

***St. Timothy Parish Council***  
*Oct 30, 2008*

*In Attendance:* Fr. Tim Hayes, Jim Connors, Jim Auber, Jeff Silleck, Mark Marchese, Gail Wenger, Mary Ballantyne, Laurie Jenny, Tom Rankin, Andy Davis, Bill Miller, John Davidson

*Pastor's Report:* Father Tim (handout)

1. We have celebrated Funerals for a number of parishioners
2. The October count for 2008 shows an average of 900 participants for the four weekend masses. There is fluctuation in which Mass people attend. The capacity of the church is 499. Attendance is increasing again.
3. The NW Deanery had its first meeting concerning the self-study. It is more and more important to have interactions with the deanery.
4. The 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will be held on 11/15.
5. Celebrating God's Gifts Ministry Fair will be 11/14 and 11/15.
6. All are encouraged to exercise their civic duty to vote.
7. Fr. Tim will be on retreat the week of Nov 10. Father found it very difficult to find priests to take the weekday Masses that week. Discussion ensued regarding this challenge and the workload. In Newark, the decision was made to reduce from 4 Masses to 3.

*Council President:* Jim Connors

In the spring, we conducted the self-study on sacramental, sustainability, and strategic goals. The Deanery includes 10 parishes on the NW side. The last self-study was in 1999. There was talk at the deanery meeting of combining St. Timothy and St. Margaret of Cortona because of the shortage of priests. The median age for priests in the diocese is 63, for sisters 75. 35 seminarians are needed to sustain numbers; we only have 4, and attrition is generally 50%. The Cleveland diocese is closing 50 parishes of its 250. Discussion ensued; it was noted that St. Tim's is a very active parish, and there was caution of the need to compare "apples with apples". The consensus in the deanery group was that we do not want to close one of our own, but it is a critical time. Columbus has 106 parishes. The shortage of priests and problems in delivery of the sacraments and not being able to cover hospitals was discussed. It was recommended that there be development of a professional lay ministry, but this requires time and funding. A class for deacons is offered every 4 yrs. Jim indicated the need for parishioners to be aware of concerns, to plan, and to watch school enrollment etc. Our school enrollment is growing when others are finding decreases in enrollment. Tuition in Cleveland and Cinti is higher, and people are finding it necessary to make difficult choices. We need to be proactive and visible as a parish. It was suggested to invite an individual from St. Brigid's who was instrumental in developing a plan.

*School Advisory:* Bill Miller

School Advisory Board will meet next week. There was discussion of the size of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades, and the need for an assistant in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, as well as in the next grade in each subsequent year due to the size of that class (35). Third grade has 31 students. Communication between teachers and families is stressed, esp in the middle school. To achieve a balance, St. Tim's students receive periodic grade reports and "checks and minuses" on grade cards. There is a new Spanish teacher, who is meeting with all grades, but is only at St. Tim's part-time.

*Principal's Report:* George Mosholder (by e-mail)

- First quarter grade cards are going home
- The 8<sup>th</sup> graders visited Bishop Watterson
- The fall recognition assembly will be 11/7
- Picture re-take day is 11/12

- The school year is going well
- Standardized testing occurred

Alumni group: Mary Ballantyne

An alumni group has been discussed. Mary attended a planning and development conference, which included a number of excellent sessions.

*Board of Finance:* Fr. Tim

The fiscal report for 2007-08 will be in the bulletin. The Campaign has been amazing: within a year, half of the debt has been retired (reduced from 1.4 million to \$700,000). The parish is \$55,000 down in offertory giving in 2007-08, but half of the debt is gone. A bequest assisted with the new air conditioning purchase. We do have an endowment, but it is not growing.

*Men's Club:* John Davidson

Pizza sale will be next Friday

*Religious Education:* Rita Feige (handout)

Sacramental preparation is going well, Bible study is well-attended, and RCIA and PSR are going well.

*New Business:*

*New council member duties:* Jeff brought a draft of the constitution.

*Silent Auction:* Tentative date Feb 20

*Maintenance:* Laurie and Tom are working to get a committee together. They propose a committee with terms that revolve. Jobs could be added to the website. A list of volunteers has been started; additions are welcomed. We want to be proactive and formulate a maintenance calendar. There has been transition in the janitor position; the requirement for a background check was noted, years of knowledge of the building have been lost. It was suggested to invite Pat Davis from the diocese, who is in charge of ensuring building function. It was suggested that we develop a punch list, identify contractors etc who may help, and develop a maintenance calendar.

*Music Committee:* The committee has interviewed two candidates, with more interviews to come; they will then make a recommendation to Fr. Tim.

*Catholic Men's Ministry:* Jeff

Each year a large conference with national speakers is held. This year the speaker will be Danny Abramowitz, a receiver for the New Orleans Saints, will be Mar 7 at St. Joan of Arc, will involve 1000-1500 men, and concludes with Mass with the Bishop.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Wenger