

Pastor's Column

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Transitions

Several months ago Jeff and Gale Gibbons informed me that they felt it was time to “let go” of their High School Youth Ministry responsibilities here at St. Thomas More. Believe it or not, they have been hard at work here for the past 13 years! They felt it was time to take a bit of a respite from their Youth Ministry duties, and think about moving in some new directions in their involvement in Parish Life.

They have been faithful stewards of this ministry and have built a very strong foundation of high school youth presence and involvement in so many areas of Parish Life. As a Parish, we owe them a debt of gratitude!

After reflecting upon their decision, and in consultation with our Middle School Youth Ministers, Ron and Louise Briseno, and our Faith Formation Director, Kathleen Bell, I came to the conclusion that it was now time to hire a Youth Advocate for the Parish—one person who would be responsible for developing and operating a Parish based pastoral ministry with youth including middle school, high school, and young adults. This person would be engaged in this ministry at 30 hours per week, and would have an office in the Parish Center. This expanded ministry will help create an even greater presence, participation, and influence of our middle school, high school, and young adult members in the life of our Parish.

In order to create this position, Ron and Louise Briseno were willing to give up their responsibilities as our Middle School

Youth Ministers. They have been in their positions for the past 7 years! They too have done much to create a youthful presence and participation in our Parish activities, and, as a Parish, we are grateful for their commitment to this ministry over the years.

Also, Kathleen Bell will “spin off” her oversight of the Confirmation process and High School Faith Formation. Due to her dedication, we have an excellent Confirmation process that now will become the responsibility of our Youth Advocate.

As I make this announcement, I am also happy to announce that we have hired a Youth Advocate. With the recommendation and support of Jeff, Gale, Ron, Louise, and Kathleen, Marc Raymundo has been hired and will begin his ministry here at St. Thomas More on July 1.

We are very fortunate that this transition is happening so smoothly and seamlessly!

I give thanks to God for these events!

In the near future, there will be the opportunity to properly thank Gale, Jeff, Louise, and Ron as they end their ministries on our behalf.

For now, let us pray to God to say “Thank You” for what has been, and “Yes” for what will be!

Fr. Mike

Marc Raymundo—Our Youth Advocate



Marc Raymundo is an experienced worship leader and speaker for retreats and camps across the nation. Marc began his ministry working with St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Chino Hills, California, in 2000. Shortly after, he decided that serving Christ is his true calling, and since then he has been traveling to serve in conferences and camps throughout the nation. He has the ability to use his energy, enthusiasm, and love to connect with youth of all ages and inspire them to grow closer with Christ. Recently, Marc has been a consultant to youth ministries and retreat programs throughout southern California. His favorite scripture is from Colossians 3:23-24, “Whatever you do, let it be from the heart, as if you were working for the Lord rather than for people, in the knowledge that as your reward you will receive an inheritance from the Lord. Serve Christ the Lord.” He is excited and honored to be a part of the St. Thomas More community and is looking forward to working with and meeting our family. Marc begins his ministry here on July 1, 2010.