

Church of St. Thomas More
Parish Administrative Council
February 17, 2015
MINUTES

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

We began with the prayer to the Holy Spirit and a recommitment to our AFC Vision.

December's minutes were approved and the agenda was approved with one addition.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve reported on how well the AFC Discipleship Retreat was. St. Thomas More is very close to reaching its DMA goal. Confirmation was this past weekend and was a very nice celebration. Father also reminded us that there will be a collection taken up tomorrow (Ash Wednesday) which will be directed to Family Promise of Kandiyohi County.

Area Council and Committee reports: There was brief discussion about the Area committee reports.

CCW report: Barb discussed the Lenten environment for the church.

Finance reports: We reviewed the January financial reports for St. Thomas More. It was commented that our assessment to the AFC was quite a bit higher this year than last year. This is due to our Area budget for expenses this year. St. Thomas More generally writes only one or two checks a month – one for the AFC assessment and one to the diocese for any special collections.

Information items:

- A. Egg bake breakfast - 2/22/2015 after Mass
- B. Diocesan Chrism Mass - 3/26/2015, 7:00 pm at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar; The Area Worship Committee will be responsible for recruiting volunteers for the evening.
- C. Easter Vigil - 4/4/2015, 8:00 pm at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar
- D. Easter Sunday Mass - 8:15 am at St. Thomas More
- E. Family Promise - hoping to begin August 1, 2015. All of the hosting will be take place at Bethel. There was discussion about how our area faith community will work with Bethel on providing the meals and volunteers. St. Thomas More's CCW is willing to help provide meals when it is our turn.

Discussion items

- A.** Parish Consultation meetings - the meeting at St. Thomas More will be on Monday, March 16 at 6 pm. The Area Pastoral Council meets on Thursday, 2/19 and will review the invitation letter from Fr. Steve and the material to go out to households. There will be historical data going out as well as the questions from Bishop LeVoir's articles.
- 1.** We discussed the need for a phone tree of people to make 9 or 10 phone calls. Pam will ask some people tomorrow at the Food Shelf and at the Soup Supper and will get a list of callers back to Mary. It was suggested that we split the lists by areas (like the CCW groups) due to long-distance phone calls.
 - 2.** The Area Pastoral Council also feels that there is not a requirement to serve food at the meeting. Coffee and lemonade/water would be sufficient. This will make it easier to start at 6:00 pm and finish close to 7:30.
 - 3.** We discussed some of the challenges facing the parishes, the area faith community, and the diocese due not only to the shortage of priests, but also declining population and income.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 pm (date and time change due to a scheduling conflict.)