

St. Thomas the Apostle

Pastoral Council Minutes

November 12, 2008

Attendance:

T. Simbari, J. Quinlisk, B. Leavy, K. Nichols, P. Raferty, G. Calawa-Hill, J. Lukin, Fr. N. Tanck, Dcn. T. Beck

Financial:

1. Collections through October down \$11,000
2. SSLC (Stepping Stones Learning Center) lease was executed on October 15; payments received total \$13,050
3. 44.5% of the CMA (Catholic Ministries Appeal) goal has been pledged through November 7, \$20,530 of the \$46,175 goal. The goal is \$15,000 less than last year which had a shortfall of \$10,000 which was made up from the weekly collections.
4. Through November 17 the PIF (Partners in Faith) campaign has reached 92.4% collected with \$26,992 still outstanding from 11 pledges.
5. The regional Financial Planning Group will meet on November 18.
6. The facilities assessment for St. Thomas is \$250,000 to \$300,000 for needed structural repairs. The list of repairs will be prioritized; some are not in urgent need and can be budgeted over time.

Social Ministry:

1. Penny Sunday totals for 2008 are not yet tallied, the collected funds are sent to Food for the Poor – Haiti once a quarter
2. Birthright walk, 5 individuals walked and received over \$400 in pledges.
3. Make a Difference Day – received 772 items which were delivered to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality (men) and Bethany House (women).
4. Christmas Baskets:
 - This year an envelope for supporting the Christmas basket program is in the envelope packed mailed to each household.
 - Packing and delivery of 43 baskets will be on December 14.
 - Food collections will be on November 22-23, November 20-30, December 6-7, and December 13-14.
 - Collected funds will be used for gift certificates, hams, potatoes and supplies.
5. Sock Sunday will be January 1-25-25
6. Lenten Soup Supper will be the 4th Wednesday of Lent
7. Operation Rice Bowl distribution will be the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the collection will be on Palm Sunday.
8. The March for Life Washington trip will be on Tuesday January 20.
9. The Christmas Giving tree will be set up for Advent; tags have already been received from the Andrews Center.
10. Possible additional projects for 2009: Sunset House, Women's Care Center, School of Religion Supplies and with the youth leaf raking.

Cluster Evangelization Committee:

St. Thomas has four representatives. The committee is looking into various programs to evangelize the cluster to a new and broader audience. They want to have welcoming masses in each church for new members and they are contemplating having a prayer card with Lenten schedules to distribute on Ash Wednesday.

School of Religion:

1. 62 students
2. 3 new teachers
3. St. Thomas and Christ the King are using the same curriculum, students may now attend at either location.
4. 8 students are signed up for first Penance/ first Communion.
5. First Penance will be a cluster program; there will be two “get together” gatherings scheduled at St. Thomas for March.
6. 5 candidates have registered for Confirmation this year which will take place at the Cathedral.

Parish Life:

1. The committee cannot commit to overseeing the Parish Picnic for 2009 and would like the Parish Council to seek a committee to organize and run the event by the end of the year.
2. There was also discussion about the picnic being a St. Thomas only event of a cluster event. That discussion was tabled and to be addressed by the new committee.
3. The monthly Pot-Luck Suppers are going well; the last two have had approximately 65 in attendance.
4. The second Family Movie Night” will be held November 21 in the Parish Center

Youth Ministry:

1. Meet every other Sunday with 7-10 attending
2. Beginning January they will meet every week on Sunday in the Parish Center from 7-9PM.
3. They are establishing a standard format and meeting every month with the other Irondequoit Youth Ministries.
4. Youth retreats are being researched and discussed.

Pastor’s Report:

1. Irondequoit Theatre Guild will be presenting “Nun Cracker” in the Parish Hall on December 5-6-7 and December 12-13-14. Parish Life will be asked to sell and serve deserts previously purchased. Proceeds are to support sending parish youth to the National Catholic Youth Conference in two years.
2. A Boy Scout Troop is looking for sponsorship. We will be sponsoring the troop and they will meet in Seneca School. The SPTA was their previous sponsor.
3. The IPPC (Irondequoit Pastoral Planning Committee) will be meeting next week.
4. The Diocese will be hiring a new Director of Liturgy. One of the first tasks will be to help us in forming a Cluster Liturgy Committee.
5. The common cluster bulleting of 6-8 pages will debut on December 21.
6. A “Cluster Directory,” of activities and committees (without names) will be available by next September. All cluster committees and organizations will be asked to describe their activities for this directory.
7. The “Acoustical Panel” prototype being developed by Fr. McDonald will be installed in the church this weekend for discussion and approval of the project. Once approved, over 55 panels of various sizes will be constructed and installed. The estimated cost is \$8-9,000 for materials only. All engineering design and labor is donated, if this project was contracted the estimate is \$120,000 to \$150,000.

8. The “Covenant for the Common Pastoral Council” is given to all council members for discussion and to seek ratification at the December meeting.

Next Meeting:

December 1, 2008 in the Parish Center at 7:00PM.

Adjourned:

8:47PM

Submitted by J. Quinlisk