

**St. Thomas Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
October 20, 2008**

Members:

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

Carlos Murguia
Theresa Narantic
Geri Ruzbasan
Ron Schaefer
Randy Schappert
Cheryle Seiling (a)
Albert Swiatek
Tom Walsh

(a) absent)

Prayer/Reflection was given by Ron Schaefer

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the September 15, 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

PPC Housekeeping

New Parishioners Meetings – Follow-up calls to new parishioners by PPC members should include the following:

- 1) Continuing welcome,
- 2) ask if they have any questions,
- 3) Encouragement regarding involvement in activities or ministries, and
- 4) Ask what mass they attend and ask if PPC member can meet them.

New PPC Members Invitation Night is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 PM.

Father Tom's Report

Deacon Michael Burt will be doing internship at St. Thomas from now until next May.

Offertory Renewal campaign will be at all Nov. 1 and 2 masses, then Nov. 3 a letter, Year-end report, and pledge card will be mailed to each registered parishioner. Two types of letters will be sent, depending on whether they are regular contributors or not.

Oktoberfest results will be presented next month, since the chairman could not be present this evening. A general discussion was held on ideas to make the event better next year.

Action and Consensus Items

New Census Software - John Breit provided a slide presentation and outline on the new Parish Soft Database program. This will have four major areas: Family Directory, Offering & Pledges, Time and Talent, and Religious Ed. Old data will be loaded onto the new software by the software company, and training is being scheduled for the parish staff.

Subcommittee and Reporting Items

None

Ministry and Staff Reports

Finance –Cathy Edbrooke stated that 2008 Fiscal Year-End Report to Parishioners is ready, as well as the 2009 Budget. She stated that the Sunday donations are behind, as printed in the bulletin.

School – Geri Ruzbasan reported that the new school sign is installed and is beautiful. The sixth grade students wrote to famous people and were successful in getting Ryan Dempster from the Chicago CUBS to come to the school on October 27. Tickets to “Late Nite Catechism2” are on sale now. Web enhancement plans are underway. Notices to the press are continuing to be reviewed. Alumni information will be put in the database.

Religious Ed/ Youth – Cheryle Seiling was absent. Randy Schappert stated that the teens contributed greatly to the Oktoberfest event. They will provide babysitting for upcoming events.

Polish Community – No report – Representative Albert Swiatek had to leave early.

Social Justice/Ministry of Care - No report.

Deanery Council – Tom Walsh reported that St. Thomas hosted the Deanery Council on October 8 and it was good. Carlos Murguia attended and reported that St. Thomas does a lot of things right! Randy Schappert attended and reported that we are the only parish within our deanery to ask about visitors to our church, and we encourage more family masses. Fr. Tom attended and stated that we need to celebrate what we do right with our STV parish family. Parish Council members are invited to attend with Tom on a rotating basis. Tom will forward the schedule for internal distribution

Some topics discussed at the Deanery Council were:

How does your parish welcome and show warmth each Sunday? Some churches extend hands across the aisles. Include the scheduling of Christian Family Movement members as greeters. **Forward to Liturgy committee for resolution.**

Parish Manager – Ron Schaefer reported that materials are being prepared for the annual sacrificial giving mailing. Hot water and coffee machines are being repaired.

Deacon Report – John Breit reported that the date for an information night for the Deaconate will be published in the bulletin. Celebration for Deacon Ed Kaczmarek’s 30th year anniversary (December 30, 2008) will be held Saturday, December 13, 2008.

Liturgy Committee - Lee Fialek reported they are between meetings for the Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. A replacement is needed for the Head of the Altar Servers. Preparatory remarks for the readings will be in the music sheet only. Prayer changes for 2009 will be forthcoming. Wednesday, Oct 22 is a day of prayer and the living rosary.

The music ministry is working on appealing to younger people. Discussion was held regarding a teen and young adult mass for late Saturday or Sunday. It will be **forwarded** to the **Liturgy committee for further resolution**

Marriage Ministry – The Marriage Celebration Mass and potluck dinner on Oct. 11 had a good turnout. Everyone had a good time.

Newcomer's Meeting - Next meeting is scheduled for November 17.

Wrap-up Items

For next month: PPC Guidelines, Mission Statement, and Structure.

Items for the Bulletin PPC Corner will be the new software and Oktoberfest.

Closing Prayer/Reflection was led by Carlos Murguia.

Next Meeting Date will be Monday, November 17, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Bott