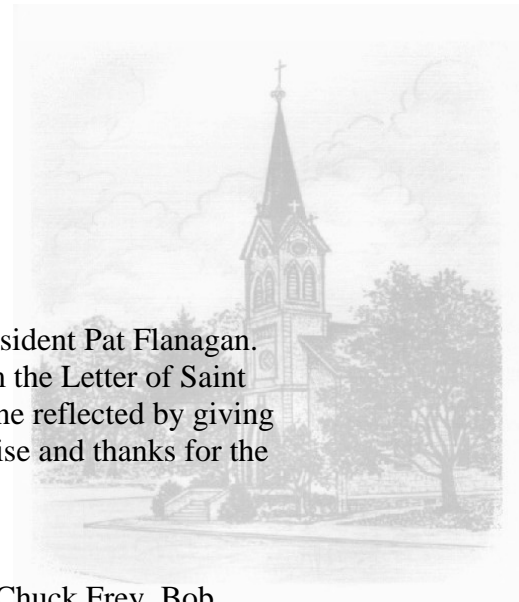


St. Thomas Aquinas Annual Meeting
September 19, 2007 6:30 P.M.
Gathering Space of Church
Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm. by Parish Council President Pat Flanagan. Father Gene Doda, Pastor, opened the meeting with a reading from the Letter of Saint James, Chapter 2, “Faith and Works, both are needed”. Father Gene reflected by giving praise and thanks for the faith of the people of St. Thomas and praise and thanks for the good works of the people of St. Thomas.

Attendance:

Parish Council Members – Father Gene Doda, Pat Flanagan, Chuck Frey, Bob Gariepy, Pat Gerber, Peter Joy, Gary Kienast, Frank Korb, Carolyn Nickel, Rosie Storm, George Toshner

Parishioners: 29

The 2006 Meeting Minutes were read by Secretary George Toshner and approved on a Jerry Nawotka / Harry Halbach motion.

Pastor’s Report “Call to Discipleship”

Father Gene said that one year into Covenant 2010 continues the call to be disciples with a faith vision beyond the community of St. Thomas Parish. One such out reach was a check (\$4,700) sent to St. Patrick’s in Milwaukee to help with rebuilding after their tragic fire. This was 5% of our net profit last year. Another example is a 5% tithe on weekly collections recommended by the finance committee. This tithe will be given beyond our community for those in need. Father said the future will be both frightening and exciting. We had an amazing financial year, now we need to give of our time and talents.

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2006-2007

Trustee Treasurer Carrie Nickel gave the financial report. This annual report was reviewed in detail. All present received a copy, and any parishioner not present can obtain a copy from the parish office. St. Thomas Parish had a net surplus of \$94,000. Carrie reviewed the financial “tidbits” section on the back of the report which summarized these capital expenditures and disbursements of revenue. Expenditures included a tractor (used for snow removal, campus maintenance, etc...), Father’s garage, remodeling of school offices and bathrooms, and new round tables and chairs for the school hall. These capital expenditures totaled \$61,797.40. Disbursements included 10% of net profit to the St. Thomas School Endowment (\$9,500) and parish support of the day school of 48% (\$387,355.06).

Building Committee Report: Last Meeting/Few Issues

Jay Henrichs and Ed Reesman gave the final report on the completion of the new church construction. Ed commented on the last construction items. Lighting is being upgraded in the altar and choir areas. Additional signage (\$35,000) is being added to the exterior of the campus to make it easier for visitors and new parishioners to find their way around. The maintenance building and parking lot (\$70,000) across the street is in the final planning and approval stage and construction should begin in November.

Jay commented on the construction finances. The initial \$2.1 million load was reduced to \$1.9 million by remaining under budget. \$500,000 from the contingency reserve fund was then used to pay the amount down to a \$1.4 million 15 year loan @ 7.1%. This reduced the monthly mortgage payments from \$18,900 to \$13,200. \$183,000 remains in reserves and savings to cover non-budgeted expenditures and unforeseen events.

General Questions

The reports given were clarified during their presentation. Three additional questions were asked by parishioners in attendance.

What direction is parish membership going?

Pat Gerber, who works with new member registration and orientation, gave the answer. Registration Sunday is the second Sunday of each month after the 8:00AM mass (10 times annually). On average, 8-10 families have attended each registration. This is very encouraging growth of our parish.

Will we be getting our Sunday Missals back? Many parishioners want to follow the order of the mass and read the scripture readings as they are proclaimed.

Father Gene gave the answer. New hardcover Gathering Books have been ordered and should be delivered in about a month. They contain the music to be sung during the liturgy, prayers to be recited by the congregation, and the order of the mass. None of the scripture readings are included because "to enter into the prayer, we must listen and join in the celebration". A lively discussion followed as how to help those who now cannot hear or have trouble following the readings. Wireless hearing aids are available from the ushers for the hearing impaired. Ongoing reader training along with a sound system upgrade will also help. With next Sunday's readings posted in the weekly mass bulletin, the scriptures can be read before coming to mass, so we are familiar with them and are able to listen and celebrate.

What will happen to the old church?

Bob Garipey and others gave the answer. The old sacristy is being renovated into the food pantry. Many other ideas have been proposed. The Building & Grounds Committee is now working on identifying what building codes apply to this historic structure. After this is done, we can determine what costs will be associated with what usage.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM on a Kate Hammer/ Harry Halbach motion.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2008

