

Church of St. Thomas More
Parish Administrative Council
April 8, 2014

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

We began with opening prayer, recommitment to our Vision, approval of the February minutes and tonight's agenda.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve welcomed Jim Wittman as a trustee of the parish and a new member of our council.

- He also discussed the upcoming liturgies - Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Father Steve will talk to Father Jim about the tradition of starting in the parish hall and processing around and into the church. Holy Thursday is at St. Patrick's. We have to make sure that enough hosts are consecrated at the Palm Sunday Mass to serve at the Good Friday service. We suggested an additional 100. The Easter Vigil is at the Church of Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer. It is requested that St. Thomas More provide someone to carry a candle and as a Eucharistic Minister. Right now Ila is down to carry the candle in. Fr. Steve will check with Sharon to see if anyone else responded; if not, we will see if Ila can either do both or possibly have Tim carry in the candle and Ila be the Eucharistic minister.
- Father Steve is working on the Mass schedule for May through August. He will send a copy down here and asks that it be posted in the sacristy. Also on that schedule will be the priests' cell phone numbers so that the right person can be contacted.
- We are sending about 30 filled Easter eggs down. Please look for someone to pass them out.
- We are working on the budgets for 2014-2015. We are looking at the best way to incorporate Faith Formation into the Area budget. All of the current directors have reapplied for the grade levels where their passion lies. For example, one director will be responsible for all of the Faith Formation for grades Preschool-Grade 2 at both St. Mary's and OLOL worship sites.

Area Committee Reports: There was very brief discussion regarding the Area Committee reports. The total amount collected in the AFC for the Ash Wednesday collection was \$5,030. These checks were presented to Heartland Community Action Agency to use for temporary housing of homeless.

- We also talked about St. Thomas More parishioners serving on some of the Area councils and committees. There are openings on Area Stewardship, Area Word, and the Area Pastoral Council for StTM. Please pass names on to Father Steve or Mary.

CCW Report: The Soup Suppers are going well. CCW also served Otto's funeral. They would like to replace the gold refrigerator/freezer, and are willing to contribute \$100 to the fund. They are meeting this week to distribute funds to various charities.

Finance Reports: We looked at the finance reports.

Information/Discussion/Action Items

a. Trustees: covered in the pastor's report

b. 2014-2015 budgeting: Father covered some of this in the pastor's report. We also discussed a couple of maintenance items and how they may impact the budget.

Interior painting: Barb will bring one more sample. We have set a deadline by the end of April to pick a color.

Exterior painting / Spring clean-up: Father Steve suggested Saturday, May 3 at 8:00 am followed by a potluck lunch. This will be to wash windows, paint the exterior.

Roof: Mary will contact Tim Seehuisen or Perkins' Lumber about replacing the rubber sponge at the peak of the roof.

Gold plastic in the choir loft is falling: We will look at it after the meeting to see if we should just take it down.

Trees: Jody and Jim will check with Mike Goldschmidt about removing the evergreens. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 pm. This is a change in date and time from our normal meetings.

Bells: We are still hoping to limp along, or see what we need for a new one.

c. Fall Festival dates: Fall Festival will be on September 7. Father Steve will contact Laudation to see if they will sing.

d. Turkey Bingo: Date has been set for November 9, 6:30 pm.

e. Bishop LeVoir's Prairie Catholic articles: Father Steve wants us to be mindful of the fact that Fr. Jim has been very open that he intends to retire in June of 2015, and we are doubtful that Bishop LeVoir will send a replacement. We need to be proactive about how we will move forward in our area faith community.

At whatever point we drop to two priests in our AFC, St. Thomas More will not have Mass every Sunday; possibly every other week, or possibly even just once a month. How do we prepare parishioners to build relationships with people at the other worship sites so that they see familiar faces? Father has challenged us to be "intentionally hospitable." When a stranger comes on a Sunday morning, they should be accosted by at least five St. Thomas More parishioners greeting them and asking their name.

Building relationships will not eliminate the pain of not being able to worship in their own worship site, but it will help ease some of the discomfort. We need to feel free to talk to people before Mass. How do we get the whole parish involved? The priests will need to talk about it from the pulpit.

Our next meeting to review the 2014-2015 budget will be on Tuesday, June 10 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nordstrom