

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2009

Present: Alan Lynch, Lucas Monson, Elise Mullen, Gary Linohan, Jerry Peltier, John Klaus, Roman Lynch, Patrick Clem, Kathy White, Shannon Schroeder, Diane Lyons, Bill Bergan, Fr. Ev Hemann.

Absent: Jessica Rosenhamer

1. Bill Bergan led a prayer of things to be thankful for as Catholics.
2. Minutes from the 4/13/09 meeting were approved.
3. The Council reviewed the proposed budget. Salary increases will be from 1-2%. The proposed budget was \$2,382.00 in the red. The Council suggested that amount be taken proportionately from Staff Development line items. Fr. Hemann will encourage Fr. Seda to take that \$2,382.00 from the Hemann Endowment if it is requested.

The Council suggested that hours be changed to provide janitorial support on weekends. Diane and Bill will take that to Finance and Administration.

The Council suggested that the parish be informed regularly [perhaps quarterly] of those things that the parish furnishes such as parking, coffee and donuts. We need to continue educating and providing information to parishioners.

One member thought our phone service was high and requested that Finance and Administration review. There was an extensive review of Love Your Neighbor and Community Outreach Tithes.

At the end of all this discussion, the Council unanimously approved the budget with the stipulation that the \$2,382.00 come from staff development.

4. Annual Parish Meeting is Sunday and will have the introduction of candidates and a financial report. Voting for PC and Board of Ed will be on Sunday, April 26. The Council requested Diane's summary of parish finances be used as a Bulletin insert. [In fact, the third quarter report, which is very similar, will be in next week's Bulletin, so this insert would still not be in this weekend's- EH]
5. Four people accepted nomination to be Deanery Council representative: Patrick Clem, John Klaus, Roman Lynch, and Lucas Munson. The Council elected Roman Lynch to be the Deanery representative for the next three years.
6. A Search Committee has been formed for the Youth Ministry position. Alan Lynch is representing Parish Council

7. St. Thomas Aquinas will receive \$10,000 from the Mardi Voss Estate. Regis has suggested it be used to begin the establishment of a STA/ISU scholarship in her name. Council approved.
8. Fr. Ev suggested that the \$8,382 from the Hubert Flemming Estate be used to commission a processional cross with a corpus. He recommended that the person who worked on the St. Thomas Aquinas statue and the man who made the great cross would work together to create such an art object for our Worship Space. Fr. Hemann also suggested that the balance, approximately \$6,000, would be put into Supple and/or Hemann Endowment. There was some discussion about the proposal and also included was the possibility of new furniture for the Student Lounge. After a lengthy discussion, it was proposed that \$5000 go to the Supple Endowment and \$3216.14 go to the Hemann Endowment. There was a consensus from the Council.
9. Fr. Hemann asked for suggestions as to who would make good candidates for the Lay Ministry Program. Three names were suggested: Mike Krapfl, Paula Friederick, Diane Lyon and Alan Lynch.
10. Church Spring Clean-Up Day is coming soon, and again, the question of why we have no janitor service on weekends was raised.
11. Parish Family Life: The Council discussed the “Welcoming Sunday” experience that has happened several times now. St. Thomas Aquinas probably does not do a good job of welcoming newcomers, unless they happen to be at church. Sr. Lorraine only has one person willing to visit newcomers and welcome them in their home and talk about St. Thomas Aquinas and their potential involvement. Kathy White has some people who might be willing to do this. A new idea was proposed to feature new parishioners in the Bulletin. Fr. Ev pointed out a logistic problem in that at the end of August beginning of September, we welcome approximately 300 new students and perhaps as many as 30-40 families. Alan will take that suggestion to Parish Family Life to see if there is another way of recognizing and welcoming new members.
12. Worship and Spiritual Growth: Kathy White attended the meeting. An ad-hoc committee has been established to discuss youth involvement in spiritual programs at St. Thomas Aquinas.
13. The staff has been discussing the level of college student involvement in our various commissions.
14. Fr. Jon Seda will be spending Monday, April 27 visiting his old stomping grounds and meeting with staff.
15. Board of Education-Shannon: The Board established separate fees for both non-parishioner families and home-school families in religious education. First Communion is on May 2.

16. New Business: Dinner with John Donaghy and Padre Efrain is cancelled due to a lack of availability of Council members. Fr. Ev did suggest trying to find another time to meet one-on-one with him as next year will be the decision year as to what the relationship between St. Thomas Aquinas and the Diocese/Parish will be. Six students went to Honduras over Spring Break and will be giving a report tomorrow night.
17. “Advocate for persons with special needs/disabilities.” Alan will take this to Parish Family Life. We should invite leadership to this through Bulletin and Sunday announcements. The council thought this would best fit under Parish Family Life. It was observed that apparently the staff does not get a copy of Parish Council Minutes. Bill will send it to staff.
18. President’s Report: Fr. Hemann discussed our participation with the Disaster Relief Coordination Plan. Ken Kerns and Vanessa Priest are meeting with potential volunteers to help plan.
19. Farewell for the Pastor: Thursday night, April 30, at 11:00 pm primarily for students. This is a farewell for ALL who are leaving this summer. There will be another farewell on Sunday, July 12, after the 10:30 Mass. The Parish Council is the coordinating body for this farewell.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Ev Hemann