

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – October 16, 2007**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Diana Diaz, Jody Cadieux, Bill Ipsen
Doug D'Agrosa and Anne Marshall

NOT PRESENT: Paul Ibbetson, Louise Briseno, Henny Jocelyn, Brian Leahey and Michael Yambrach.

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

OPENING PRAYER: Diana Diaz

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 21, 2007 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on website in September 2007.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Fr. Mike:**
1. **Update on 5 Acre Parcel** – All is coming along fine. There is a lot of vegetation and trees that need to be removed along the property line in order to build the fence, rocks need to be removed as well. We are paying for all of the clean up in order to keep in right relationship with our neighbors. The cost for the survey to determine our property line, the removal of vegetation, and the erection of the fence will be about \$25 - \$30K. This cost will be borne by the Building Fund. The fence will start to go up in the next few days.
 2. **Update on Diocesan Settlement** – Payment of the recent settlement will come from the sale of Diocesan properties, proceeds from the insurance company, and the use of available Diocesan funds. This will still leave a shortfall of \$25 million. Bishop Brom is initiating a campaign to raise the necessary money. There will be a special collection beginning the first week of November. A mailing will go out to everyone from Fr. Mike encouraging a contribution to the “Embracing Our Mission” campaign. The contribution is completely voluntary.
 3. **Update on New Construction** – Our Parish will be on the agenda of the Diocesan Construction Services Committee's next meeting which will be December 20, 2007. We currently have \$2.3 million on deposit in the PSDL Trust (Parish Savings Deposit & Loan Trust). The purpose of the meeting will be to review whether or not STM will be able to service the loan that will be necessary to build our church and to decide if we are ready to begin construction. STM is being proactive to determine if we can still break ground in 2008. There could be a cost savings of building both Church and offices at the same time. So we are in consultation with the architect and Brian Leahy, the Chairman of the New Construction Committee, to determine what that cost savings may be and if it would be to our advantage to wait to build. The December meeting will help us evaluate our course of action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Catholic Appeal – Diana Diaz

No change to numbers since August 21, 2007 meeting. Latest report from the Diocese contained many errors and Lorraine is working with the ACA information compiled at the Parish, and Diocesan contacts to ensure accuracy on the final report.

- 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 – Bill Ipsen

- 746 active pledges (77%) in the Capital Campaign with 972 registered households at STM.
- We have \$4,850,000 in pledges to date, \$510,000 Rectory donation and \$264,000 in Investment Gifts for a total of \$5,624,000.
- \$2.3M on deposit with the Diocese after paying off the 5 acre parcel, which we now own.
- A Parish update will occur after the 1st of the year.

Membership – Nothing to Report

New Construction – See Old Business - Update on New Construction

Planned Giving – Chris Smith

- Currently working on the final collection stages of proceeds STM will receive from the estate of a parishioner who died earlier this year.
- Planning has begun for the Towers of Faith annual dinner, to be held December 2.

Publicity & PR - Anne Marshall

- The Tower newsletter is being very well received and donations were received to cover the cost of printing.
- There will be an ad in the Southern Cross about the November 11 Music Festival to be held at STM.
- The next issue of the Tower 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!
- A website called Good Search was discussed. It is a site that if you use it, you can set it up so money will be coming back to the Parish. Ron Briseno will research the details.

Sacrificial Giving – Nothing to Report

Scrip – Ron Briseno for Henny Jocelyn

- Ending Balance for August - \$8,841.70
- Ending Balance for September - \$9,566.13

Stewardship – Chris Smith

- The Stewardship Appreciation Dinner, which officially kicked off Stewardship Awareness month, was October 12. It was very well received and entertainment, décor, food, etc. was great. There were 302 people present, and a number of people who RSVP'd that they were unable to attend for a variety of reasons. . Please pass comments and suggestions for next year to Chris.
- October 12 through November 11 is Stewardship Awareness month at STM.
- The Fredette's will be giving the Lay Witness talk at all masses October 20 & 21.
- The Christian Stewardship Brochure is being updated with 2 new ministries. The first is More's Ministry which is a form of helping similar to our Sister Parish, but in our own community. This ministry works in conjunction with Interfaith Community Services who assist in finding the local projects most in need of work. The other new ministry to be added to the brochure is the Welcome Ministry, which will now be a part of Office Support.
- Chris will be doing "Did You Know" announcements at all masses during the weekend of 10/26 & 10/27.
- There is a DVD with photos, taken during the last two years at STM, featuring all different ages, ministries, with music, etc. that is available for viewing. See Chris for details.

Vehicle Donations – Jody Cadieux for Michael Yambrach

- 3 more cars have been donated recently and we are awaiting checks. At least one of these has been sold, one has just been donated and the other is being processed.
- We have collected approximately \$8,000 from vehicle donations to date, and should have close to \$10,000 by the end of the year.

COUNCIL UPDATES:

Pastoral Council – Doug D’Agrosa

- Brett Schanzenbach is the new committee head for Adult Faith Formation effective September 1, 2007.
- Welcome Ministry update:
 - 80 total registration requests since 2/1/07
 - 47 registrations or 60% of total requests
 - 31 not registered yet or at all
 - 4 visits new and pending
 - Ministry is averaging 5+ registrations per month and the results are good
 - 4 of the new families chose to tithe, and 8 pledges to date
 - All are contributing to the operating fund.
- Faith Formation classes are now in full swing.
- About 24 men attended the 1st Men’s Prayer Breakfast.
- Father Mike’s First Bookies attendance – 30 in the morning session and 30 in the evening session
- STM is hosting the Congregation for Civic Action event, “Lift Every Voice”, on Saturday, October 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 90-100 people have RSVP’d so far. This day will be focusing on local justice issues.
- The next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for November 27.

Finance Council – Father Mike for Paul Ibbetson

- The Financial Report is complete and is currently being reviewed. The report may go out before Thanksgiving.

PASTOR’S REPORT: New Schedule for all Council Meetings handed out.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETINGS FOR 2008: January 15, April 15, August 19, October 21. All meetings are on Tuesdays and will start at 7:00 p.m.