

St Thomas Pastoral Council meeting minutes, Feb 23, 2016

Attending: David & Marie Williams, Bill & Mary Cavnar, Naomi Corera, Frank Lum, Moira Cullen, Rod Gauvin, Fr Bill, Fr Todd, Beth Spizarny, Rob Hohler

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Financial Update: Rob Hohler reports that the most recent year end and the January month end were good. The school is a little below budget, but the expenses are lower also. Online giving has increased by about 10% and helps to keep the giving level up. Conservative budgeting is helping also. The parish monthly budget is about \$200K - \$220K. Rob states we should have about three times that as a standing balance and he is working towards that.

Sound system: So far \$20,000 has been raised, with about \$26,000 more to go. The total will be just under \$45K. Frank Lum reported that a speech test showed considerable improvement. The sound technician thought we could have the new system completed by Easter.

DSA goal: \$117,000 this year

Capital Campaign needs: the roof of the church building is leaking. It was suggested that the school parents be informed of this need and donations be solicited among them. Perhaps announce this at the School Auction. The list of physical plant needs has to be submitted to the diocese along with the beautification plan. The Diocesan campaign will start in March.

Evangelization: Beth Spizarny will continue as Youth Minister through the end of this school year. In October the parish members and leaders will be called to start a search for the "lost sheep." The parish staff has participated in a retreat led by Deb Amato from the Diocese of Lansing titled "Called and Gifted". The material comes from the Catherine of Siena Institute. It is a process to help Christians discern the presence of charisms in their life. This material can be presented at the parish level also. Fr Chas' parish in Jackson has presented this topic.

Fr Bill reported that he has received some applications for the Youth Director.

Mentally Impaired Drive: Rod Gauvin reported on the annual Tootsie Roll Drive held by the K of C on Palm Sunday. There are fewer businesses that will allow solicitations on their grounds. Our K of C gives their proceeds locally to The St Louis Center.

Solicitation on parish grounds: Some parishioners have expressed concern about the content of the "Underground News" that is sold by Mary every weekend before and after masses. The publication includes material that is against Catholic teaching (particularly in sexual matters). The problem for the parish is that it is legal for her

to sell on public property, i.e. the sidewalk. It was suggested that the parish find something else for Mary to do for the parish that would allow her to earn a little money. Rod is going to investigate this issue at the city level.

Year of Mercy: There will be a pilgrimage to St Mary's Cathedral for parishioners. A family penance service will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday mornings. This is intended particularly for families with small children.

Barnabas Almsgiving Fund: Fr Bill and Bill Cavnar will be meeting with Peter G Collins of the fund in the near future. The intention is to discuss what the Fund's aims are, how our parish could use the Fund as a mechanism to support different projects around the world through tax-deductible donations, and how the parish could support the Fund as well. More information later.

The movie **Poverty, Inc.** was shown last week with good participation. The DVD can be purchased on Amazon for \$13. The parish is following up with the Respect Life Committee to further study the problem. Contact Barbara Grant-Yopko if interested.

It was suggested that all hymns and responses be announced in addition to being posted in the church. This would help those who are new to the church.

Corpus Christi Feast: Naomi suggested that a luncheon be held in the parish hall after the procession.

Next meeting: March 22