

Meeting Minutes

Saint Theresa Parish Pastoral Council

January 19, 2009

Official Minutes

Members Attending: Fr. Chuck Kieffer, Rick Raymond, Becky Henry, Mary Muir, Kurt Hammond, Billie Young, Michael Harris

7:10 Opening Prayer Becky Henry.

7:15 Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2008, was voiced by Kurt and seconded by Mary. The minutes were unanimously approved.

7:20 Pastor's Report

Fr. Chuck received many comments during the Christmas season remarking on the welcoming nature of our community. It is a joy to have visitors recognize the beauty of our parish community. We have recently been blessed with two generous gifts. The first, a new Steinway concert grand piano is being donated by a parishioner to honor the memory of his late wife, daughter, and good friend. This beautiful new instrument is scheduled for delivery the week of February 9th, and is expected to serve our community for generations to come. Our current Kimball piano will be temporarily stored and given to the school for its music program when the school music room can accommodate it. A second parishioner is substantially underwriting the costs of a new St. Theresa Catholic School monument sign to replace the current marquee sign on Thomas Road. The new sign will have a state-of-the-art digital LED message display, remotely controlled through our computer network. We expect zoning variances and permits to be received in the coming few weeks, then construction/installation of the new sign will begin.

Fr. Chuck gave an update on the Vision 2000 Campus Expansion and Early Childhood Center project. Current issues relating to zoning, transfer of the land from the Diocese to the new Parish Corporation and licensing are well in hand. The architect and several committees are working on various aspects of the planning process and are finalizing the timeline, while taking into consideration both the challenges and opportunities of current economic conditions.

We are fortunate to have Fr. Van Wagner in residence and serving the community while Fr. Matt is in India. Some upcoming special masses and events include: CDA presentation by Fr. Paul Sullivan, Jan.31 and Feb.1; CDA pledge

completion, Feb.7-8; school open house, Feb.10;

and, the opportunity to fill out and submit postcards encouraging our lawmakers to reject the Freedom of Choice Act, Feb.14-15.

Ash Wednesday will be observed on Feb.25 with mass at 7 p.m. We will include a special evening mass in our Lenten schedule, Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. in addition to soup and stations on Friday evenings. A special Lenten mission on prayer will be led by Fr. Frank.

7:50 Daily Mass Schedule

Mary and Becky shared the feedback they have received about evening mass at St. Theresa. This will start with the masses offered during Lent and then we will evaluate the response of the community. Some discussion was held about ways to encourage attendance and get the word out as well as whether the convent chapel might be a good venue for these masses.

8:00 Council Awareness Plan

Rick continued our discussion of our visibility in the Parish and the need to be open and available to input from all parishioners. He shared copies of the plan which gathered together our input from previous meetings. Additional details on events and progress of the ideas will be communicated via e-mail to council members.

8:15 Town Hall Concept

Rick presented the idea of a "town hall" with the pastor as another vehicle for communication to parishioners. Fr. Chuck shared information about the "god and Coffee" series he led several years ago. Discussion on scheduling and participation followed.

8:20 Open Discussion

Michael shared information on the upcoming Catholic Men's Conference on Feb.21 at St. Paul's. Last year's conference was a rewarding experience of fellowship and prayer.

8:25 Next Meeting: March 16, 2009

8:30 Closing Prayer Rick Raymond

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Becky Henry, Secretary