

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Council

February 10, 2009

Present: M. Attardo, M. Brennan, J. Caron, K. Kolomick, J. McLaughlin,
B. Mears, E. Morton, J. Robinson, D. Sierra, P. Sullivan S.J., M. Zimmer

New Business

Transition: The community now faces uncertainty on two fronts, the departure of the Jesuits in June and the deanery's deliberations regarding parish structure across the diocese. After considerable discussion, the council decided to focus on the immediate needs of the parish (parishioners and staff). At the same time they will also begin the process of looking to the future of our parish.

Immediate Needs: The transition is bound to cause anxiety. M. Attardo suggested we sponsor an open meeting to hear the concerns of the community and to share the little information we have at this time. The meeting will be held on Sunday, March 1st, at 2 p.m. Sr. Alyssa, from the diocese, may be able to join us. We hope to keep the focus of the meeting positive and center discussion on three areas.

1. What does St. Thomas do well as a parish?
2. What is important to retain in the transition?
3. What could we leave behind as we begin anew?

We will also try to control the spread of rumors by asking parishioners to check out unsubstantiated information with staff or parish-council members before passing it along.

The TLC group will discuss the transition at their meeting and be open to discussion after the 7 p.m. mass

Long Range Plans: This period of change offers the St. Thomas community a chance to engage in a creative, open futures planning process. J. McLaughlin suggested we contact the diocese to share our vision of this parish, now and in the next ten or fifteen years. The diocese may have tools and resources to assist us.