

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Council Annual Retreat Minutes

June 25, 2011, Prescott, AZ

Attendance:

Fr. Kieran	Barbara Mussman	Brent Littlefield
Nate Cottrell	Patrick Reardon	Dianne Robinson
Terry Donegan	Mary Frances Haluska	Mary Lou Bailey
Lory Charnetsky	Jerry Briner	Grizelle Apodaca
Brad Keogh	Celeste Furey	

- I. Opening Prayer: Fr. Kieran
- II. Approval of the May 10th meeting minutes: Jerry Briner moved and Mary Lou Bailey second approval of the minutes: Approved unanimously.
- III. Introduction of new Council members: Nate Cottrell introduced the new members: Barbara Mussman and Terry Donegan.
- IV. Nominations for President and Secretary for next year: Terry Donegan moved and Jerry Briner moved & second to close nominations. Approved unanimously.
 - Jerry Briner and Nate Cottrell moved and second unanimous consent of nominations: Approved unanimously.
 - President - Brad Keogh
 - Secretary - Grizelle Apodaca
- V. Review of last year's activities: Nate reviewed Pastoral Plan - What happened last year.
 - Took bond out - originally taking out tax free bonds but could not because using part of the funds to pay down debt - mid process had to shift to full bonds
 - Stopped monthly dinners due to lack of interest.
 - Stewardship program – feedback was positive.
 - Capital Campaign - 98 - 2001, debt was paid off in 2007. All 3 year commitment pledges came to an end in 2011.
 - No capital campaign will take place for the bonds. The Stewardship campaign and the normal offertory collection should generate the funds to pay off the bonds. The goal is to make payments and buy back the bonds in 5 years.
 - The goal next year is for another letter to go out through the program from the Office of Stewardship.
 - A note might be placed in bulleting for bequests.

- VI. Elementary School construction started: Fr. Kieran and Patrick Reordan reported that - construction still ahead of schedule by 3 weeks and that we will have what we need as far as classrooms. There a shortfall of about 100K to complete the entire project.
- Enrollment is good. We have a waitlist for 4 yr olds and Kindergarten.
 - The teen center will be finished.
 - Building - 2 2nd grade, library, computer center - completion of that space was not in original contract. The cost per sq ft 30% ish higher.
 - We are coming in under budget. The crucial classrooms will be ready. The rest can happen between Aug 16 (walk through - final) and the week of Dec. 3rd.
 - The furniture comes in in August.
 - We are anticipating classrooms doubling each year.
 - Measures to save on energy costs include:
 - The buildings are insulated concrete form - Hasbro system floor, R-40 factor on the walls.
 - They are energy efficient with a geothermal heating and cooling system. The older building will be tied into this.
 - LED lighting to replace the lights in church will save energy. The Goal to replace all lights in school to LED.
 - The Parish Ball has no chair. . It usually takes place the Saturday. before Thanksgiving. Sue Paulson has been the Chair & her sister cochair.
 - The Ministries have committed to assisting in the completion of the school.
- VII. Patterdel Pines work continues - coming along slowly, water, the roof, in need secure doors before we put furniture inside. It will be livable in a short time. Uses for the camp should be identified before preparing the camp. The groups that use the camp should help with the completion, repair and maintenance of camp.
- To complete the camp:
 - Repairs/Exterior: Terry Donegan and Nate Cottrell
 - Decorating: Funiture, cleaning, etc.: Fr. Kieran and Lory Charnersky
 - Landscaping: Terry Donegan and Nate Cottrell – architectural drawings for phases.
 - Programming: Jerry Briner
 - Future Planning:
 - Everything is permitted for use. We should have a trial run.
- VIII. Review of current Pastoral Plan - What has been completed?: We brought Karen Miran to facilitate the process. We established 4 themes although we put second one on hold. The themes should be reviewed, to determine successful and whether we need to modify the plan or add to it. **The Council members decided to bring Karen Miran back in October to update the plan.**
- From standpoint of construction - Goal 1 is completed.

- Goal 2: Enhancing Development – This theme belongs to the Finance Council. We completed the resource development plan. The Finance Council and other expertise were brought in to discuss the options. Consideration was given to loans, bonding - selling bonds and in conjunction with the Diocese the best decision was to go with the Bonds.
- A High School will be completely separate from Church and School.
- Goal 3: Partially completed – for the time being the remainder of the school has been built and there is a design for a new Parish Hall. There is also a conceptual drawing of the new Chapel

IX. Discussion around School plan: Fr. Kieran and Nate Cottrell explained the rendition to obtain ideas for what to do with the space the school currently occupies once the new buildings are completed. Fr. Kieran wants to get thinking started to get input - even at September meeting. The Parish will be gaining office space – including the Music room which will eventually move to second floor of the north building.

- Plans for 3rd classroom were modified down to what most parishes have - 2 classrooms per grade. This decision eliminated the costs of a third building.
- The parish is gaining 2000 sq. ft. - next to gift shop
- St Clair Hall spaces also shifting. Have to build Maintenance Shed to get them out of the kitchen. This will open space in St. Clair.
- Building a shed will cost \$50,000.
- Fr. Kieran hopes to enlarge the kitchen. The space next to Fr. Kieran's office could be open and used as an adult library. New library will be 4500 sq. ft. not sure how to use it. Set aside space in library for adult library.
- RE – RCIS, RCIT, RCIA, etc. going on in evening - will be concentrated in the north building. Parish offices will close at 5:30 – and the school space will be utilized to conduct evening activities.
- Fr. Kieran will have 4 deacons and will need more offices for them.
- Funding sources will be needed to keep construction going.
- Bringing back the Fish Fries was discussed. They brought in \$25K a year - at their height.
- Knights of Columbus are thinking about a steak dinner fundraiser.

X. The Dedication – The date has been set by Bishop's calendar - Sept. 16th 11 AM open to kids, parents, etc. Sat. will be parish picnic. Could have easels with drawing renditions of what is going into uncompleted spaces.

- The strong educational institution we have should be showcased. A Suma issue on the school – August – October. Just an informational piece. It should also include a drawing of the new buildings.
- Important issue - gaining greater ownership of the school by the parish. Patrick Reordan and Mary Haluska plan and lay our strategy - start with Suma. What do you do beyond that? Committee of Stakeholders of Parish & School.

- Mary Lou Bailey will help organize a group of Seniors to read to the younger children.

XI. Other business:

- Ministerial Conference: This Fall and Spring – Brad will do a list; to communicate what each ministry is doing or planned to do.
- Social Events Committee: Grizelle Apodaca, Heather Cottrell, Fr. Kieran, Joyce Stephens.
 - Wine tastings
 - Mardi Gras party
 - Chile Cook- Off
- Lory needs help with Suma long-term: Fall School & Winter Patterdel.

XII. Closing Prayer: Fr. Kieran

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday Sept. 13th.