

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – August 21, 2007**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Brian Leahey, Paul Ibbetson, Chris Smith, Diana Diaz, Doug D'Agrosa, and Anne Marshall

NOT PRESENT: Jody Cadieux, Bill Ipsen, Louise Briseno, Henny Jocelyn, Gloria Larson, Linda Brault, and Michael Yambrach.

CALL TO ORDER: By Ron Briseno at 7:01 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Diana Diaz

APPROVAL OF JUNE 12, 2007 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on website in July 2007.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Fr. Mike:**
1. **Update on Diocesan Chapter 11 Resolution** – Reiterated comments in his Pastor's Column (yellow 4 page flyer dated August 19 ,2007) in the weekly STM bulletin.
 2. **Update on 5 Acre Parcel** – Bids are being accepted for the removal of vegetation where the fence is to be installed. Bids are also being solicited for the fence itself. Letters were mailed out to surrounding homeowners letting them know of the construction of a fence. No responses were received. On Keys Place Road, a sign needs to be installed, at the beginning of the road, indicating that it is 'Not a Through Road.'
 3. **Update on New Construction** – Our Parish will be on the agenda of the Diocesan Construction Services Committee's next meeting which will be in December 2007. The purpose of the meeting is to review where we are in terms of our ability to begin construction.
 4. **Pastor's Column** – Put on the next agenda of Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Development Council meetings to discuss the possible cost savings of building both the offices and the Church at the same time. Brian Leahey, our New Construction Chairperson, highly suggests building both at the same time. This will reap STM a great cost benefit.

Chris: **Welcome Ministry Update** – This ministry officially started February 1, 2007. There have been 69 blue cards turned in; of those, 28 new households have been registered – 40% of the cards. Of those 28 newly registered households, most have Operational and Building Fund responses. In addition, five of the families included in this total have either been recently visited or are scheduled for visits this week. We anticipate registration forms anytime from several of them. Since this ministry started, we are averaging four new registrations a month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chris: **Stewardship Awareness Month:**

1. **Stewardship Appreciation Dinner** will be held on Friday, October 12 from 6:00pm – 8:30pm. The theme this year revolves around water and will be tropical, Polynesian in flavor. Invitation preparation is underway. Volunteer listings are being updated in the computer system and invitations are scheduled to be mailed by the end of August.

2. **Fr. Mike addresses stewardship awareness in his homilies** at all three Masses the weekend of October 13/14.
3. **Lay witness presentations** will be given at all the Masses the weekend of October 20/21.
4. **Ministry Fair Weekend is October 27/28.** Chris will address all the Masses with a “Did You Know” type of format involving stewardship and the various opportunities we offer. Stewardship Response forms will be given out at all Masses, along with a pencil, and people choosing to adopt a **new** ministry and/or switch ministries can fill the forms out and turn them in at the tables on the plaza.

Representatives from all the executive councils (Pastoral, Finance, Development) will be present to answer questions and take new forms from parishioners. Signup forms and stewardship representatives will be available to collect forms and answer questions at all the Masses for the two weeks after the actual Ministry Fair. Reader announcements and bulletin coverage will encourage anyone wanting to sign up to do so before or after any Mass or during the week in the office.

Ron: **Posts/Markers to Identify New Church Building Site** – Markers need to be high and visible. Suggested height is 8 ft. to 15 ft. . . . Brian Leahey, New Construction Chairperson, will bring in sample posts in a week. Chris Smith will work on getting flags for the posts. It was also suggested that we also have smaller flags to identify places within the Church building so parishioners get a real sense of the layout of the Church.

Also, it was suggested to have a rendering of the new Church available during the Ministry Fair weekend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Catholic Appeal – Diana Diaz

Update as of August 21, 2007

- Total STM registered families pledging: 330 of 966 = 34%
- Total ACA pledges to date for 2007 = \$48,104.90
- The average envelope = \$145.77

We have met our goal of \$30K to the Diocese, so as of today \$18,279.90 comes back to St. Thomas More.

Capital Campaign – Chris Smith for Bill Ipsen

- 740 active pledges (76.6%) in the Capital Campaign with 966 active families at STM.
- We have \$4,850,000 in pledges to date.
- \$2.2M on deposit with the Diocese after paying off the 5 acre parcel, which we now own.
- We now own a house donated by a parishioner, valued at \$510,000. This is now our Rectory, which affords the parish a great savings.

Membership – Ron Briseno for Louise Briseno

- Just had New Member Luncheon on August 5, 2007, and had 40 new parishioners show up.
- Next New Member Reception is Sunday, February 17, 2007.

New Construction – Brian Leahey

- Will bring in sample posts in a week for marking off corners of new Church building.

Planned Giving – This position is now being overseen by Chris Smith.

Publicity & PR - Anne Marshall

- Just completed the Tower Newsletter which was the first STM color copy Tower Newsletter.
- The newsletter is being very well received and donations to cover the cost of printing continue to come in on a regular basis. We have already received 75% of the cost of the newsletter.
- The next issue will be published in December and will include an article on the first anniversary of our Monday Night Mass liturgies. The cover article will feature pictures of the newly staked Parish campus and an article from Fr. Mike detailing our progress with the Diocese at that point. Suggestions for other articles are always welcome and encouraged!

Sacrificial Giving – Paul Ibbetson

- Nothing to report.

Scrip – Chris Smith for Henny Jocelyn

- Wonderful new scrip idea: The “Welcome \$10 Scrip Certificate”
- This free \$10 scrip certificate will be mailed to all newly registered households along with the Ralph's and Albertson's informational packet.

Vehicle Donations – Chris Smith for Michael Yambrach

- This program has raised \$7,905.00 for STM from August 2006 thru July 2007 by picking up donated vehicles.
- To date we have received 12 vehicle donations, 3 of which were from non-parishioners.

COUNCIL UPDATES:

Pastoral Council – Doug D’Agrosa

- Brett Schanzenbach is the new committee head for adult religious education effective September 1, 2007.
- Cathy Zych is the new Pastoral Council Secretary.

Finance Council – Paul Ibbetson

- The FY 2007-2008 Budget is completed and will be seeking approval at the next Finance Council meeting on Wednesday, August 22nd, 2007.
- The interior painting of our building is now complete.
- Gophers on the property have been, for the most part, eradicated. There will be monthly maintenance for the next six months.
- The Slurry Sealing of our parking lot will take place in October 2008.
- Effective July 1, 2007, the new contractors for landscaping and floor maintenance have begun their duties. These new contractors will create an \$11,000 annual savings for the parish.
- The next Parish Financial Report will be sent to the Parish by the end of 2007.

PASTOR’S REPORT: Diana Diaz will stay on as a member-at-large of the Development Council. (Hooray!!) We are now in search of someone to fulfill her duties as the ACA Parish Coordinator.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at 7:00pm. Opening Prayer - Michael Yambrach