

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2007, 9:00am Holiday Inn Conference Room - Prescott

1) ATTENDANCE

Present

Members:

Fr. Kieran Kleczewski

Lory Charnetsky

Jerry Briner (president)

Ed Lavin

Jojo Concepcion

Nathan Cottrell

Helen Morton

Caren Bailey

Fr. Rafael

2) OPENING PRAYER

Fr kieran – opening prayer

3) APPROVAL OF OLD MINUTES

Jerry opened meeting

4) SCHEDULED DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Discussion of goals, as outlined in the proposed agenda

- Improve communication with the parish and the Catholic Community at large

Helen brought up “thank you dinners” for different committees. It’s not possible to do individually, but one dinner/pot luck for all ministries is a good idea. The date is in the fall so everyone will be present (back from summer travels). However, the parish doesn’t do the dinner; each group must organize it and do it themselves.

Comments about SUMMA –

Should we put in obituaries? Possibly title it “rest in peace”.

SUMMA should be out by October – all who have died in the previous quarter

SUMMA – next 3 issues are looking good for content

Lory is still looking for an editor to help out.

The last date for submittal of items to the October issue is the end of August. It will go to the printers' by mid September, ready for issue by October

There are too many music events to include in the Calendar – Mathew needs to do his own calendar for those.

Get pictures of the council – at Prescott meeting, and another one with the Bishop?? Get it into SUMMA

Discussion of ministry meetings -

Jerry will work on the next one in November, and Jojo volunteered for the one in May. They are typically on a Saturday morning.

Jojo – is there a possibility of joining the ministry fair in May together with the family picnic?

Jerry – at the ministry meetings, a portion of the discussion should be devoted to teaching/learning how to get each ministry to recruit successfully.

There is a list of ministries on the website – can there a blurb in the bulletin/SUMMA telling people to look on the website? A link to the website could be added to the phone #listing in the bulletin.

New parishioner recruiting -

Fr. Kieran said there are welcome letters sent out for all new parishioners, and about 1 out of 10 volunteer for a committee. Leaders of ministries need to learn how to follow up with them immediately. It should be a topic of a discussion item at the November ministry meeting.

There are welcome meetings held once a month for new parishioners.

We have a good amount of volunteers in the parish, just not necessarily the ones with the means to head event and/or take charge. Most people will more readily volunteer when it's a specific event – volunteering for open ended duties are tough.

- Support and promote education for all age levels

Fr. Raphael is discouraged about the turnout for the adult speeches.

It is difficult to bring in the speakers. Booking them farther in advance would help, and may improve the turnout as well. Open meeting style works better than the speech style and may improve turnout.

His goal is to bring in 3 local speakers and 2 national speakers. This should be possible with the current limited budget.

The new program of CD roms is working very well.

15 MINUTE BREAK

5) OTHER ISSUES / NEW BUSINESS

- Election of President and secretary. Jerry was nominated to return as president and Nate was nominated to return as secretary. Nominations by Lory, seconded by Helen. Unanimous vote by all present.
- Nate to follow up with webmaster for minutes of meetings on the website
- Additional nominations – 1 from military Ed to provide name of someone for Fr. Kieran to nominate.
- Jerry will run notice in bulletin for new members to send in resumes. The council to consider those at the October meeting.
- Typically have 8 to 10 members for the council. Fr. Kieran to nominate the one (military) the council will nominate one or possibly two

Jojo / Fr. K. – discuss theme for the following year

- The theme from last year unofficially was the stewardship campaign. It worked well.
- Discussed the idea of “the year of the Eucharist”
 - In addition to Friday adoration, it is possible to add other activities to celebrate the year of the Eucharist. General ideas of focus to include:
 - Praise and Adoration
 - To deepen the understanding of the Eucharist
 - Sending out of mission
 - Fellowship
 - Take 4 or 5 Sundays out of the year to have talks about these items during the homily
 - Swap priests with another parish to rotate through these ideas for sermons/talks.
 - Add short articles in SUMMA and the bulletin to educate people
 - Add formal adoration at the church / weekly?
 - Feast of Thomas – end the 10:45 mass with the adoration
 - Possibly tie that in with the family picnic
 - By Sept 11th, Fr. Kieran and Fr. Rafael will have a roughed out calendar for the whole year, with “year of the Eucharist” specific events.
- Bring out people for parish projects
 - Can we work on helping other parishes that have been destroyed by disasters?
 - Can there be a series of dinners (regional dinners) as social events. 7-8 of them in a year (once a month) – pot luck, at St. Clair hall
- Other ideas

- Year of “trinity” or year of “faith”, etc...
- Can we put some furnishing in the vestibule? Possibly lease some furniture... Fr. Kieran is still looking into it, but it should be a foyer, not a lounge. He is worried about the affect of furniture in the foyer on the atmosphere of the church. We don't want it to turn into a second cry room.
- Foyer should be an “entrance” to the solemnity of the church. Add murals? Paintings? Benches instead of chairs/couches
- Put something out into the plaza? Tables/umbrellas/etc.
- Add a coffee bar. Possibly franchise it out? Coffee shop in the gift shop
- Possibly Q&A session with the parish – for 3 weeks, then one mass the homily could be answers or an actual town hall meeting. Make the meeting one of the speaker nights.
- Really hoping for the newly ordained priest... looking for someone to connect with the younger kids (college, high school)
- Add a holy hour that would end with prayers for vocation.
- The Newman Club is now approved and official at Estrella Community college. We'll add a dinner once a week for the college students. Adding several prayer groups, study groups, etc. for the college students.
- Get some ideas for how the school can fit into the year of the Eucharist. Caren will introduce that idea.

6) SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, September 11, 2007. 7:00pm.

7) CLOSING PRAYER

Fr. Rafael offered the closing prayer.

Adjournment.