

ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – August 8, 2012

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Valerie Thompson, Paul Ibbetson, Mike Nichols, Jane Gladden, Diana Diaz

NOT PRESENT: Bill Ipsen, Brian Leahey, Vlad Bolsakov, Doug D'Agrosa, Flora Fallone, Andrea Sweeney, Jody Cadieux

CALL TO ORDER: By Ron Briseno at 7:05 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Jane Gladden

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2012 MEETING MINUTES: Approved in July 2012 as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fr. Mike (for Flora) **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

To date 370 families have pledged a total of \$47,037.28 (\$127 avg.) toward the 2012 Diocesan assessment of \$48,000. We have reached 98% of our goal, but still need to collect \$962.72 more to meet our assessment. If 10 families pledge \$100 each or 20 families pledge \$50 each, we'll reach our goal!

Chris: (for Bill) **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

We are thrilled to say we received a total of \$10,000 this week! We still need \$28,000 more to reach our total of \$500,000. We have 619 families who have responded, plus 5 adopted families. We ask the 417 families who have not yet responded to this campaign to consider donating \$18/month through December 2012. Every contribution helps!

Valerie: **MEMBERSHIP**

The next New Member Reception is scheduled for Sunday, September 30, 2012. They estimate 50-60 invitations will be mailed out. The committee will meet before that date and will make plans as usual for the event.

Fr. Mike: **NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Father Mike, Douglas Lynn, and Jim Treat will have a meeting at St. Thomas More with Renzo Zecchetto to discuss acoustics on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, before meeting with the Interior Design Team that evening.

All of the artists have been retained and have started their work.

Brian Leahey continues to oversee the construction details of the project which is greatly appreciated!

Jane: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

In July, Jane was busy publicizing the Monday night Youth Group along with the Tuesday Middle School Youth Ministry to invite and welcome all local teenagers.

Press releases for the Men's Fellowship in October, the 2012 Treasures Flea Market in October, and the Saint Bonaventure clothing drive in November will be sent to the Southern Cross, Good News, and online on Interfaith Community Service. It was suggested that the 2012 Treasures Flea Market for October 6 also could be advertised in the Penny Saver, North County Times, Spanish newspaper for North County, and on Craigslist.

Jane let us know that Denis Grasska, the Editor of the San Diego Diocese Southern Cross Newspaper, recently won awards for his writings. So she sent him a Congratulations email from St. Thomas More Church. Congratulations to Denis!

Mike / Andrea **SCRIP**

Mike and Andrea are doing a great job in promoting scrip. They created a four page colorful advertisement flyer for parishioners to take home and view all the scrip available for purchase. Mike would like to collect a few used scrip cards (\$0 balance) for a display on the plaza.

Second quarterly sales show April \$13,045, May \$11,664, and June \$9,949.

They have started up the weekend plaza sales again. July 14/15 \$655, July 21/22 \$370, July 29/30 \$150, August 4/5 \$1,121!

Mike and Andrea are working on Mass announcements – Back to School, include scrip in your monthly household budget (groceries, food cards for those students with off campus passes for lunch, gas for the car), and if you have a college student going away, don't forget those supplies (bedding, fan, microwave, personal toiletries, etc.).

Chris: (for Vlad) **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

We currently have two cars in process with Cars for Causes, and we received checks for two other cars in July. They take full responsibility for picking up the car donated and towing it, repairs needed to make the vehicle ready for sale, and we receive 70% of the net sale. Since the inception of this program we have raised over \$25,500.

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**

The Towers of Faith members are those who remember STM in their estate planning. Two estates are currently being settled, and we received a \$10,000 check from another estate that settled in July. Since its inception in 2006, we have received \$182,000 from parishioners who designated St. Thomas More as a beneficiary in their planning. We continue to grow with new members stepping up as Towers of Faith.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

The Pastor's Excursion for August 26 from 1:30 – 6:00 p.m. still has openings. The Scotch Tasting Party and the Wine Tasting Party are already full.

In November, there will be a talk given at the Masses on the update of the Capital Campaign.

On January 6, Epiphany Sunday, we will host a Stewardship Appreciation Reception from 3:00-5:00pm in the lower level of STM. This is a special event to thank all of our stewards for their dedication in the last two years. Stewardship Awareness/Renewal will then continue through January 31.

The last weekend of Masses, Chris will give a talk regarding the Towers of Faith.

There was a discussion about having a "Meet the Artists' Night" in January to update the parish on the interior elements of the church.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**

We are welcoming many new wonderful families to our faith community at St. Thomas More.

The Welcome Ministry is looking for more ministers. Please let Chris know if you know anyone who may be interested.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

The twice monthly dinner fundraisers are going well. We received a check from Mama's and Papa's Italian Restaurant for \$360. Yesterday and today was our Chili's fundraiser. Ron is working on Miguel's Mexican Restaurant and Rubio's.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Doug: PASTORAL COUNCIL

There has not been a Pastoral Council meeting since our last Development Council meeting on June 13, 2012. They are scheduled to meet again August 22, 2012.

Paul: FINANCE COUNCIL

There was a \$30,000 deficit carried over from two years ago. In the final report, we were only \$1,700 in the red for this fiscal year, and a parishioner has stepped forward and has made a donation of \$1,700 which covers this deficit. This is very good news, and we begin this new fiscal year with much greater confidence. Paul is working on next year's fiscal budget with Don Eppich.

PASTOR'S REPORT

There is nothing at this time.

CLOSING PRAYER: The Lord's Prayer

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:00pm

NEXT MEETING: October 17, 2012 at 7:00pm, Opening Prayer - Mike Nichols