

**Church of St. Thomas More
Parish Administrative Council
December 16, 2014**

MINUTES

Present: Father Steve, Mary Jo Schmoll, Jody Wittman, Paul Lux, Jim Wittman, Pam Lundstrum, Barb Stahl, and Mary Nordstrom. Jo Malvin was absent.

We began with hors d'oeuvres graciously shared by all, then opening prayer and recommitment to our AFC vision. The minutes from October were approved as printed. Tonight's agenda was approved with additions.

Pastor's report:

- Father Steve shared that Brady Schmoll will be receiving his Eagle Scout award here at St. Thomas More on Sunday, March 1. We congratulate him on earning this award.
- Everything is ready to go for the 9pm Christmas Eve Mass. Father Steve will be here, and we hope that we get a large turnout. He also said not to panic if he is not here too much before 9 as he has a 7pm Spanish Mass in Willmar.
- The Advent Giving Trees were very successful. Barb was up to help pack the baskets. There were over 75 families requesting baskets from all four parishes.
- Father discussed the temporary Mass schedule beginning January 4. After several days of prayer and deliberation, he did not feel that we were ready to move that quickly to start an every-other-week rotation between Kandiyohi and Lake Lillian, which was the APC's recommendation. It is highly likely that at some point in the future, we will be moving toward not having Mass every Sunday, but we need to make sure we are considering how we enable our parishioners - especially the elderly - to attend. It is crucial that we invite and encourage all registered parishioners to attend the consultation meetings so that we can address how we can "be church" while we plan for the future.

Area Pastoral Council & Committees Reports: We reviewed the minutes from the APC as well as the Area committees. Barb pointed out that Pam is now the St. Thomas More representative on the Homelessness / Family Promise sub-committee. Family Promise is still in the process of raising money before they can begin their ministry.

CCW Report: Holiday brunch brought in \$139. Soup suppers are planned for the Wednesdays during Lent.

Finance reports: We reviewed the financial reports for both the parish and area faith community.

Information items:

1. **DMA:** We are still \$271.48 short of our DMA goal.
2. **Discipleship Retreat:** Reminder of our retreat on January 24. The day will begin at 8:30 with registration, 9:00 formal retreat start time, and end with 5:30 Mass at Willmar. We will need to know who is attending, so people will need to let Mary know if they are able to attend. More information will be out in early January.
3. **Ash Wednesday** Mass time will be at 5:30 pm with Fr. Jerry. There will be a soup supper afterwards.

Discussion / Action items

1. **Matching Grant breakfast** - February 22, 2015. This year we have five students attending St. Mary's School in Bird Island.
2. **Stations of the Cross / Soup Suppers during Lent.** Stations will begin at 5:30. Neither Father Steve or Father Jerry will be able to attend as they are booked with Faith Formation reconciliations every Wednesday during Lent.
3. **AFC/Parish consultation meetings** - we discussed when it would be best to have a meeting. People will be informed in the bulletin, with a letter, and also through a phone tree. It was thought that a Monday or Tuesday at 6:00 pm with dessert being provided would bring the most attendees.
4. **Youth scholarship:** We discussed a scholarship for a youth attending a class trip through St. Mary's School in Bird Island. We agreed that we will provide \$300 to help. If more is needed by the family, they would need to fill out an application through the area faith community.