – The campaign picnic was a success. There was a good turnout and many activities for all to enjoy.
- Tim Molnar – The music program is very well done. Including the music at mass, and the concert series.
- Lory Charnetsky – Can a town hall format meeting be arranged that would give people an opportunity to talk with Fr. Kieran?
- Caren Bailey – the parish ball was a success.
- Jojo Concepcion – can a bulletin board be created in the foyer to simplify some of the group announcements
  - Fr. Kieran suggested that it wouldn't be beneficial. It would end up not being maintained and people wouldn't read the items.
- Helen Morton – the gift shop is doing well. It is being staffed by volunteers and is proving to be profitable. The irregular hours are not the best, but it allows the shop to be run by volunteers instead of paid staff, which keeps the costs down.
- Sister Fran received the teacher of the month award. She is eligible now for teacher of the year.

5) OTHER ISSUES / NEW BUSINESS

a) Other issues

- Fr. Kieran indicated that the parish is looking for creative ways to lease/create a 2<sup>nd</sup> campus possibly, or other creative ways to expand the school facilities sooner with the current financial issues.
- The Diocese of Phoenix will be dissolved soon, which open the door for the parish to receive direct loans and/or be more creative in the financing options.
- Lory Charnetsky – The first year of the Suma quarterly is complete and a decision needs to be made to continue it or not. The cost of the quarterly is roughly 50-cents

per mailing. Everyone agreed that it is a quality publication and is valuable as an extension to the weekly bulletin. A parish wide survey of its effectiveness is not recommended however. The general consensus (it was not officially voted on) by the council was that it should be continued for an additional year at least.

Lory indicated that she needs additional writers and an editor to continue the quarterly. School children or college students may be a prime group to volunteer for articles.

The next issue will be in September/October.

b) New parish activities

- Jerry Briner – Is there a desire to have a retreat for the council over the summer? Jojo suggested a trip up to the Prescott camp site, staying overnight at a nearby hotel. A good time for the retreat would be the end of August. Ed, Jerry, and Nate will work together on an agenda.

c) Thank you to Lt. Colonel Tim Molnar

Tim is being transferred to Ogden Utah in July. Everyone thanked him for his participation in the council. Tim was very appreciative of the parish and said many good things about St. Thomas Aquinas in comparison to other parishes he has attended.

6) SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be September 11, 2007. Time not discussed. Prior to this meeting will most likely be the summer retreat. Time and date not yet determined.

7) CLOSING PRAYER

Helen Morton offered the closing prayer.  
Adjournment.