

Church of St. Thomas More Parish Administrative Council
MINUTES
October 26, 2015

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

We began with opening prayer. We approved the agenda with the addition of a couple items.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve applauded the parish for stepping outside the box and making the change to have the Fall dinner on a weeknight.

Area Pastoral Council and Committee Reports: Father highlighted some items from the APC: dates for the consultation meetings in Willmar and Spicer, and the discussion of a Mass schedule that could be done by one priest. This schedule would be used when Father Steve or Father Jerry are on vacation or have an extended illness. It would be used in cases where we could publicize the schedule in the bulletin and would not be used when there is an emergency.

Finance Reports: We reviewed the September financial statements. We also discussed different ways of displaying the financial information in the bulletin that would be easier for people to comprehend.

Information Items

- Fiat: We will be sending out Fiats every other month, but with fewer pages in an effort to reach more people.
- JOLW app: We have developed a mobile app as another way to engage parishioners.
- DMA: This year, the DMA will be reorganized to include the parishes right away from the first dollar donated. The parishes will receive 20% of the amount their parishioners donate. In order to compensate for this, the total DMA goal was increased by 20%. The parish goals this year are also "soft" goals in opposed to past "hard" goals, which means that the parish will not be assessed if it isn't met. Because of the significant changes, we will publicize the percentages where the money will go.

Discussion / Action Items

- Parish Self-Study: We looked at the self study numbers from the last fiscal year.

- Fall Festival report: The profits from the Fall Festival have gone up each of the last two years. The change to a week night was a positive one!
- Area festival: We continued the discussion that was started at the APC meeting regarding the possibility of an Area festival. There are many thoughts about this - each parish has different goals and purposes from their events. The challenge going forward is to identify new leaders to take over from the people who have been doing it for years. There is a strong feeling that we want to continue our festival since it is important to the community.
- Turkey Bingo: all ready to go! Flyers have been sent out.
- Changing hymnals: need to be changed out after Mass on November 22.
- Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service: We discussed whether or not to participate with United Lutheran in a community Thanksgiving service. We felt that we will participate, but do not have anyone to preach/deliver a message. Mary will contact them and see if we can serve as lectors or bring some refreshments. In the next several months, we need to talk to our other parishioners to see if this service is a true need for people, or something we do simply because it is "tradition."
- Thoughts on Mass rotation so far: attendance seems to be up, and the collections have not dropped significantly. We are hearing that most people are going to Mass in other churches the weeks that there isn't Mass here.
- Christmas flowers: We will be ordering through St. Mary's School in Bird Island.
- Confessional: the confessional is very hot. We will bring a fan down to try and help cool it down a little. The heater that runs in the room is also the one that heats the entrance.