

Tom's Moms Club of St. Thomas High School
Saturday Morning Brunch and Meeting
Saturday, January 23, 2010
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 by President Margaret Labbe.

Officers' Reports

Minutes of the September 27 meeting were approved. Secretary Alice Arbour reported that all meeting minutes are posted on the Tom's Moms page of the school website.

Treasurer Sharyn Sporar reported that we have a balance of \$4,220.18. Membership dues of \$20 may still be paid for the year. She also reported that Tom's Moms has had minimal expenses for the year.

Principal's and President's Reports

Father John Huber gave the **Principal's Report**:

School enrollment is:

9th—183

10th—190

11th—162

12th—170

Total is 705.

Drama Production: *To Kill a Mockingbird* took place Friday-Sunday, Oct. 23-25. The students have worked very hard, under the direction of Dan Green, with the help of others such as Stephen Fuchs and the Markus family. TALENT+HARDWORK=SUCCESS! March 26-28 they will be putting on *Hello Dolly*—don't miss it! If any of you are so inclined, Dan Green is always looking for help in the costuming department.

Annual Mission Trip: Spring Break March 14-20, students will join counterparts from St. Agnes Academy and St. Pius X to do community service to the community in Hackberry, LA, which is still suffering from the blows of recent hurricanes. Many elderly people are still living in FEMA trailers while others trying to make their homes livable again. Students will also put on Vacation Bible School for the children of the Catholic parish.

Masses: Cardinal DiNardo celebrated 2 masses for the student body this year—the Opening School Mass of the Holy Spirit and the Father-Son Mass. Bishop Joe Vasquez celebrated the Mother-Son Mass. Thank you to all the Tom's Moms who helped us out.

Speaking of Bishops: Msgr. W. Michael Mulvey has been named Bishop of Corpus Christi. Bishop-elect Mulvey attended St. Thomas from 1963-1966; his family moved to Austin when he was a Senior. Details of this appointment may be found on the website

for the diocese. Bishop-elect Mulvey is the fifth former St. Thomas High School student to be named a bishop, including:

*Bishop Vincent Rizotto, '49, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Galveston-Houston

*Bishop John McCarthy, '49, retired Bishop of Austin

*William Cardinal Levada, former Archbishop of San Francisco, current Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the Roman Curia, attended St. Thomas his freshman year before his family moved to California

*Bishop Oscar Cantu, '85, auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio

National Merit Semi-Finalists: St. Thomas has the largest number of National Merit Semi-Finalists—8—in its school history and also the largest number of any other high school in the Archdiocese. In addition 10 students were named Commended Scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Annual Father-Son Retreat took place this past weekend at Camp Allen. Twenty seven Eagles attended with their Dads along with Mr. Chris Wardwell, '84, Mr. Marty Matulia, Fr. Kevin Storey, Mr. Casey Johnson, '05, Marcus Walden, '04, and Don Thomas, '05.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House—Sunday, January 24

Entrance Exam—Saturday, January 30 (Please pray that we get a good incoming freshman class)

Steps for Students—Saturday, February 20 (5K Race/Walk for Catholic Schools) see website: www.steps4students.org.

ROUND UP—our raffle begins a few short weeks from now. Round Up kick-off assembly is set for Friday, January 29. Mary Sue Patronella, Lisa Phillip and Janet Dowlearn have been working hard at organizing the day and Mr. Joe O'Brien, Fr. Storey, Mr. Green and Mr. Wardwell have been working hard getting ready for the enthusiasm among the students. Because of the economy Round Up success is more important than ever.

Father Ronald Schwenzer gave the **President's Report:**

Social Justice: Our boys donated over \$6,100 to make up and deliver food boxes for poor families in St. Joseph's Parish at Thanksgiving and \$2,500 for Christmas charities and \$8,100 to Catholic Relief Services for Haiti.

Scholarship Breakfast: The third annual Scholarship Breakfast was held on January 29. Every student who receives either a needs-based or merit scholarship was present. There were about 30 different donors in attendance as well. Brandy Miller organized the event.

Christmas Eve Mass: Almost 1500 people attended the Mass this year. It is always a great celebration because it is a St. Thomas family gathering bringing alumni and their families together with current students and their families.

Capital Campaign: The Capital Campaign total, as of Dec. 31, 2009, in pledges and money during the quiet phase is now at \$8.1M. Last week we had a meeting of the leadership for the alumni, parents of alumni and current parents portion of the campaign. The Campaign target is \$25M. The Board has authorized the design of the 5 story parking garage. Hopefully the garage can move forward while construction costs are lower. This summer the 3 history classrooms above the cafeteria will be renovated including installation of windows facing Shepherd Dr. The main building has been completely renovated.

New Business

Margaret asked for volunteers to sign up for our booth at Round Up. As in the past Tom's Moms will staff the dessert booth in Cemo. Sophomore parents will provide the majority of the baked items. But all Tom's Moms are asked to bring any cakes, pies, cookies or brownies they can to Round Up for the Booth. Round Up is March 7.

Tom's Moms will reserve 2-3 tables for the Mothers' Club Style Show on Friday, April 16. Please ask to be seated at one of these tables when making your reservations. Mary Payne, Style Show Co-Chair and Tom's Mom, encouraged all to attend the show this year. The theme will be "Rhapsody in Blue."

Margaret suggested that we give Brandy Miller a gift card as a thank you for all she does for us, including sending out the Evites for our meetings. All agreed that was an excellent idea.

Help is needed for the Golf Tournament on Wednesday, March 24, especially with registration and the beverage cart. Sign up sheets for Round Up and the Golf Tournament circulated at the meeting. Anyone else interested in helping please contact Margaret Labbe.

Mary Monks brought St. Basil coffee for sale at \$13 a pound. Last year coffee sales earned \$20,000 for the Basilian missions in Columbia. Mary will also sell coffee at Round Up at the Dessert Booth. Father Schwenzer thanked Mary for all of her hard work in selling the coffee at school events.

Margaret brought up that since our expenses have been minimal the past two years and we have an excess in the treasury we should be generous to some causes. After discussion it was decided that we would donate \$500 to Catholic Relief Services for Haiti, \$500 to the Capital Campaign and \$1,000 to Father Belisch's Endowed Scholarship. That would leave around \$2,000 in our treasury.

Old Business

Mary Seiter thanked everyone for their continued prayers for her son, John, who is in Iraq. She reported that John will return home in late February or early March.

Prayers were also asked for several members who have recently lost family members including Karen Maraldo and Connie Gonzales.

Elections will be held at the next meeting in April. Members Paula Porter, Michael Ann Totton, Karen Cuccia and Ann-Carroll Morin have volunteered to serve as officers during the next term. Mary Francisco and Michelle Vervoot volunteered to serve as Social Chairs.

A question was asked about Cristo Rey High School and its status. Father Schwenzer reported that it was doing fine and had about 80 students. Next year another grade will be added.

Melody Braun-Wilds asked for support for the Christopher's Heart Fun Run, which benefits research for Mitochondrial disease, on Feb. 6. She encouraged members to join her team, "Wild for the Cure." The entry fee is \$20.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.