

CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE  
FINANCE COUNCIL MINUTES

October 24, 2007

**Members Present:** Father Mike Ratajczak, Paul Ibbetson, Don Eppich, Janice Treat, Jim McGlone, Wilma Rolland, Natalie Provinse (Bookkeeper), Doug D'Agrosa (Pastoral Council)

**Members Absent:** Genevieve Green, Charles Salter, Ron Briseno (Development Council),

**Opening Prayer:** The meeting was called to order with an opening prayer by Paul Ibbetson at 7:00 pm.

**Opening remarks:** Julie Simonson was introduced as the new secretary to replace Wilma Rolland. She will begin at the next meeting in November.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the August 22 meeting were approved via e-mail and fax for posting on August 31.

**Review of Financial Statement:** Don Eppich presented a review of the financial statement. Our income is below budget by 6.87%. Some of this is due to the collection income being below budget and a large portion is because we have not yet received a rebate from the Diocese for the 'Annual Catholic Appeal'. The "Did you Know Campaign" is below anticipated contributions by 50%.

Our expenses are over budget by 4.65%. This is due to an increase in auto insurance premiums for the pastor's car, purchasing bulk quantities for janitorial needs, and up front expenses for music and various supplies.

The council will be keeping a close watch on the ratio of income to expenses in the following months.

Spreadsheets were presented representing month to month income comparisons for this year to last, a review of the reserve account and a summary of the checking account Saint Thomas More uses for bill paying etc.

**Old business:** Vegetation has been cleared on the five acre parcel in preparation for installing a fence. Joe Garcia will be receiving bids for a six foot cyclone fence with a bar on top and a gate at the end of Keys Place road. It was brought to the attention of the council that reflective signs might need to be put on the gate to warn approaching motorists that the road ends. Father Mike will contact the county to see what ordinance is in place for private property owners at the end of a county road.

**New Business:** The Diocese will be conducting a Capital Campaign to raise 25 million dollars to cover the difference between the settlement awarded the plaintiffs in the sexual abuse lawsuit and the amount of money available to the Diocese through Diocesan insurance coverage, sale of Diocesan properties, and present Diocesan assets.

The leadership of the parish councils will be meeting in November to prepare for a December 20 meeting with the Diocesan Construction Services. They will present a summary of our financial outlook and how we would like to move forward with our building plans. A handout was presented with a summary of the financial requirements for the new church building with different scenarios regarding funds available and future fundraising requirements to support various build out plans. A long discussion ensued regarding the Diocesan loan requirements and the potential saving and expenses of building the Sanctuary, Daily Chapel, and offices together or separately. Brian Leahey and architect, Renzo Zecchetto, are working on a cost analysis of the different scenarios.

The “Outdoor Ministry Fair” portion of Stewardship Month has been cancelled the weekend of October 27/28 due to poor air quality resulting from the fires in the county.

**Building and Maintenance:** The inventory is progressing nicely. Jim McGlone will present more details at the next meeting.

The gopher eradication contract is complete and seems to have been effective.

Joe Garcia is obtaining bids for hydro-washing the exterior of the building. This will be coordinated with the regular washing of the windows which is done twice a year. It had been determined that the building did not need washing but since the fires this week it needs to be done. The bids are ranging between \$2,000 and \$4,000.

**Personnel Report:** Two new money counters were approved. They are Kathy Wilson and Nancy Busse.

**Update from Pastoral Council:** Bret Schanzenbach is the new committee head for Adult Faith Formation.

The Welcome Ministry had 80 registration requests since 2/1/07 with 47 new registrations. Four of the new families chose to tithe with 8 new pledges.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Men’s Prayer Breakfast was held with 24 attending.

Father Mike’s Bookies was held with 30 attending the morning session and 30 in the evening.

STM hosted the “Congregations for Civic Action” event, “Lift Every Voice” on Saturday October 20 with over 140 in attendance.

**Update from Development Council:** A copy of the minutes from the last meeting was presented to all present.

**Request for Press Releases:** There was nothing under this category.

**Comments from the Pastor:** The financial report for the FY 2006/2007 is finished and will be sent to all registered households in November.

A schedule of the Parish Councils meeting dates for 2008 was given to each member.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Janice Treat at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilma Rolland