

**St. Thomas Aquinas  
Parish Council Minutes  
For  
October 14th, 2014**

**Attendees:** Father Paul Nguyen, Jerry Stovall, Ron Puschnig, Val Richardson, Sr. Pat Russell, Tom Tarrant, Betty Garrett, Father Chad Putoff, Richard Howell, Mary McClain, Beatriz Alvarez, Ken Walker

**Absent:** Carmen Robles, Deacon Jim Keaney

**Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order by Jerry Stovall at 6:06 p.m.

**Opening Prayer:** Given by Jerry Stovall.

**September Minutes:** Motion to approve by Ron Puschnig and approved.

**October agenda:** Motion to approve by Tom Tarrant and approved as amended.

**Old Business:**

**Committee Reports:**

**Education:** 119 families with 213 students are registered. Life Teen is sponsoring a saint carnival for all children in the parish November 9<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow. The educational CD kiosk is doing very well. Val plans to add more titles soon.

**Daughters of Isabella:** The Daughters of Isabella will be raffling a quilt to support the St Thomas Outreach Program.

**Knights of Columbus:** The MR Drive is coming up the weekend of October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree exemplification at St. Thomas Aquinas on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**Fall Festival:** Richard Howell reports that the Fall Festival was a great success and made over \$15,000 this year. A chairman is needed for next year's Fall Festival, as some items need to be booked early in the year.

**Cathedral Altar:** The Diocese will be purchasing a new altar and remodeling the sanctuary for the cathedral. The Diocese is assessing all the parishes in the diocese to help pay for the renovation. St. Thomas Aquinas' portion is \$4,413. There will be a special collection to help offset this expense from the parish budget.

**Finance update:** There was a discussion about how the Finance Committee views the long-term capital plan. The diocese is now offering a special savings account exclusively for saving for capital projects. If the parish finances improve, this is an opportunity to prepare for future expansion which will be required soon if the parish continues to grow at its present rate.

**New Business:**

**Parish Council Elections:** There are five positions coming open on the Parish Council in 2015. If interested, please contact Tom Tarrant at 260-8950.

**Parish Announcements:** There was a discussion about how to better communicate announcements in the parish. Several ideas were presented such as adding a flat screen tv to the gathering space, a projector in the sanctuary, or perhaps verbally announcing prior to mass rather than after mass.

**Parish picnic:** The 2015 parish picnic is tentatively planned for June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Closing Prayer:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m., and the closing prayer was given by Deacon Jim Keaney.

**Next Meeting:** 6:00 p.m. November 11th, 2014

Respectfully Submitted: Kenny Davis, Council Secretary