

St. Thomas More Parish Council-Retreat and Planning Session  
Minutes from Saturday, May 17, 2008

**A. Prayer – Reading from John 3:16-18**

**B. Evaluation of 2007-2008**

1. Each PC member wrote down each category and few notes in regards to how they would evaluate each category thus far.

2. Campus Ministry

- Good representation by students on PC
- Communication w/ web improved as well as free advertisement to campus.
- Invite Erin to a PC meeting and improve visibility of Erin in church
- Vespers working well, bible study didn't take off
- ONE retreat team wasn't solid
- Good campus talks- improve publicity of these
- Men of Honor and Women of Grace coming along great and being solidified
- Awakening retreat is coming to our campus
- Strengthen outreach efforts
- Mexico trip in January very positive and keeping it in January
- Become more visible thru Sooner Catholic

3. Communication and Public Relations

- Town meeting outstanding and successful
- Stewardship has improved collections
- Parish Directory finally came out and is a good achievement
- Much improved website – push publicity and get counter, need PC link
- Use of Norman Transcript
- Improving how we communicate w/ new members is a priority
- E-mail between PC members is good, improve church use of e-mail communication

4. Education

- Completion of year with building issues a plus
- Red house and facility issues
- Replacement of Cindy
- Bible Study didn't take off
- Lack of Adult education is a major issue
- Started Catholicism 101 and it was okay, books could be improved

5. Finances

- Clarification around the building fund w/ town hall very positive
- Terrific growth of regularization of procedures for spending (property)
- Automatic contribution for Parish a big step ahead
- Biggest area of growth and church is being very responsible and good stewards of \$
- Look at payroll/budget within hiring process
- No financial plan for new space
- ADF Goals surpassed 3 years
- Current w/ All Saints and all bills to diocese



## **D. Organization and Meetings**

### 1. Committee structure

- Liturgy – focus on working w/ Father Ray for improving welcoming
- Parish Life – committee structure stay same but the need for a stewardship push to find volunteers to put on parish events to build fellowship. (Julia, Casey)
- Campus ministry – reports now just from student PC members (Phillip, Sam)
- Communication – need for external and internal, but focusing on just one. There is need to find someone responsible for external PR issues. (Sims)
- Education – does youth, adult education, RE etc. fall under this category. (Carol)
- Finance – keep the same (Earl)
- Social Action – moving along, need volunteers (Earl)
- Property – (R.C.)

2. Meetings will stay same; 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of month at 7pm

3. Discussion of terms, restructuring and organizing PC b/c of the unique state. RC unanimously and willingly chosen as Vice-chair of PC.

## **E. Conclusions**

- Goals are defined
- Direction and vision seems very clear
- Continue PC retreat for newly elected members
- Possibly consider ½ day retreat thru the year
- Open forum for PC to parish