

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES – October 5, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Diana Diaz, Flora Fallone, Bill Ipsen, Paul Ibbetson, Doug D'Agrosa, Brian Leahey, Theresa Goeltz, Anne Marshall, Valerie Thompson

**NOT PRESENT:** Vlad Bolsakov, Jody Cadieux

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Ron Briseno at 7:10 p.m. after group picture was taken.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Diocesan Prayer

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 17, 2011, MEETING MINUTES:** Approved in September as posted on the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Father Mike: **UPDATE ON THE BUILDING PROJECT**

Had a meeting with the Diocese in September for approval to move forward with the building details of our new church building. St. Thomas More Church did get approval, and they love what we are doing.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Flora: **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

Currently, \$52,055 pledged towards our assessment of \$48,000. 80% of donations over our assessment of \$48,000 will come back to the parish.

The San Diego Diocese's 2011 total pledge of \$4.6 million from 19,398 donors is up from last year's \$4.3 million pledge from 16,445 donors. The Diocese's goal is to raise \$10 million to help build new church buildings in the Imperial Valley.

Bill: **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

We have heard from 74% of the Parish which is wonderful, and we have collected \$1.4 million toward our goal of \$2 million with three months to go. 50% of our new parishioners have generously contributed to our Capital Campaign, but we still need to hear from 272 families. Any new donors and/or additional donations are welcome and appreciated!

Valerie: **MEMBERSHIP** - *(had to leave early – report given by Chris Smith)*

A New Member Reception was held September 18, 2011, and 30 new members were warmly welcomed by our Membership Committee, parish leadership and pastoral staff. The event was very nice, and it was wonderful to see the mixture of new parishioners. Photos were taken and will be published on the website. Next New Member Reception will be on February 19, 2012.

Brian: **NEW CONSTRUCTION**

We can move forward with the designed footprint after meeting with the Diocese. Will be meeting next with heating, venting, and air conditioning contractor, along with Renzo to review the budget. Will be bringing on a civil engineer. It's all getting very exciting. The next step is to get the general contractor and architect to go over the city plans. Also, a meeting is being set up to get first set of drawings.

The yellow flags outlining the new church building were taken down due to weather damage and six new flags replaced them on the entrance sidewalk, as well as along Melrose. The poles without flags will all be coming down as well, which will be necessary for groundbreaking.

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**

We have one new household to add to our Towers of Faith membership. The Towers of Faith reception has been scheduled for January 2012.

Anne: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

For the October 8<sup>th</sup> Flea Market, ads were sent to KOTC Radio, 25 posters went up in the community (post office, book store, etc.), and notices were sent to 80 churches. The local community saw the ads and was excited and was calling the church office.

The next Tower Newsletter publication is scheduled for January 2012.

This was Anne's last meeting as she is moving to Austin, Texas. We thank Anne for all her hard work and dedication to St. Thomas More Church, and we wish Anne the very best with God's blessings.

Theresa: **SCRIP**

Scrip sales earned \$4,600 to date in 2011. Sales declined over the summer, but we are hoping sales pick up for the Christmas season.

Theresa is resigning from this position, effective the end of this year. We are looking for a replacement to take over in January 2012. We want to thank Theresa for her long time dedication to the scrip program. Our church has clearly benefited from Theresa's hard work. Thank you!

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

We now have two openings in the Development Council (Publicity and Scrip Chairpersons).

Brandon Oswald, a parishioner who does historian work for a living, is willing to take on the role of St. Thomas More Church Historian. Chris is meeting with him next week to go over the details and materials that are involved.

Kevin McCusker has volunteered to be the new photographer.

Stewardship Renewal and Awareness month will be January 2012.

We have added an additional \$3,000 donation our Golf Classic Fundraiser. This money has come from our Vodka Tasting Party and a Pastor's Dinner. The Vodka Tasting Party was a big success with 30 parishioners tasting vodka while eating an abundance of good food. The Pastor's Dinner was also a big success at Shadowridge Country Club, with dancing added this year, which was a big hit! A huge thanks to all!

The 2012 Golf Classic promises to be exciting!

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**

It is important that we connect to welcome our prospective new parishioners right away with a telephone call or an email, and follow-up with meeting them. The program is going very well.

Vlad: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM** *(not present – report given by Chris Smith)*

Since the inception of this program, we have raised \$22,347.66. There are currently two vehicles outstanding with Cars for Causes. A check for one of them will be sent to us by the end of October 2011.

## **NEW IDEAS / BRAINSTORMING**

Ron: Idea for quarterly fundraisers such as K1 Sports, Boomers, Legoland, and Wild Animal Park. Ron is working with some of his contacts.

Also suggested advertising how people could purchase scrip for groceries on a regular basis.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Doug: **PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
We are continually looking for facilitators for Liturgy of the Word for Children at the 8:30am Masses.

First Annual STM Men's Retreat meets October 14-16<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas Angels information for the new season is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Paul: **FINANCE COUNCIL**  
The council finished the new budget for FYE 2012, and the Annual Financial Report/Booklet was published.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

Father Mike: Nothing at this time.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Our Father

**NEXT MEETING:** January 4, 2012 - 7:00pm