

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2007

Opening Prayer: Father Dan

Attendees: Andrea Gregory-Kreps, Ann Kriebel, Barb Kerkhoff, Brien Dick, David Denis, Jennifer Kerr, Lynn Johal, Sean Sullivan, Timothy Zaspal, Zenephia Evans, Jon Berhard, Ken Fussner, Kristen Gonder, Marvin Weniger, MaryJo Langenkamp

Guests: Candy Silver, Father Dan, Father Jim, Father Tom

Approval of Minutes from Meeting on November 19, 2006

Election of Officers: Brien Dick was nominated and accepted the position of Chairman of the PPC and Lynn Johal was nominated and accepted the position of Co-Chairman of the PPC. MaryJo Langenkamp was nominated and accepted the position of Secretary of the PPC.

An update was provided by Candy Silver regarding the: "Are we cooking campaign?"

- The campaign was initiated to fund an air cooling system and remodeling the current kitchen- \$430,000 has been collected to date; would like to reach the goal of \$470,000.
- Steering committee worked very hard on this project
- Continuing to contact all parishioners via phone calls. All parishioners that have not pledged have been called at least once and in two weeks everyone will have received a second call.
- This campaign is focused on resident parishioners and not directed at the Purdue students.
- If pledges received exceed the campaign, the additional funding will be applied to other needs for the church.
- Kitchen expenses are expected to be approximately \$140,000, Air cooling system expenses are expected to be approximately \$120,000.
- To date 127 pledges have been made toward the \$70,000 Birck challenge
- The last campaign had 430 pledges and this campaign has to date 480 pledges

Social Justice Issues: focusing on inviting people into the life of the church

- One year ago, two goals were identified:
 - Ministry alignment: tried to pull all energies in same direction.
 - Diversity, welcoming committee, parishioners/ student interaction
- It was agreed that a letter from the Parish Council should be sent to the parish every year documenting the efforts to date by the council.
- How are we going to engage our energies? Less projects with more strength.

Strategic Plan:

The following list reflects a brainstorming session among the council members:

- Get mission out there to move forward with The Year of Engagement initiative

- Council role: make information available to ministries
- Wanted to create an environment for all people
- How do we get people excited about their faith?
- Sharing talent, dreams and possibilities this year
- Invite people to engage in a different, deeper way at St. Tom's
- Prepare life of the church – February, March, April.
- How do we get more people active in the parish beyond mass?
- Get more students involved.
- Student and parishioner interaction – they need to connect more.
- More students are attending 11:00 mass. 7:00 pm mass still very popular for students
- CHIRP – should we start it or even do it in our own way?
- Sunday night parishioners cook for students to get the two groups interacting.
- Look into other schools that have a parish on a college campus.
- The parish is moving away from a student dominating parish, St. Tom's is moving toward more of a resident parishioner focus and this is expected because the residents are paying the bills.
- Get connected with the Missouri church
 - Try to learn things from Newman's centers where they focus on just students.
 - Are we missing some things to get students involved?
 - Get information from outside sources.
 - Research and homework done by the people

• Barb Kerkhoff will be leading a discussion during the next 3 meetings to prepare us for the Year of Engagement. The discussions will be focused on teaching and dialog upon the PPC members.

- The first meeting will look at scripture and how we view it and how the church began after the first apostles died

Upcoming meetings:

February 25 1-3 PM

March 25 2-4 PM

April 15 1-4 PM

April 22 1-3 PM