

Minutes
Saint Thomas More Pastoral Council
June 4, 2009

PRESENT:

Yvonne Hanson, Steve Thomas, Barbara Thomalla, OSM, Gretchen Tieder, Darwin Williams, Gloria Wilkie, Joan Williams, Ryan Bean, Michael Sarafolean.

Pastor: Fr Joseph Weiss, SJ.

Pastoral Administrator: Susan Stephens

Finance Council Member: David Osendorf

PRAYER:

We prayed the Sunday gospel and offered intentions. Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Pastoral Council members received the minutes of the May 7, 2009 meeting via email on May 14, 2009. Minutes were approved via email.

INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The council welcomed three new Pastoral Council members, one new Finance Council member, and the new Pastoral Administrator. Each person told the group about their participation in the parish.

STEWARDSHIP PLANNING

Steve Thomas reported on a meeting held on June 3 with Fr. Joe, Lonnie Ellis and some members of Pastoral and Finance Council. The goal of the planning process is to achieve a pattern of solid giving by expanding the numbers of persons who give consistently and increasing the amount each household gives. At Masses on June 27-28, 2009, Peter Ries will speak and give an end of the fiscal year summary, including all of the good things happening in the parish. For five weeks in fall, 2009, the parish will conduct the stewardship appeal.

Those who contribute to the parish are in one of three groups: 1) those who give consistently, 2) those who give anonymously, and 3) those who give nothing. The percentage of persons from Saint Thomas More in those three groups is similar to other parishes. However the amount each household gives is low, many giving \$10-\$15 per week. A number of people have stopped giving through envelopes, but the loose collection has increased significantly.

Fr. Joe commented that stewardship is a way of life and a spiritual practice that comes out of our gratitude to God. A young couple in the parish is eager to help organize the stewardship appeal and be the leaders

A plan to make phone calls to members who have not made a stewardship commitment is in process; calls may begin this summer and will more likely occur in fall, 2009.

ARCHDIOCESAN STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Fr. Joe distributed a timeline of the Archdiocesan Planning Process and copies will be in the bulletin this weekend. Parishioners will have opportunity to be part of the process. The expected outcome will involve merging of schools and parishes and assigning parishes to link with each

other. In many ways Saint Thomas More Parish is a fore-runner and model for other parishes because we have already merged two parishes.

VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATE IN CLEAN UP

Pat Lofton and Steve Wilson organized the clean up of the grounds at the East Campus. About forty persons assisted.

Patti Brick organized a group of people to clean and reorganize the Swap Shop. Patti has developed a brochure to increase awareness of this resource for the community.

NEW BISHOP APPOINTED TO THE ARCHDIOCESE

Fr. Lee Piche´ has been appointed bishop for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. He will be ordained June 29, 2009 at the Cathedral. All parishioners are invited to the ordination and to the reception at Crowne Plaza in Saint Paul.

FEAST OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

Our parish will celebrate the feast of our patron on June 21, 2009. Archbishop Nienstedt will preside at 10:30 a.m. liturgy. Carol Arend is organizing the reception with baked goods and beverages to follow the liturgy.

REGULAR PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting is July 9, 2009 the second Thursday of the month. The Finance Council will meet jointly with the Pastoral Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. We prayed the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Socializing followed the meeting to thank the members who have completed their terms on the first pastoral council of Saint Thomas More Community.

Submitted by:
Barbara Thomalla, OSM