

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – August 17, 2011**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Doug D'Agrosa, Paul Ibbetson, Chris Smith, Brian Leahey, Theresa Goeltz, Vlad Bolsakov, Anne Marshall, Valerie Thompson, Jody Cadieux

NOT PRESENT: Flora Fallone, Bill Ipsen, Diana Diaz

CALL TO ORDER: By Ron Briseno at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: St. Thomas More 25th Anniversary Prayer

APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2011 MEETING MINUTES: Approved in June as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

Chris: **ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC**
A \$60,000 check was presented to the church. There are currently 66 people signed up to attend the 3rd Annual Pastor's Dinner on August 28, and 30 people signed up for the Vodka Tasting Party on September 25. It was a very successful year! The 2012 Golf Classic will be on June 1.

NEW BUSINESS Welcome to Valerie Thompson, new Chairperson for the Membership Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
Currently, \$49,730.00 pledged from 390 families. Our assessment is \$48,000. We have exceeded our goal! 80% of any amount we raise over the \$48,000 will come back to the parish. Our assessment has gone from \$32,000 to \$48,000 in 3 years and St. Thomas More parishioners have risen to the challenge.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Total Pledges/Gifts as of August 13 were \$1,572,319 with 667 families responding. We still need \$427,681 and we would like to hear from the remaining 353 families. We have collected \$1,355,175 to date.
The 3 Council Chairs, along with Bill Ipsen, and Chris Smith, met with Fr. Mike to discuss how to proceed with paying the mortgage on the new church. The meeting's purpose was to brainstorm ideas of what to do next.

Valerie: **MEMBERSHIP**
Valerie Thompson is the Chairperson.
There will be a meeting for the Membership Committee on September 8.
The next New Member Reception is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2011.
There are 45 new families who have been invited along with 24 families who were unable to attend the last luncheon.
Ron Briseno needs a member of the Development Council to be at the luncheon as Ron will not be able to attend.

Brian: **NEW CONSTRUCTION**
We are in the process of finalizing the Design Assist Contract with T.B. Penick. The footprint of the church is ready. There will be a meeting with the City of Oceanside to make sure the CUP Plan is current. The plan checks are taking more time with the city. Contracts are also being finalized for Civil Engineering and Soils Engineering. A meeting is being planned with Renzo Zecchetto to make sure we are designing to our budget. On August 23rd the New Construction Committee, the Interior Design Team, and the Parish Staff will meet with Renzo Zecchetto, our architect, and Robert Habiger, our Liturgical Consultant, to review the most recent schematic design of the church. There was an issue with the Choir area design which has been resolved. There will also be a meeting with the Diocese's Art and Architecture Committee on September 14. This meeting is for the purpose of getting final approval from the Diocese for our design. With approval, we then begin to move forward with the construction documents.

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**
The Towers of Faith reception has been scheduled for January, 2012

Anne: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**
Anne is continuing to work to get STM information into the Southern Cross. The Men's Retreat and Women's Retreat are upcoming events as well as Treasures 2011 on October 8. The Treasures 2011 will be advertised in the local papers, Penny Saver, etc. as well as the Oceanside Deanery. It was also suggested that it also be put into the bulletin at St. Francis.

Theresa: **SCRIP**
Scrip is averaging about \$3,000 in sales per week, which is down from about \$3,500 per week. Online sales are not what the committee had hoped they would be and most of the purchases have been in the office during the week. The clientele who are buying scrip has changed too. A suggestion was made to have gas/grocery/movie scrip available at weekend masses for immediate purchase. A pulpit announcement is being planned for September since most parishioners are back from vacation.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**
Stewardship Renewal and Awareness month will be January, 2012. It will be the same format as Stewardship month has been in the past. The theme will be based around St. Thomas More. The Stewardship Book is being updated for the first time in three years to update the Capital Campaign and also tie in with the new theme, yet to be determined. On the final Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 2:00 p.m., will be the Groundbreaking Ceremony with Bishop Brom present.
A suggestion was made to replace the banner that lists the Mass times after the Groundbreaking Ceremony. The new banner could also include a rendering of the sanctuary.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**
New membership registration since the inception of the ministry in February of 2007 has been 334 households. 60% of those who turn in a blue card register with the parish. To date in 2011 83 households have registered who turned in a blue card, and 35 households did not respond to register. Other parishes in the Diocese have now started their own Welcome Ministries as well.

Vlad: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

Since the inception of this program we have raised \$22,200. We have received about \$1,200 in 2011. We also have had a person who sold a vehicle and directly donated all the proceeds to STM. There are currently 3 vehicles outstanding with Cars for Causes. There will be a reminder announcement at the end of August which will include reasons to donate and the cost savings of donating a vehicle not being used (save on insurance, gas, etc.)

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

Restaurants for FUNdraising: We raised about \$450 from Mrs. Tacos...they are open to having another fundraiser for us. The numbers were not yet in for Famous Dave's. The next FUNdraiser will be at Chili's on September 6 and 7.

A suggestion was made by a parishioner to have a Martini Party similar to the Vodka Tasting Party.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Doug: **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

See minutes from August 3, 2011 meeting. [Click here.](#)

Paul: **FINANCE COUNCIL**

The council is working to finish the new budget for FY 2011-2012. Natalie Provinse and Paul are working to gather information from all of the areas of the parish. We ended the last fiscal year in the black with the help of the funds raised from the Golf Tournament.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Adult Faith Formation brochures will be going into the mail very soon. The Theme is Faith: Seeking Understanding

A parish cookbook is underway. All recipes need to be submitted by August 30. All proceeds from the sales will go to the Building Fund.

The information for North County Solutions for Change was very well received and the initial response has begun. We have committed to sponsor one family through the 1,000 day program at a cost of \$7,500 per year for 3 years.

There is a fundraiser on October 8th at the Rancho Bernardo Inn. It will be an evening with Condoleezza Rice. St. Thomas More has committed to 2 tables of 10 people. The tickets are \$250 each.

CLOSING PRAYER: Our Father.

NEXT MEETING: October 5, 2011 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer- Bill Ipsen