

**St. Thomas Aquinas
Parish Council Minutes
For
February 14, 2012**

Attendees: Fr. Chad Puthoff, Mary McClain, Irina Wesser, Steve Hanifan, Tom Tarrant, Rey Mendez, Sr. Pat Russell, Val Richardson, Jerry Stovall, Kenny Davis

Absent: Sue Pecora, Christian Chukwu, Cameron Chaparro

Call To Order: Jerry Stovall called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was led by Kenny Davis.

November Minutes: Motion to accept the January 2012 minutes by Mary McClain, 2nd by Val Richardson.

January Agenda: Val Richardson moved to accept the February agenda, 2nd by Steve Hanifan.

Old Business:

1. **Amendment #3 to the by-laws of the Parish Pastoral Council:** States that council elections are to be held annually for 2 or 3 year terms, no two parishioners from an immediate family can serve at one time, and that the Tennessee Tech representative on the council will not be required to attend meetings when Tech is not in session. Motion to approve by Mary McClain, 2nd by Steve Hanifan and approved.
2. **Mass attendance counts:** Father Chad reports that counts were completed on the last Sunday in October and the first Sunday in November per diocesan request.
3. **Mortgage burning:** Tentatively scheduled for August 25th. Bishop Choby sent Father Chad a letter saying he would save the date and also forwarded notice to the Tennessee Register to add this as a story in that publication. Father Chad mentioned that it would be good to have an “international” pot luck dinner in conjunction with the mortgage burning ceremony. However, the parish hall may not be of sufficient size to accommodate all who might want to attend, so additional planning for a large crowd may be required. Father Chad also mentioned that he would like for the Knights of Columbus and Daughters of Isabella to lead the planning and organization of the meal, and perhaps entertainment.
4. **2012 Fall Festival and other fundraising ideas:** Discussion ensued about the possibilities for a dance, perhaps an event where food and beverages would be served along with a dance. Several different ideas were discussed concerning possibilities of timing, format, and location for this event. Discussion also followed concerning the possibility of having multiple shorter events rather than a single multiple-day event. Sister Pat will talk with a band to see when they would be available. Other fellowship opportunities were also discussed such as a dinner for new parishioners. The parish is in need of someone to volunteer to chair the Fall Festival this year. This topic will be added to the next council meeting’s agenda for further discussion.

New Business:

1. Committee chair reports

- a) **Education/Formation:** Val Richardson mentioned that the confirmation retreat was a big success, with all 13 attending the retreat. 31 children are also preparing for first communion this year.
- b) **Evangelization:** Irina Wesser reports that the parish in Haiti purchased land for planting mango trees for future income potential. Parishioners in the Salvatorian parishes in Tennessee are sponsoring 300 children in Haiti for education and meals. The following is a report from Bill Halderson of the St Vincent DePaul Society submitted to the Irina Wesser:

- Thanks to the Daughters, and to our generous parishioners, our budget remains strong, especially for winter: we had an unexpected slow down in calls in January, we think because of the warm weather...
 - Calls are now picking up. As an example, I have five active clients at the moment, one resolved today. Other members are equally busy. It never stays slow for long.
 - We keep adding to our information base. We now have the name of the Legal Aid Attorney in Cookeville, a resource to give clients involved in housing/rental/utility disputes.
 - We are updating our inventory of Vincentian training booklets and DVDs. When this is done, we will be spending a portion of one meeting each month involving newer SVdP members in the history, mission and spirituality of being a Vincentian.
 - Networking helps - Bill gave a small talk to the Lion's Club, and that is where he met the Legal Aid attorney, but also learned from a member of the Methodist church that they now have a daily food pantry that is open to the poor. Every resource can be useful.
- c) **Socialization/Parish Life: Tom Tarrant.** The Knights are sponsoring a spaghetti supper and bingo on February 25th and the monthly Big Breakfast on February 26th. There will be bingo March 3rd at Master's nursing home. The Daughters of Isabella are having a women's retreat on March 3rd, and a youth dinner on February 29th. The Altar Guild is having a rummage sale on March 16th and 17th. Stations of the Cross will be hosted Fridays during Lent by different groups in the parish, beginning Friday, February 24th, when the Parish Council will be hosting the Stations, followed by a light meal in the parish hall.
 - d) **Liturgy/Spirituality:** No report.
 - e) **Temporalities:** No report.

2. **Treasurer's report**—Sister Pat reported finances for July 1st through January 31st. The results were favorable, with a \$1,556 net income vs. a budgeted \$2,387 net loss for the period.
3. The Parish Council will be hosting the Stations of the Cross on February 24th with a light meal to follow. Irina Wesser will coordinate this event for the council.

Closing Prayer: The closing prayer was led by Mary McClain.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2012

Respectfully Submitted: Kenny Davis, Council Secretary