



THE THOMAS MERTON CENTER  
*for Catholic Spiritual Development*

**Thomas Merton Center  
24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 [11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.]**

**Thomas House basement  
(changed from the home of Vicki And Larry Sullivan due to rain)**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

1. **Opening Prayer:** Gerard McGuire
2. **Call To Order And Welcome:** Gerard McGuire

**Quorum Announcement:** Kay Williams, Membership Status etc.

125 official members; 75 were present.

3. **Announcement Of Election Results:** Kay Williams

Diane Marie Herte and Larry Lopez were elected to the Board of Directors. They replace Helen Bunje and Mary O'Connor (not present) who Gerard recognized for their years of service on the Board with a gift of an Orchid plant.

4. **Financial Report:** Mary Seabury presented the 2018 Financial Report prepared by Mike McMahan.

A discussion about the monthly donation by TMC to STA Parish then ensued. Members spoke about the relationship between the TMC and the parish. Different opinions were voiced and it was suggested that the topic be taken up at the next Board meeting. Rosanna Madrigal explained that the Jane Bahr account was intended for St Vincent de Paul (Palo Alto and East Palo Alto) as well as Hidden Villa camperships. George Chippendale clarified spending on camp, rents and utilities.

5. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Spiritual Education:** Kay Williams

Kay reviewed some of the events organized by the committee: retreats by Kevin Ballard and Sister Marilyn Wilson, BVM and talks by speakers Kate Hennessy and

Michael Higgins. This year there is a retreat with Larry Purcell scheduled for the fall. Dr Rosemary Elmer will talk about the Church's response to sexual abuse by clergy in February, 2020. Some members will attend the Thomas Merton Conference in June to identify likely future speakers. Sr. Jean Chittister was suggested as a speaker; it turned out that attempts had been made to invite her in the past. Kay reminded us about the TMC website. Jim Davis –although not present - submitted a report on its use.

b. **Liturgy:** Kay Williams

The Liturgy Committee makes sure that there is a priest every Sunday. Kay suggested that it is time for us to consider how we continue with aging ministers in the next 5 years including the following questions: What components of the mass are essential? Homemade bread? Live musical ministers? Who will replace the current sacristans duties as some “age out”? Ideas were thrown out for recruiting more younger members and welcoming/engaging them further when they do visit: fliers, asking “what do you want to help with?”, being more open at the coffee and donuts after mass.

c. **Church Site:** Judy Foley and Helen Baumann

Porch tiles were being prepared and could be installed before the steps were finished. Granite was on its way. Dick Placone remarked that the steps to the sacristy needed attention; a concern repeated by others. The Thomas House also needs reroofing.

d. **Community Outreach:** Barbara Kent

Most outreach targets Seton School. Barbara spoke about the Christmas tree tag gifts and the Seton Scramble. Many members are tutors and/or work in the library: Terry Atkinson, Dick Placone, Marcie, Vicki, and Rudy Bahr. Terry and Larry do Death Penalty work.

e. **Hospitality:** Bill Voorhees

Bill recognized the efforts of Nancy Hogan, Larry, Maya, Rudy, Richard, Marty and Anna.

6. **Kenya Help:** Margo McAuliffe

Fr. Kiriti will be serving at a retirement home for priests. Kenya Help will be here in October. Event at St. Denis helped last year. Empower the World is the sister organization in Kenya – picks and mentors students receiving scholarship help. A

discussion of IRAs and donations by people over 70 followed. Pat needs to get tax ID or Organization and physical address.

**7. *Community Comments/suggestions/news:***

Terry McCaffrey thanked members for support relating to Death Penalty issue. He remarked that it is important to urge DA's not to seek the Death Penalty despite Governor Newsom's moratorium.

**8. *Thank You to Members of Our Community***

9. *Next Annual Meeting:* May 17, 2020

10. *Adjournment/ Closing Prayer:* Gerard McGuire played the song: "I Am the Earth"