

Meeting Minutes

Saint Theresa Parish Pastoral Council

November 17, 2008

Official Minutes

Members Attending: Fr. Chuck Kieffer, Rick Raymond, Becky Henry, Neil Urban, Mary Muir, Kurt Hammond, Vincent Berkley, Billie Young, Lisa Beggs, Gina Anthony, Michael Harris

7:10 Opening Prayer Vincent Berkley.

7:15 CTODP Presentation

Fr. Chuck welcomed Pat Lavin, CTODP Director of Development, and Owen Cotton, CTODP Treasurer. They gave a very informative presentation on the Arizona Education Tax Credit which is administered by the Catholic Tuition Office of the Diocese of Phoenix. Pat covered the way in which individuals can participate in the program at no cost as well as how the funds are allocated to the schools in the Diocese. We also discussed ways to foster participation in our parish. Fr. Chuck gratefully received a \$1000 check for the school as a thank you for having the presentation for Council members. Tracey Theisen, the St. Theresa School Development Director, also attended and spoke of ways in which the school is encouraging participation of school families and all parishioners. She will be speaking at all masses December 7 and 8.

7:50 Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of September 24, 2008, was voiced by Neil and seconded by Billie. The minutes were unanimously approved with one correction.

7:55 Pastor's Report

Fr. Chuck began with a report on several projects that have recently been completed including the left-turn arrow on Thomas Road, new security cameras around the property, and the tile in the sanctuary. The Early Childhood Center – Campus Expansion Project (which, in addition to the new preschool building, will include new space for art, science, music and Spanish) is in the planning stages and fund raising continues to ensure that the entire project is covered. We have a donor for a new electronic sign for the school that will be easy to program and enable us to change messages in keeping with activities on the school and church calendar.

The annual Parish stewardship report will be mailed to all registered parishioners in the next two weeks. The offertory program response has been encouraging and the overall number of 2009 participants has gone up (over 2008).

Fr. Chuck expressed his joy at the current progress of seminarians in our Parish. Deacon Will Schmid will preach at the Christmas Eve 10 p.m. mass. He will be ordained to the priesthood in June 2009. We have the honor to celebrate the ordination to the diaconate of Matthew Henry here at St. Theresa Parish on May 23, 2009, with Bishop Olmstead. Matthew, along with John Parks, is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in June 2010.

8:20 Daily Mass Schedule

Mary Muir shared the handout that she prepared on daily Masses at parishes near St. Theresa along with a map of their locations. The council members had an excellent discussion of how we might incorporate an evening Mass into the current Mass schedule, perhaps once a week, and proposed several ideas about how this might be introduced to the community. One idea is to offer it as a Lenten observance beginning with Ash Wednesday and then assessing response and whether it might be continued. All Council members are asked to speak to 5 other parishioners to get feedback about this idea for our next meeting.

8:30 Council Awareness Plan

Rick led a discussion of our visibility in the Parish and the need to be open and available to input from all parishioners. Phone mail box, business cards, and names badges are all ways this can be enhanced. We will schedule a weekend in the spring for a Pastoral Council "ministry minute" at all masses. We are encouraged to attend new parishioners welcoming receptions upcoming on Dec. 7, Feb. 8, April 19, and June 7.

8:50 2008-2009 Meeting Schedule

Monday meetings for the rest of the year were announced. Next meeting is January 19, 2009. All meetings will be held in the Upper Room.

8:55 Closing Prayer Lisa Beggs

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Becky Henry, Secretary