

Church of St. Thomas More
Parish Administrative Council
October 21, 2014
MINUTES

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

We began with opening prayer, including one remembering Jo in her loss of her husband, Jerry. We also thanked Janice for sending treats with Jim. We then made a recommitment to our AFC Vision. June's minutes were approved and the agenda was approved with additions.

Pastor's Report:

Father Steve reported that the AFC is the recipient of the Partner's in Hope Award from Heartland Community Action Agency. This is the agency with whom we partner in our Door Ministry program to help the poor in our community with emergency assistance. We give Heartland \$1,000 each month for them to use as they see necessary. This is funded out of our Tithing Funds.

Due to being down to two priests, we have currently scheduled the Christmas Eve Mass at 9:00 pm at St. Thomas More. Is there concern that 9:00 pm on Christmas Eve is the wrong time for a Mass, or should it be moved to Christmas Day around 10:30 am? The consensus is that leaving it at 9:00 pm seems to be best. We just need to make sure people are aware of the time.

We also discussed dropping the land-line phone in the church. We are paying approximately \$33 each month for a phone that isn't being used. The council agreed that we should drop that phone line. Mary will cancel it.

Father also discussed the budget adjustments that will be made to the AFC budget due to Fr. Jim moving to Ortonville. This will result in a reduction in each parish's monthly assessment to the AFC.

Area Pastoral Council and Committees Report

- **Area Pastoral Council** - The APC discussed a revised Sunday Mass schedule and feels that prior to making a permanent decision, we will ask parishioners for input at meetings in February/March, 2015. We will have questions prepared for the attendees to discuss in small groups. The APC will then use the results of these meetings as input when making a decision for a long-range Mass schedule

where Father Jerry is scheduled to celebrate no more than three Masses each weekend and Father Steve is scheduled to celebrate no more than four. Because we didn't want to rush these meetings and force them into a busy December calendar, the APC will come up with a short-term Mass schedule that will be effective January 1, 2015.

- **Area Service** - We have agreed to partner with Bethel Lutheran for Family Promise of Kandiyohi County (FPKC). When it is Bethel's turn to host, they will call us to provide food and volunteers. By partnering with Bethel, we will know the weeks in advance, and we know that we are partnering with a church with whom we have a good working relationship.
- **Area Worship** - working on Evening Prayer of Remembrance
- **Area Discipleship Retreat** - Saturday, January 24
- **Council of Catholic Women** - Jo gave an update on CCW's busy Fall plans: St. Thomas More will be hosting the ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 26 at 7pm. Pastor Gabin Gitangwa, the interim pastor at United Lutheran will be proclaiming the gospel and delivering the homily. Father Steve will be doing the other parts of the liturgy. The Holiday Egg Bake brunch will be held on Sunday, November 30. The hope is that families home for the Thanksgiving holiday will be able to attend. Mary mentioned the Spotlight weekend that will be held on Sunday, November 23 to highlight our Area Pastoral Council and Area Committees. CCW agreed to serve coffee and doughnuts that weekend.

Financial Reports - we looked at the reports for both the parish and the area faith community. Father indicated that in order for each PACs to not have to focus on each line item in the Area budget and expenses, we would reconvene the Area Stewardship Committee. The suggestion from the APC was that one person from each PAC would sit on that committee that would meet every other month. It was suggested that it could possibly be one of the two Trustees.

Fall Festival - was a great success! We reviewed the income and expenses.

Turkey Bingo is all organized and ready for November 9. Father shared that Sam's Club has turkeys on sale for \$.99/lb beginning October 29. Jo will talk to Barb about taking advantage of the sale.

DMA - We will again designate "maintenance items" as our project if we should exceed our goal of \$2,636.48. Tentatively, Father Steve and Father Jerry have determined that we will be showing the video and having the appeal on Sunday, November 16.

Parish Self Studies - we reviewed the parish and area faith community self-studies for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Instead of focusing on the negatives of our population decline, Father Steve said that we should focus on seeing this as an opportunity to have our engaged members reach out to our "unengaged" parishioners. *One person at a time, touching one life at a time.* How do we get comfortable enough to talk about our faith with other people? This is the underlying reason for our Area Discipleship Retreat which will be held on Saturday, January 24 at the Church of St. Mary.

Tree Stumps - we discussed the tree stumps left after the trees were removed. After harvest is done, Mary Jo will talk to Brad about coming to pull them out.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 pm. We will each bring something to share for a small holiday treat.