

**St. Thomas Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
September 15, 2008**

Members:

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

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

(a) absent)

Prayer/Reflection was given by Randy Schappert.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the August 18, 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

Introduction of New Member – Maria Koziol was introduced as a new Member from the Polish community; she joins Albert Swiatek.

PPC Housekeeping

PPC will present a PPC New Members information night on October 23, 2008.

Father Tom's Report

Fr. Tom stated that the annual Christi Fideles Award will be awarded to Robert Chernesky posthumously. A ceremony will be held Sunday Sept. 21 at 2:30 at Holy Name Cathedral.

Action and Consensus Items

St. Thomas of Villanova's Golden Anniversary will be celebrated in May or September 2011. Surveys are being completed by the PPC members, Parish Staff and Deacons, and will be returned to Father Tom. All aspects of our Golden Anniversary are being reviewed at this time. Survey is also being sent to all Ministry Leaders. Security Information was reviewed following the automobile break-in in the parking lot. The parishioner's purse was found in a western suburb with all valuables taken.

Subcommittee and Reporting Items

Oktoberfest/Parish Picnic – Cheryle Seiling reported that there are a low number of volunteers. Carlos stated he is seeking additional ones. The School Board will handle the split-the-pot raffle. A letter will go to school families requesting volunteers and participation. Games are being set up and run by the Voices teens. Entertainment by "Elvis" will be from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.

Newspaper advertising needs to commence now.

Census and Demographics – Ron Schaefer and John Breit to develop plan with software company on Tuesday September 16.

FOCUS DISCUSSION

PPC reviewed the PPC Guidelines and Mission Statement dated March 2006.

A monthly PPC report will be published in the Bulletin – Co-Chairs will handle this.

Ministry and Staff Reports

Finance –Cathy Edbrooke stated that the Annual Report to Parishioners is being prepared. The annual sacrificial giving campaign begins November 3 and 4.

School – Geri Ruzbasan reported that the Track-a-Thon will be September 26. “Late Nite Catechism 2” show is set for November 15, with refreshments prior to the show. Principal John LaRoche is working to revise the school budget with the current enrollment. Regarding the school sign, School Board members will visit the vendor and if no results are achieved by September 17, they will look for another vendor. Board is working to improve the web page. Approval has been given for the first step, including ticket sales for the “Late Nite Catechism 2” show.

Religious Ed/ Youth – Cheryle Seiling provided a report, which included the following:
REC has over 500 students enrolled. A 7th grade teacher is still needed. Dates have been set for Reconciliation – November 15, 2008, First Communion – April 25 & May 2, 2009, Confirmation – February 7, 2009. The 7th & 8th graders will be manning the children’s games at Oktoberfest. Youth Group kickoff is Sep 21 at 7:00 PM at the Rowley Activity Center. A successful carwash fundraiser was held. Bible Study is held twice a month. Drop In is every Wed from 4 – 8 PM. Jeff Walczynski took his peer ministers to a retreat/training Sep 13 which was attended by approximately 400 teens from IL, WI, and MI. It was reported to be a really good weekend. Pumpkins will be available October 18 and 19 after Mass for a donation.

Polish Community – Albert Swiatek and Maria Koziol reported on two items:

- 1) Speakers during Mass are not turned on in the Narthex.
- 2) Continuation studies just for high school students is requested on Friday evening from 7-9 PM for 20-25 people. Fr. Ryszard would teach. A room will be coordinated by Ron Schaefer.

Social Justice/Ministry of Care – Mark Duffey, from Social Justice asked the PPC if there was any opposition in pursuing funds from our coffers to aid in additional housing needs for persons in the US and outside the US. He asked if some of the present 1.5% sacrificial giving offering budget could be used. Additional follow-up will take place.

Deanery Council – Tom Walsh reported that St. Thomas is hosting the Deanery Council on October 8 at 7:15 PM. The Archbishop has a new program to help deficit-poor parishes

financially. A new policy was issued – If a church brings in a speaker/s, it should be checked with the Archdiocese. Regarding elections, no campaign literature is allowed. A parish representative from the Archdiocese gave information about activities and focus on issues at their conference.

Parish Manager – Ron Schaefer reported that the final version of the church calendar is done. Mission San Juan Diego is using classrooms for 10 religious education classes at the school. They just hosted a teen retreat last Saturday, and an Adult retreat on Evangelization will take place on a Saturday in February. Internet access by computers in the offices is working fine on the DSL line.

Deacon Report – Prayers are requested for the health of Deacon John Pistone.

Liturgy Committee - Lee Fialek thanked and complimented Mark Duffey on his homily at the past weekend Masses. He reported that a meeting was held Sep 10 in terms of needs, and a survey was completed for Fr. Tom. Lectors and Ministers of Communion annual meeting date to be set soon. A lector's overview was given. Question was brought up: Should preface to some be given by the lectors?

Marriage Ministry – Upcoming Marriage celebration Mass and potluck dinner will take place at 5:00 PM on Saturday, October 11.

Newcomer's Meeting - Next meeting is scheduled for September 17. Also at the Oktoberfest, Marilyn Korney will have a station for interested new members.

Wrap-up Items

For next month: Feedback from Holy Family Communications Committee.

Items for the Bulletin PPC Corner were suggested.

Closing Prayer/Reflection was led by Tom Walsh.

Next Meeting Date will be Monday, October 20, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Bott