

Church of St. Thomas More
Parish Administrative Council
October 15, 2013

Members present: Father Steve, Mary Jo Schmoll, Jody Wittman, Otto Lamecker, Barb Stahl, Jo Malvin, Paul Lux, Pam Lundstrom, and Mary Nordstrom. Members absent:

We began with opening prayer and recommitment to our AFC vision. The minutes from June 4 were approved as printed. The agenda was approved with some additions.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Steve encouraged us all to be aware of the pain that is present due to the sexual abuse scandal.

Area Council and Committee reports:

We commented that one way the area faith community is trying to be more open is to include the agenda items in the bulletin. We want people to know that all our meetings are open to the public.

Father Steve discussed the issue of homelessness and how the Area Service Committee is helping to address this in Kandiyohi County. He explained the Family Promise organization. In the past, St. Mary's has donated some of its tithing funds to Heartland Community Action to help provide temporary housing. Our AFC has agreed to be a supporting partner (financial resources), but has not determined if we could be a host church (where volunteers would come from the entire AFC).

Area Word is working on a survey, and also the upcoming kick-off of Small Christian Communities.

Area Worship is working on the Evening Prayer of Remembrance on Sunday, October 27, and the Area Anointing Mass and Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 21. These are open to all parishioners in the AFC, and we should encourage people to attend.

CCW report: Jo gave a CCW report. They have been very active over the summer, and the hall is now completed. The Holiday Egg Bake Vision brunch will be on Sunday, November 24.

Financial reports:

We reviewed the finances from the Fall Festival. There were many compliments on the day - from Laudation, the dinner, the bake sale, and the raffle. The committee and workers did a great job; it was unanimously agreed to do it again next year.

DMA goal for 2013-2014 is \$2,410.70. Our project for any excess funds will be for maintenance items.

PAC Purpose Statement: We discussed why our council exists. Fr. Steve commented: "You are my (the pastor's) advisory body for the Church of St. Thomas More in the terms of the financial needs, the spiritual needs, and pastoral needs of the parish, and also to be the group to communicate back to the people." Another comment is that the parishioners don't know who the committee and council members are. We will start putting those names in the bulletin instead of the staff page once or twice a month.

Vision Statement: We discussed about how/where we will display the Vision Statement in the Parish Hall. It will be on the We will be commissioning the assembly to the Vision statement during the Mass.

This coincides with the end of the Year of Faith. We will have Mass on Saturday, November 23 at 8:30 am, then Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until Saturday afternoon Mass.

Parish Self Study: We reviewed the Parish Self Study numbers. These show that the total population is relatively steady, but the age of our parishioners is aging. Fr. Steve pointed out that at least 10% of our baptisms are for grandchildren who come back to the area to get baptized. Another large percentage is for babies/children who are either not registered or who do not plan to be in the parish for the long-term. Father commented that the reports only show the numbers and don't tell the whole story, but we need to use them to prepare for ministries now and into the future.

Chairs: It was found that the chairs we bought have a defect where the legs attach to the plastic and have technically been recalled. We get to keep them, and a new shipment will be sent. We need to somehow identify the current ones. Jody suggested using a paint pen on the bottom. He will pick up a paint pen and get this done.

Turkey Bingo: November 3, all is planned. We will put in the bulletin asking for donations to cover the cost of the turkeys.

Maintenance items

Evergreen trees: Mike Goldschmidt will cut them down, but we will have to grind out the stumps.

Trim on church: We will ask Eisenshenk to also quote the exterior trim.

Church interior painting: Eisenshenk coming to give us a bid

The foam at the peak of the roof: Mary will check with Kandi Roofing.

Use of Parish Hall on October 23: Mary will be hosting a meeting of Business Administrators from throughout the Diocese. Nothing needs to be done by CCW or anyone else.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 17