

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

January 3, 2017, Bethany Room, 7pm

Attendees: Sharon Mason, Rita Englum, Michael Mendez, Fred Chandler, Delia Novak, Father Steve, Will Fay, Cathy Bickel

Absent: Tom Mulhern, Jeanne Hidalgo, Chip Garver, Tim Delaney, Paul Malone

Guests: Bill Scott

Opening Prayer: Jenny Lurkins

Roll Call and Minutes: William Fay

President's Remarks: William Fay

- Parish Council – Elections:
 - We reviewed the Constitutional requirements and terms. No one could remember exactly when the last elections were.
 - A suggestion was made to have the constitution published where everyone could read it, because it made a lot of changes – two year instead of three year terms, for example.
 - Michael said he was finishing Jane Watson's terms and also will be cycling off this year.
 - Agreed: We will ask all Commission Representatives if they want to stay on, and have elections in the Spring (May) for anywhere from four to seven at-large positions. Sharon and Cathy will head this up and report back in February with a plan. This will include getting them an electronic copy of the Constitution and Tom's email on who has served x years of their term.
 - Michael asked what the scope of the Parish Council is. Steve said it traditionally has been an advisory body for the pastor, but not involved with nuts and bolts operation of the Parish. Cathy said the Council also has a responsibility to report back to the Pastor what they are hearing from parishoners.
 - Agreed: The Council recommends that Building and Grounds explore feasibility of a handicapped friendly door at the main entrance of the Church, and addressing the dip in front of the Church door.
 - Michael mentioned need to correct the October minutes to reflect the right wording for the Playground hours restrictions.
- Lenten Supper – prep work.

- Sharon said the format will be to use Ignation Prayer and Lenten gospels. She will coordinate with Tom on giving potential hosts opportunities to weigh in on concept. Will suggested that this effort have access to a few hundred dollars in printing and PR funds if needed, since this is a key part of the Parish identity.

Pastor's Remarks: Fr. Steve

Bishop Braxton will speak February 18th. 8 pm in the Church. Father Steve is leading the outreach, including with IMPD. Mayor Hogsett will be invited.

Parishioner Concerns:

None.

Commission and Committee Reports

Finance: Jenny Lurkins – no report

Faith Formation: Michael Mendez – no report

Stewardship: Fred Chandler

There is a discrepancy between the November and December United Catholic Appeal numbers. We either are about \$1000 or about \$7000 short.

The Stewardship Committee will meet January 9th to appoint a Capital Campaign Steering Committee. They will begin to work with the top 50 parish contributors. The Campaign will likely have its public launch April 22-23. Father added that the Finance Committee also is deciding whether to hire a consultant for leading the Campaign. They will make a decision at their January meeting.

The Haiti Committee will mail out is January Appeal on Wednesday January 11th.

Spiritual Life: Jeanne Hidalgo – no report

School Commission: Chip Garver – no report

Parish Life and Youth: Thomas Mulhern – no report

Peace and Justice: Rita Englum

HAITI COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING ON DECEMBER 13, 2016

Present: Fred Chandler, Doris Chandler, Steve Zentner, Clare Skevington, Mark Varnau, Mary Rohrman, Steve Bezy

1. Opening prayer by Clare.
2. Treasurer's Report from Fred:
 - a. No funds were sent for medical services this month because we did not receive a report on clinic activity as agreed. Steve Zentner will check with Dr. Pierre for the report.
 - b. We received a donation of \$1000 from St. Luke's Parish Social Concerns Committee.
 - c. A meeting between Marcha Bennett, Raquel Ravinet, and Fred took place this past week. The Finance Committee has requested that no checks be written by the Parish which would bring the Haiti Committee account below zero regardless of the amount time or amount floated. Therefore, donations to the Haiti account in the total amount of \$10,000 have been made to be utilized strictly as a cushion to always keep the account with a positive cash flow.
 - d. The Archdiocese Mission Office has donated \$5,000 to our Haiti Fund for hurricane related expenses.
 - e. As of date our account balance is \$23,599.20, this includes the \$10,000 cushion, and approximately \$6500 January check to be sent to Belle-Riviere.
 - f. Also in December, continuing donations for the school lunch program amounted to \$13,410.
3. At the request of the Parish Counsel, a monthly report on Haiti Committee activities will be sent to Rita Englum, Parish Counsel Social Concerns/Christian Service.
4. Sea Container:
 - a. A room in the Quigley/Pratt Building has been offered to stage/repack etc. items for shipment by sea container for Haiti.
 - b. No money was budgeted for a sea container this year. We need to designate money if we do a large collection or we could designate a few priority items such as truck tires and share sea container shipment expenses with another group such as Friends of Belle-Riviere.
5. Annual January STA Haiti Fundraiser:
 - a. Doris presented a draft of a letter to be sent to all in the parish and other Haiti Committee supporters.
 - b. A detailed accounting of Haiti Committee activities for the year will be included with appreciation of all involved as well as a humble request for continued support.
6. There was some discussion about the need for this committee to recruit more members, especially younger members. This topic will be a priority for the committee in January and February.
7. Our next meeting is planned for Tuesday, January 10. The meeting will be mainly used to prepare letters, envelopes, stamps for the mailing.

See PDF documents for reports on (1) Boulevard Place, and (2) St. Vincent de Paul

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Closing Prayer: Jenny Lurkins

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