

**St. Thomas Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
February 16, 2009**

Members:

Fr. Tom Rzepiela (a)
Fr. Ryszard Gron
George Ancona
Cherie Bott
John Breit
Mark Duffey
Cathy Edbrooke
Lee Fialek (a)
Maria Koziol

Jack McCarthy
Carlos Murguia
Theresa Narantic
Geri Ruzbasan
Ron Schaefer
Randy Schappert
Cheryle Seiling
Albert Swiatek
Tom Walsh

(a) absent)

Prayer/Reflection was given by Geri Ruzbasan.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the January 16, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

PPC Housekeeping

Written Reports – Carlos sincerely requested written reports from the PPC members to be sent to him by the Tuesday prior to the next PPC meeting.

Archdiocese Leadership Day – Looking ahead to February 2010, this day will be a Mandatory attendance February meeting for PPC members; instead of the regular February meeting.

Father Tom's Report - In Fr. Tom's absence, Ron Schaefer gave a report for him, as follows:

Annual Catholic Appeal – Commitment was presented at weekend Masses on Feb. 14-15, Follow-up up will take place next weekend at all Masses.

Anne O'Neill – Mass, visitation and burial were all very nice. A Memorial Service sponsored by the REC community is planned soon. Date to be determined.

Confirmation – 105 Students were confirmed by His Excellency, Bishop John R. Manz. The service was beautiful, and well attended.

Action and Consensus Items

None.

Discussion Items

Website Information - Joy Busam, the STV Webmaster, provided recent data. There were 2535 hits to the STV website for January 2009. Details are:
348 Bulletin, 317 Mass Schedule, 256 directory, 163 site map, 163 Ministries,

151 directions, 127 Sacraments, 120 Fr. Tom's Second Homily, and 69 PPC. John Breit will work with Webmaster to rationalize this information

Newspaper advertising insert by Immanuel Lutheran was reviewed. It included a \$200 tuition coupon.

PPC Council Retreat – Mark Duffey suggested that a date be established for a 2009 PPC member retreat. It will be an Agenda item at the next Exec. Meeting.

Biblical 50 Year Jubilee Year – Suggestion was made that this could be incorporated in conjunction with our planning efforts for our 50th Golden Anniversary.

Subcommittee and Reporting Items

Parish Census - John Breit reported that the census envelopes have gone out to the STV School families. They have also gone out to REC student families. Remainder will be going out this weekend by mail for those not picked up after the two weekends. Calls will commence March 21 to those not returned. A solicitation for telephone volunteers will be posted in the bulletin.

Strategic and Long Range Planning - Jack McCarthy distributed a report to PPC members from the Jan. 26, 2009 committee meeting. Attending the meeting were Eileen Kissane and Sandy Saldano who formerly spent hours on the Pillars of the Vision process from 2006. Going forward, Strategic Planning will consist of action and marketing plans for the next one to two years. Long Range Planning is for items beyond the next two years. The report provided a general guide of questions that must be answered, i.e., What, Who, Where, How, When and Why. A committee will be formed to create and introduce a current Long Range Plan

Oktoberfest 2009 – The committee met Feb. 11 and set October 9 & 10, 2009 as the date for the 2009 event. They have everything in planning stages for the Friday and Saturday event, including a 5:30 Saturday outdoor Mass. Advertising and marketing plans are being set. Addition of radio controlled planes show would be considered. Entertainment by “Elvis” from last year will be sought. Future meetings will take place the second Wednesday each month.

Ministry and Staff Reports

Finance – Cathy Edbrooke stated there was no report this month; the Finance committee is placing all its efforts on the budget for the upcoming year.

School – Geri Ruzbasan reported that there was a good turnout for Catholic Schools Week. Four new families registered on the spot. Work has begun on the budget and enrollment for the 2009-2010 school years. Mary Foley of Foley and Associates is scheduled to come to St. Thomas and conduct a free seminar on Fundraising. She is currently scheduled for March 25.

Religious Ed/ Youth – Cheryle Seiling reported that 105 STV school and REC students received Confirmation from Bishop Mans. Polish REC Confirmation will take place on March 30 at 6:30 PM. First Communion will be Sun Apr 25 and Sun May 2, a total of 81

students. REC will conclude its season Palm Sunday Week. Vacation Bible School will be held the last week in June.

Youth Group will have their Winter Formal on Feb. 21. A Youth Rally with Steve Angrisano will be held March 8 at Holy Family Church from 1:15-8:00 PM; \$5 includes transportation and dinner. A retreat is scheduled for 3/27-29 at the Stronghold Castle. The teens will once again be presenting the Living Stations. Drop-in continues every Wednesday from 4:00-8:00 PM.

Polish Community – Albert Swiatek and Maria Koziol reported that parking and an additional weekend Mass are two growing needs for the Polish community. On the first Sunday of Lent, March 1 at 2:00 PM, a Passion will be presented at St. Thomas in Polish by St. Hyacinth Church. It will be for TV broadcast. Request for a Palm Sunday Art Show for the children was made. Further discussion and approval is required

Social Justice/Ministry of Care - Mark Duffey reported that the Lenten alms projects will be announced this weekend, and will be split 50-50 between Operation Rice Bowl and St. Thomas parish families in need.

Deanery Council –Tom Walsh provided a sheet about the upcoming Catholics at the Capitol event to be held March 4, 2009 in Springfield, IL on issues concerning Catholic Social Teaching, including meeting with state representatives and senators. He also provided a sheet regarding the March 4-5 retreat in Barrington for Women and Men in Job Career Transition and work search, entitled Finding Work Without Losing Heart.

The Cardinal's Question of the Month is: "What can parishes do to make sure they are welcoming communities for all?" It was discussed that St. Thomas does this in many ways, but especially in 1) Greeting and special welcoming to anyone outside the parish at the beginning of all weekend masses; 2) providing space for Mission San Juan Diego families for classes and big events; 3) welcoming and sharing all STV facilities (and especially Fr. Ryszard Gron) to the growing Polish community in our area.

Parish Manager – Ron Schaefer reported that the St. Patrick-St. Joseph plans are going ahead.

Deacon Report –Mark Duffey reported that we have no new deacon candidates at this time. On Friday, March 20, the Deacons will present the Stations of the Cross, followed by the movie "Fireproof".

Liturgy Committee - Representative was absent. No meeting was held this month.

Wrap-up Items

John Breit will be working with Joy Busam, our Webmaster, on some details and will invite her to perhaps our May meeting.
Discuss scheduling of a PPC retreat.

Closing Prayer/Reflection was led by Father Ryszard.

Next Meeting Date will be Monday, March 16, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Bott