

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – January 11, 2012**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Doug D’Agrosa, Chris Smith, Bill Ipsen, Vlad Bolsakov, Flora Fallone, Andrea Sweeney, Jody Cadieux

NOT PRESENT: Paul Ibbetson, Valerie Thompson, Mike Nichols, Brian Leahey, Diana Diaz

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

OPENING PRAYER: St. Thomas More 25th Anniversary Prayer

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

OLD BUSINESS

Fr. Mike: **UPDATE ON GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY**

The Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held on Sunday, January 29 at 2:00 p.m. The plans for the reception are well underway. The ceremony is symbolic only and construction will start sometime in 2012. The Groundbreaking is important as it kicks off the Capital Campaign Phase 2.1 as well as ties in with Stewardship Month. Besides Bishop Brom and Fr. Mike, no other dignitaries have been invited. The liturgy will be simple and will be followed by a reception with appetizers and refreshments.

Chris: **UPDATE ON STEWARDSHIP AWARENESS MONTH**

Stewardship Awareness Month kicks off January 14-15 with Fr. Mike speaking about stewardship during his homily. The bulletin will have a Phase 2 update and will talk about the groundbreaking. All Parishioners are being asked to bring their stones to the groundbreaking ceremony on January 29.

Bill Ipsen will give a Capital Campaign update at all Masses January 21-22. January 22nd will also be Ministry Awareness Day from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., weather permitting. Ministries where there is a need will be highlighted with tables on the plaza.

A new Stewardship booklet has been developed and will be mailed out around January 17th. The new booklet is based on our Patron Saint, Thomas More and the four seasons. A Stewardship Renewal form is also being distributed. The form should be returned if someone wants to join a new ministry or if they want to leave a ministry. The form can be mailed, left in the offertory basket, the drop box, or can be filled out online. The forms need to be returned by the end of January.

Andy and Jen Frost will give the Lay Witness talk during all masses January 29-30.

NEW BUSINESS Welcome to Andrea Sweeney, new Co-Chairperson for the Scrip Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flora: **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

No new news to report. The assessment for St. Thomas More for 2012 will be \$48,000, the same as 2011. In 2011 our assessment was \$48,000, \$52,592.84 was pledged, and \$52,073.84 was collected. The unpaid balance will be applied toward the 2012

assessment. The Parish will receive 80% back of the approximately \$4,000 that was above our assessment. We should receive the check from the Diocese at the end of January.

Bill: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The end of the Capital Campaign was December 31, 2011. We received 678 pledges totaling approximately \$1,593,000. There was nearly \$40,000 in outstanding pledge payments from our Phase II campaign. All funds received after 1/1/2012 will be going to the Capital Campaign Phase 2.1. The Capital Campaign update January 21-22 will focus on good news and the Capital Campaign Phase 2.1. This Campaign hopes to raise \$500,000 which is the remainder needed for the construction of the church and the different ways parishioners can help. A letter went out at the end of 2011 to all of the donors who have automatic payments to ask them if they want to continue, or to stop their auto payments.

Chris : MEMBERSHIP

(for Valerie) The next New Member Reception is scheduled for Sunday, February 19, 2012. Invitations will be sent out about January 23rd.

Fr. Mike: NEW CONSTRUCTION

Fr. Mike met with Renzo Zecchetto and Robert Habiger on January 9. Things are moving along with the preparation for construction. There were discussions about the heating, cooling and ventilation systems. It was decided the church will use a plenum system that has a subfloor and all the equipment will be underneath, it is easier to maintain and will cut down on noise in the sanctuary, however, it is more expensive. There will also be a meeting with the structural engineers. The Interior Design teams are conducting artist interviews to find someone to create the Ambo, Altar, Shrine for Mary, Baptismal Font, etc. A meeting with the City of Oceanside went well, we are on par and good to go with them. There was a "See the New Church" preview on December 14th. The responses were favorable, especially from long time Parishioners.

Chris: PLANNED GIVING

The Towers of Faith reception has been scheduled for March 11, 2012. There have been new members joining. The new Stewardship booklet will bring more awareness to this group, as well as bulletin coverage in February/March.

Chris: PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS (OPEN Position)

Anne Marshall has moved and is no longer the chair. The position is currently open and the Council is looking for a replacement. The STM Tower Newsletter which is published twice a year, will now be mailed in the Spring and Fall. The Spring issue will include an article and pictures of our January 29th Groundbreaking, as well as Weddings, Baptisms, and Deaths from 2011.

Andrea: SCRIP

Andrea Sweeney and Mike Nichols are the new co-chairs. They are currently meeting with Theresa Goeltz and transitioning everything over to them. Monica Modenessi will be joining the committee in June. The committee just presented a check to STM for \$5000. Andrea and Mike are looking at different ways to advertise more. One possibility is to sell grocery, gas, and movie scrip on the plaza during the weekend masses. They are also

talking to other parishes to see what they are doing, what companies are used to obtain Scrip. They may also sell scrip on Stewardship Sunday to show people how easy it is to place their scrip order online.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**
See Old Business
A new Walking Ministry started January 10th.
There is a need for not only a Publicity Chair, but STM is also in need of Hospitality Ministers and More's Workers.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**
New membership registration continues to go well and the committee is running smoothly.

Vlad: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**
Since the inception of this program we have raised just over \$22,300. We are waiting for 3 checks totaling approximately \$2,700.00. Everything is now being done via email with Cars for Causes, this provides tracking and helps prevent anything from falling through the cracks. Pulpit announcements will be made in February.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

Legoland has agreed to give us discounted tickets to sell. We would be able to return any unsold tickets. Timeframe TBD.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Doug: **PASTORAL COUNCIL**
See minutes from November 30, 2011 meeting.
A search will be underway for a new Youth Minister, as Marc Raymundo will be leaving as of January 31. Fr. Mike and Kathleen Bell will create an interview committee to select the new Youth Advocate. Ideally he/she will start around July 1.

Fr. Mike:
(for Paul) **FINANCE COUNCIL**
Nothing new to report; we are on track. The "Did You Know" continues to do well.

PASTOR'S REPORT

There was discussion about the number of households we currently have, which is about 1028. It was explained that even though we continue to register new households, we go through attrition with parishioners moving away or dying. We do our best to make our household numbers as accurate as possible.

CLOSING PRAYER: Glory Be.

NEXT MEETING: May 16, 2011 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer- Andrea Sweeney