

**St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Pastoral Council  
Agenda**

**February 7, 2017, Bethany Room, 7pm**

**Attendees:** Fr. Steve, Sharon Mason, Tim Delaney, Rita Englum, Michael Mendez, Fred Chandler, Delia Novak, Will Fay, Cathy Bickel and Tom Mulhern

**Absent:** Chip Garver and Paul Malone

**Guests:** Chris Countryman

**Opening Prayer:** Will Fay

**Roll Call and Minutes:** William Fay

**President's Remarks:** William Fay

- Parish Council – Establish Election Timeline
  - The elections will take place in May, 2017.
  - Up to two (2) positions will be up for election.
  - Two (2) additional positions will need to be filled via the committees.
  - Sharon, Cathy and Tom to meet to discuss next steps.
- PC Meeting Format – Discuss and Establish new Format
  - Focus on one (1) committee/commission at a time for each meeting.
  - Reserve time at the end to discuss serious issues facing parish.
  - Tom to draft initial schedule for review by the council.
- Capital Campaign –
  - Chris Countryman – Update on Campaign
    - The goal of the campaign is \$1.0 million.
    - Consultants have been engaged to help the committee with the process.
    - The focus of the campaign is spiritual renewal – love of self, each other and environment.
    - Chris will address the parish the weekend of Feb. 25/26
  - Understand role of PC
    - The council agrees to be supportive of the campaign.
    - Will provide specific support as requested by the campaign committee.
- Parishioner Engagement – Clarify role of PC
  - Lenten Suppers
    - Sharon to address the parish the weekend of Feb. 11/12
  - 12 Stranger Diners

- To be initiated after the conclusion of the Lenten Suppers
  - New Parishioner Dinner
    - Next welcome dinner to be held in March.
- Multi-Faith Prayer Service
  - Determine PC Support Level
    - Approved efforts to plan next event.
    - Council advised to tie service to a specific event.
    - Service might rotate between congregations.
- Immigration Letter
  - Discuss and Determine PC Support
    - Council will offer its own letter.
    - The letter will have a parish-wide emphasis
    - Tim to review/draft letter.
- Glass Cabinets
  - Cheryl Taylor has the keys so we can place relevant information for the parish to read.
- Clean-up Activities
  - Potential clean-up activities to be led by Tricia Lautenbach given initial approval.
  - Will to speak with Tricia.

**Pastor's Remarks:** Fr. Steve

- Please attend Bishop Braxton event on February 18.
- Announced Fr. Justin's retreat to occur during the third week of March.

**Parishioner Concerns:**

- Update on Wheel Chair Access Issue
  - Finance committee is currently seeking bids.

Commission and Committee Reports

**Peace and Justice:** Rita Englum

Updates for Boulevard Place Dec 2016 & Jan 2017:

- We had a drop in client visits in December compared to a very busy November. We seem to be making up for it because client visits this month (January) are on pace to come in higher than last month and higher than January of last year.

- We have submitted a grant request to the Indy Hunger Network for funds to purchase and install a "wave type" permanent bike rack for clients. We should learn in February if the grant is approved.
- The Marion County Public Health Dept - Nutrition Services came in December and did a nutritious food sampling for clients. This is an ongoing project. In addition, the Purdue Extension - Nutrition services has an ongoing similar program at the pantry every other Tuesday afternoon.
- This winter we were invited to begin retrieving produce from the Broad Ripple Indoor Farmers Market. Participation in the winter market is a first for our pantry and we are very happy that we have been included. Thus far the bounty has been small but the quality has been great.
- We had lots of volunteer help from area high school students, mainly Cathedral and Brebeuf. Although the students came to fulfill service hour requirements, they contributed diligently and were a welcome addition.
- The third grade classes (36 students ) from the International School of Indianapolis (ISI) visited the pantry this week for a community awareness field trip. First they went shopping at a local grocery store spending \$1,000 for select items for the pantry. Their bounty weighed in at approximately 460 pounds. The kids were all given an orientation, tour, and put to work. Some of the tasks they completed included bagging apples, labeling egg cartons, sorting and shelving their donations and putting bulk eggs in cartons, I can't say for sure, but I think their favorite activity was getting to go into the walk-in freezer. Overall, it was a very successful and enjoyable event for both the school and the pantry. ISI is already making plans for next year's class to set a goal of surpassing the donation level they made this year.

Cindy Brown

## **Society of St Vincent de Paul, St Thomas Aquinas Conference**

### **Meeting of January 5, 2017**

Members present: Bill Hubbs, Bill Larson, Phil Brady, Millie Brady, Chris Countryman, Tony Morreale, Cindy Brown, Sally Debono Tom Quinn

#### **1). Opening Prayer/Spiritual Reflection**

In her spiritual reflection, Milly focused on the need to use calm to overcome distresses in the coming year. "The Christmas season was focused on the coming of the Christ Child which gives us hope and joy in the midst of all the challenges of what is happening in our world today."

#### **2). Presidents Announcements**

The Indianapolis SVdP council has approved a \$1.7m budget for 2017

October and November donations to the Indianapolis Council totaled only \$93,000 vs budgeted amount of \$205,000. November and December historically have the highest totals of donations during the year.

Domini Rouse has been chosen the first director of the Changing Lives Forever

program. This is a part time salaried position funded by a grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.

The inventory of mattresses available for distribution at the warehouse is very low. Between October 15 and November 29 243 beds were requested by SVdP clients, but only 98 beds were available for distribution.

The Mission 27 Resale Shop is on target for \$500,000 in annual sales. Receipts are slightly ahead of budget at this time

### **3). Treasurer's Report**

The beginning balance in the SVdP account as of December 1 was \$2,873.70

\$16.00 was received from the poor box

\$22.00 was received from the November 3 meeting offering

\$37.00 was received from the December 1 meeting offering

\$2,708.00 was received from November STA SVdP collections

\$2,085.00 was received from December STA SVdP collections

Total income for the month totaled \$4,868.00

\$1,100.00 was distributed in December for client rent and utilities

\$1000.00 was distributed to the Boulevard Place Food Pantry

\$229.00 was distributed for the purchase of a bed set for a client

\$872.57 was distributed to Marsh for food for Christmas basket

Total expenses for December totaled \$3,201.57

The ending balance in the SVdP account as of January 1 was \$4,540.13

Upcoming 2017 expenses will include a quarterly donation to the Cathedral Soup Kitchen and a donation to our Twinning parish in the Dominican Republic

### **4). Client Support Update and Discussion**

7 adults and 6 children received financial assistance in December. No new client activity was reported

### **5). Other Reports**

The location of the SVdP clothing bin in the north parking lot of the church was discussed. Members feel that the location is not visible enough to parishioners and others in the community and as a result we may be missing out on donations. The preferred location is in the corner of the main parking lot just inside the Illinois Street pedestrian gate. (The bin was temporarily located here during Sausage Fest in August). A concrete pad would be needed to support the weight of the bin, which would be paid for by SVdP. Tom will solicit input from Fr Steve and others in the parish regarding the possible re-location of the bin.

It has been suggested that the STA SVdP conference host a "Household Sunday" in the spring as a means of securing donations from parishioners for the Mission 27 Resale Shop. Items could be dropped off at the church at designated times during the designated weekend (and possibly include a weekday), and then transported to the Resale Shop via a SVDP truck. Cindy suggested that the event be held before the end of the school year. We will continue to explore options for this event.

Cindy reported that overall Boulevard Place Food Pantry traffic was slow during December, particularly the week between Christmas and New years when volume

was expected to be high. She also reported that November was very busy.

**6). Collection for Pantry**

Completed

**7). Closing Prayer**

Completed

**Parish Life and Youth:** Thomas Mulhern – no report

**Finance:** Jenny Lurkins- no report

**Faith Formation:** Michael Mendez – no report

**Stewardship:** Fred Chandler

**Spiritual Life:** no report

**School Commission:** Chip Garver – no report

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Closing Prayer:** Will Fay

---

**Next Meeting: March 7, 2017, 7 pm, Bethany Room**  
**Opening and Closing Prayer: To Be Announced**