

**St Thomas More University Parish
Parish Council Minutes
December 11, 2008**

Members Present: Charlie Kenney Carol Hoffman
 R.C. Davis Julia Irwin
 Phillip Smith Father Ray Ackerman
 Sam Snow Campus Ministry Report: Erin Cleto

Absent: Justine Summers, Earl Whitman, Casey Partridge, Sims Beeler

- Meeting was called to order by Charlie Kenney followed by Gospel reflections.
- November minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report

Father Ackerman reported several building maintenance issues were recently addressed. These include the replacement of a heater switch, a new baptismal pump and doctoring the copy machine. In addition, a new roof was placed on the Six-plex.

Father also met with Mark Krittenbrink regarding facilities planning. Options will be explored to address the needs of the Knights of Columbus, adding classrooms and overall expanding the capacity of the church.

Old Business

1. Facilities Planning Committee Report: The last meeting focused on financial Issues that directly affect the planning, maintenance and future expansion of Church. Three issues emerged from the discussion;
 - What is our *economic capacity*?
 - How can we regain *Trust*?
 - What *other resources* are there?
 - * The Facilities Planning Committee will meet again after the new year.
 - *Due to the economic crisis the Archdioceses has put a moratorium on new building projects for now.
2. Stewardship program. Letters were sent out emphasizing the first theme; *TIME is for advent*. For example: ideas on how to spend time with your Children. The second theme of *TREASURE* will be the focus during the Season of lent. *TALENT* will be the third theme of focus after lent.
3. Gala Report: The gala raised approximately \$36K. It was considered a success in light of the economic climate of today.

New Business

1. Campus Ministry Report: Erin Cleto gave a comprehensive CM report. She provided a handout which defined the purpose of a parish based Campus Ministry. These included the characteristics and challenges that face a CM. Also discussed were Six aspects of Campus Ministry as outlined by *Empowered by the Spirit* which include; Forming the Faith Community Appropriating the Faith, Forming the Christian Conscience, Educating for Justice, Facilitating Personal Development, and Developing Leaders for the Future.
 - *Awakening Retreat: 43 students from STM attended + 75 outside staffers. The retreat helped students realize they are a part of the *Ministry of Christ*. In addition the retreat gave STM an opportunity to be recognized on a national Level.
 - *Fall Campout for the students was also a success.
 - *High School Retreat was attended by 12 members. The H.S. group plans to meet throughout the year.
 - *A spring break mission trip is planned to Mississippi to help rebuild after Recent hurricanes. The trip is funded by Catholic Charities.
 - *The Mexico trip is in January 2009. Approximately 30 students plan to go.

Charlie would like to see more faculty involvement. Perhaps meeting with the students to discuss faith, have forums to debate faith issues or possible putting together panels for group discussions.

2. Other--Updated Greeting before mass. Draft was presented and approved as is.

Most Sundays are covered by various group members. If no One steps up to the podium in time the cantor can present the greeting.

Closing Prayer

**Next Parish Council Meeting will be Thursday January 15, 2009 @ 7PM