

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

October 3, 2017, Parish Conference Room, 7pm

Attendees: Fr. Michael, Rita Englum, Karen Momper, Cheryl Taylor, Vicente Giordanelli, Delia Novak, Paul Malone, Jenny Lurkins, Sharon Mason, Tim Delaney, Shanna Martin, Tessa Oakes and Tom Mulhern

Absent: Cathy Bickel and Grace Coffey

Guests: Sheila Brown, Chris Countryman and Matt Hayes

Opening Prayer: Fr. Michael

Roll Call and Minutes: Tom Mulhern

President's Remarks: Tom Mulhern

- Census work – Sheila Brown – website – updates to the various ministries / committees. Connections to new folks moving into the neighborhood. For example, new families moving into the area have received welcome packages, including, Sausagefest mugs stuffed with church & school flyers, welcome letter, and coupons. They have delivered 80. Sharon Mason asked if this could be communicated with the parish.
- Spiritual Exercise – Matt Hayes – session Nov 11 – 9am -1pm – exercise to determine what are the priorities of the parish. Focus on pastoral planning. Please do the homework in preparation for the session.
- School presentation – Cara Swinefurth / Vicente Giordanelli – provided an overview of the school. Currently, there are 211 students enrolled. They comprise 137 families. Eighty percent of the population is Catholic. Approximately, twenty-five percent of the population is deemed to be diverse from a racial / ethnic perspective. The school is accredited with an “A” rating.

Pastor's Remarks: Fr. Michael

- Stressed the importance of the Spiritual Exercise workshop with Matt Hayes.

Parishioner Concerns: None

Commission and Committee Reports

Stewardship: Juan Gonzalez

- The composition of the committee is in the process of being finalized for the upcoming year.
- The Parish database is being analyzed to ensure it is current.
- The automatic giving process is under review. This is a key part of the committee's initial work to ensure consistent giving as well as helping to increase giving.
- Juan will be attending the Stewardship Chairs event held by the Archdiocese in order to learn best practices.
- The United Catholic Appeal will start soon. Parishioners will receive mailings shortly. The goal for STA is \$49,000.

Spiritual Life: Grace Coffey

- No report available for October.

School Commission: Vicente Giordanelli

- No report was delivered, since one of the agenda items was a presentation on the school.

Peace and Justice: Rita Englum

1. Opening Prayer/Spiritual Reflection

Millie Brady led us in an opening reflection drawn from the Manual of St. Vincent de Paul: "Jesus, Evangelizer and Servant of the Poor." This was followed by a lively discussion.

As part of the discussion, Sally de Bono suggested that we ask Fr. Hoyt to provide information about SVdP during his Homily on the weekend of Sept. 23-24, which is near St. Vincent's feast day.

2. President's announcements

STA SVdP will have a "Blanket Sunday" this fall. We agreed to have it on the weekend of October 7-8. Tom Quinn will work on publicity.

Kroger Gift Cards will again be available at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Kroger at 65th and Keystone has indicated a willingness to help us organize food baskets this year (Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter). Boulevard Place will also provide food.

SVdP USA offers grants in support of projects. We will not participate this round.

The clothing box has been moved to the front of church.

There remains a need to have truck drivers and helpers for the Distribution Center on Saturday mornings. The next opportunity is September 9.

Highlights from the Indianapolis Council Meeting: finances are the best they have been in years; Mission 27 Resale Shop is operating in the black; a “rainy day” fund has been proposed but some funds may be directed to Changing Lives Forever (CLF), which is growing dramatically; a major donation of \$50,000 and a bequest have greatly benefitted finances; the 30th Street restroom renovation is underway; thus far, referral clients have received \$275,000 worth of goods from Mission 27, about 45% of their proceeds. CLF is in need of mentors.

Phil Brady reported that the Boulevard Place pantry had 55 families on Wednesday of this week, their busiest day ever (this followed Labor Day and being closed on the subsequent Tuesday). A number system has been instituted to help keep coordinate clients as they shop in the pantry.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Starting Balance (1 August 2017): **\$ 4682.85**

Income: 0.00

Expenses:

Changing Lives Lunch (7/18/17) 73.98

Rents and Utilities 643.20

Washer and Dryer purchase 300.00

Total Expenses 1017.18

Ending Balance (1 September 2017): **\$ 3665.67**

SVdP USA has put out an appeal for disaster relief in Texas and (probably forthcoming Florida). We agreed to send them \$500 in support.

4. Client Support Update and Discussion

A bill for \$193 was paid recently to IPL; in August there were only 5 calls (five families and two children) that were not warehouse calls. Four calls were forwarded to the home visitors today.

5. Other Reports:

Warehouse/Distribution Center - None

STA Food Pantry (see above)

Other - None

6. Volunteer reports and other activities

The little card (mentioned last month) introducing St. Thomas Aquinas is almost ready to go. The card will provide information on St. Thomas Aquinas and may be handed out during home visits, and on other occasions.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

None

10. Solidarity Collection

A solidarity collection was taken.

11. Closing Prayer

We ended with the offering of intentions and saying the Our Father.

Parish Life and Youth: Alex Martinez

- CYO – The CYO season has started. Kickball is now done. Girls’ basketball practice has started. Games should begin next week. Boys’ basketball tryouts should begin in the next two weeks.
- New Parishioner Welcome Dinners – The last new parishioner dinner was held in September. Additional monthly dinners are planned through the end of the year. It will include all families that have joined the parish within the past three (3) years, as well as any families who have had a child baptized during the same time period.
- Other Activities – A number of activities related to parish life and youth will be discussed during the month of November to see what interest exists moving forward to continue / start them.

Finance: Jenny Lurkins

- Sausagefest report, event raised over \$91,000 to be used for maintenance expenses
- Ad Hoc committee to be established by Fr. Michael with one representative from each stewardship, capital campaign, finance and building & grounds to ensure projects are prioritized and completed in a timely manner as funds are received.
- Annual parish financial report to be distributed in October, representatives to be available in Bethany Room after mass for questions
- Approvals:
 - Bereavement committee can proceed with \$300 to purchase chairs
 - Up to \$6,000 approved for paver reinstallation
 - Sponsorship of Holiday Home Tour approved at \$250 level

Financial Package Notes – 2 months ended August 31, 2017

- YTD revenues of \$459,789 are \$4,462 favorable to budget but \$14,638 less than prior YTD.
- YTD Net Income of \$257,996 is \$20,489 favorable to budget and \$64,319 better than prior YTD.
- YTD Sunday Collections of \$112,742 is \$8,976 unfavorable to budget and \$1,114 less than prior YTD.

- YTD tuition of \$287,892 is \$7,202 favorable to budget and \$27,330 better than prior YTD. This is largely due to inclusion of preschool tuition.
- Total Operating Expense of \$234,073 is \$26,226 unfavorable to budget and \$5,954 unfavorable to prior year to date. \$18,563 of this overage was due to increased salary expense as a result of additional payroll in September.
- Total cash on hand of \$335,486 which is a decrease of approximately \$30k from July.
- \$51,280 remains in Gala Deferred Revenue. \$43,333.33 of this will go to “subsidize” operations at the rate of \$3,333.33 per month through September 2018.
- The General Fund (reflecting the equity of the parish) is \$67,883.61. This is a great improvement over June 30, but it will be a challenge to keep this number positive as the parish benefits from early tuition payment.
- \$148,911 in restricted funds, including \$35,269 reserved for the large kitchen remodel, \$25,868 for STA Athletic Fund, \$24,007 for HSA (net), and \$10,846 for Haiti (net).
- As of August 31, 2017, \$61,058 had been received toward the capital campaign and are first applied toward capital campaign expenses. \$28,778 of those funds were recognized in fiscal 2017. \$32,280 are recognized in fiscal 2018. As funds from the capital campaign are received, they will be posted to a restricted account. As the intended use for those funds arises, the funds will be recorded in fundraising income to offset costs of the associated project.

Faith Formation: Tessa Oakes

Baptisms

Rachel Thomas reports that Lucas Eugene Susalla-Partridge will be baptized during the 10:30 mass on October 22nd. His parents are Peter Susalla and Katherine Partridge.

Marriages

Andy Weidekamp provided the names of the seven sponsor couples who have completed the Prepare/Enrich training program and support marriage preparation:

- Andy & Dottie Weidekamp (Marriage Preparation Co-chair couple)
- Mat & Cece Gerdenich
- Jay & Crystal Haslett
- Murph & Kim Mahaffey
- Alan & Jennifer Pyrz
- Bud & Sheri Ross
- Rick & Rachel Thomas

Confirmation

Sandra Santucci reports that 12 registration forms have been submitted for people seeking Confirmation, but she has received at least 20 additional contacts about the sacrament, so she anticipates many more than 12 in this year's program. The first Confirmation class begins this Sunday!

RCIA

RCIA began Monday, October 2nd. Kara Bungard and Andy Pike will be leading this group.

First Reconciliation

A parent meeting was held last week for those seeking First Reconciliation and First Communion this year. Preparation for these sacraments will be provided during religious education classes either in St. Thomas Aquinas School or Church. Parents used the meeting to split into small groups which will meet outside of religious education for more intimate conversations. Parents are encouraged to share in the learning and preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion, as catechism begins in the home.

This year, the sacrament of First Communion will be received during the 10:30am mass May 6, 2017. This is a change from recent years, wherein there was a separate ceremony for First Communion.

Youth Ministries

Alyse Thomas and Deneen Fitzgerald are hoping to build more interest in high school socialization and group activities. They will be working to organize some fun activities.

Forty-four (44) middle school children attended the recent go-karting event!! The next youth ministry event scheduled for middle school children is a trip to Hanna's Haunted Acres this Saturday, October 7th.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Closing Prayer: Campaign Prayer - All

Next Meeting: None in November due to Spiritual Exercise on Nov. 11
Opening and Closing Prayer: To Be Announced