

St. Thomas Parish Council

September 2016 Minutes

Items Covered at this meeting on 06 September 2016

Attendance: Cissell, Filiatreau, Foster, Giardina, Harris, Jancarz, Lewis, Stone, Sunderland.

1. Several members stopped to see the progress on the Farmhouse
2. Opening prayer was led by Fr. Jason at 7:01 pm.
3. Ideas and Concerns
 - a. Suggestion was made to redo the landscaping for the Farmhouse.
 - b. Suggestion was made to add more details to the Bulletins so people know who to contact if they have more questions.
 - c. Space was made in the Parish Life Center to encourage the formation of a Choir.
4. The upcoming cemetery expansion was discussed. The proposal from the Cemetery committee is to expand two acres on the edge closest to the river where the row of trees once stood. There was also a discussion of the prices for the cemetery. The proposal is as follows:
 - a. Prices remain at \$500 until the new section opens.
 - b. Prices rise to \$600 for the first six months after the **Dant Section** opens.
 - c. Prices are \$750 for plots after the six-month grace period.This pricing structure will be sent back to the cemetery committee for further review and discussion before final approval. Fr. Jason and some cemetery committee members are meeting with a cemetery designer on September 12 to discuss preliminary plans and receiving and idea of the expansion costs.
5. The council discussed updating and standardizing the prices to rent various locations around the St. Thomas Campus. The prices now have built in cleaning costs and insurance policy costs to cover the use of the areas. Wedding Receptions will be allowed to use the Parish Life Center once per quarter **on a Saturday**. When that occurs, there will be two Saturday evening masses in the church at 4pm and 5:15pm.
6. To enhance our evangelization, it was proposed to go ahead with making a St. Thomas T-shirt and a St. Thomas Sticker for people to wear and show their membership to the St. Thomas Family. Road signs have been placed to welcome new folks to the parish. Fr. Jason is also sending cards to visitors who give to the church by check to show our appreciation and invite them to join St. Thomas (approximately 50 so far).
7. The Catholic Services Appeal is coming up next month. The goal for St. Thomas is 10,500 with a participation rate of 80 families. Fr. Jason will be attending and information session soon to learn about the ways to encourage. Archbishop's video and messages will be posted on our Facebook, Twitter, and Website pages.

8. The Room in the Inn program was discussed. We will be hosting up to 12 people each Monday night for 22 weeks providing them with three meals and a warm place to sleep. This program begins for us on the First Monday of November. The guests will be screened at St. Vincent de Paul (Bardstown) before arriving here or at the other six host churches in Nelson County.
9. Closing Prayer