

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – August 19, 2008**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Jody Cadieux, Brian Leahey, Bill Ipsen, Paul Ibbetson, Chris Smith, and Doug D'Agrosa

NOT PRESENT: Louise Briseno, Henny Jocelyn, Katrina Waggoner, Anne Marshall, and Michael Yambrach.

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

OPENING PRAYER: Chris Smith

APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2008 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on the website in May 2008.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chris: Stewardship Awareness Month will be in November this year. The theme is “We are God’s Living Stones” and parish leadership is requested to incorporate the theme through everything we do. The main stewardship brochure is being updated this year. All parish ministries are being asked to review and any changes need to be given to Chris by the end of August. If anyone has new pictures to add they would be most welcome. Bob Wong is collaborating with Chris on ideas for the cover. The “Did You Know” Stewardship talk and Time and Talent handout given last year have been very successful in getting new parishioners into ministries as well. We are steering away from a full Ministry Fair. An idea was presented to only have those ministries who need help to be on the plaza for the fair. The Towers of Faith brochure is also being updated; information on annuities has been removed and updated pictures will be added. The new brochure will be finished in October and the Towers of Faith dinner is scheduled for November 9. New ideas are welcome for other ways to promote this concept and program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Catholic Appeal – Katrina Waggoner (*report distributed to all by Ron Briseno*)

Update as of August 6, 2008

Total ACA pledges to date for 2008 = \$44,262.32 (316 Families)

STM Assessment for 2008 = \$34,000

Capital Campaign – Bill Ipsen

757 Pledges

79% Parishioners

\$5,845,567 as of 8/19/2008 (Includes other assets)

We are continuing to get pledges from new parishioners. The Diocese must be convinced we have the ability to support our existing building before any construction can begin. Ongoing weekly/monthly contributions for the offertory are extremely important; we would not be able to support new buildings based on our numbers today. We are still paying \$11,000 per month on our old debt until December 2011.

Membership – Louise Briseno

No report was available. The next New Member Lunch is scheduled for Sunday, October 12.

New Construction – Brian Leahey

- The Architect Interview Committee has made selections for an architect, Renzo Zecchetto Architects, and a Liturgical Consultant, Robert Habiger. They met for the first time on August 14, and it appears it will be a very cohesive working relationship. The next meeting with Renzo Zecchetto will be in September, we are moving forward with the Design Development for the church and its interior.
- Drawings to determine preliminary budgets have been put out to bid, keeping the same footprint. 4 models were used for preliminary budget purposes, worship spaces with 1000 or 1200 person capacity, using either high quality or lower quality materials. In 6-12 months everything will be ready for construction documents. At that time, it will be determined if all the stars are aligned and we are able to begin construction. The committee is doing as much as possible until we can build.
- There was discussion about using “greener” alternatives for energy. The building is being planned with new technology in mind, and optimal energy efficiency.

Planned Giving – Chris Smith

- See New Business (Towers of Faith)

Publicity & PR- Anne Marshall *(notes submitted by Chris Smith)*

- The Tower newsletter was sent out in early August. We have already received \$360 toward offsetting the cost of the current issue from the enclosed envelopes. The newsletter is now in color. 2000 copies were sent to homes and businesses, there are 450 extra for the Welcome Ministry and the Parish Information table.

Sacrificial Giving – Paul Ibbetson

- It was decided that Paul’s name would be removed from this Committee until another project comes to light.

Scrip – Henny Jocelyn/Katrina Waggoner *(written report submitted – read by Ron Briseno)*

- April Sales \$13,319.66
 - May Sales \$13,408.80
 - June Sales \$17,704.87
 - July Sales \$14,221.00
 - Community Partners (Ralphs, Albertsons, Food 4 Less) – Received \$1,866.54 profit
- The Council would like additional information as to what the profit is from the sales generated.

Stewardship – Chris Smith

- See New Business
- Welcome Ministry as of August 19
 - 177 total cards submitted
 - 87 households registered – 49% of total
 - 18 pending visits
 - 8 recent visits
 - 14 met and did not register
 - 50 no response to contact – 28% of total
 - 39 participating in Capital Campaign (pledges or regularly contributions)
 - More Welcome Ministers are needed

Other Reports:

CHAIRPERSON: New Ideas/Brainstorming

- Ron would like to take some time at each meeting to brainstorm new ideas for bringing in more parishioners as well as additional funds into the parish. We need to be progressive and aggressive with what we need to do in order to continue this council. What do we see at other parishes? Any new ideas? Is there something special we can do for more fundraising? Example: "Eat at Home Sunday" – One Sunday per month take the money used to eat out for dinner and instead contribute the money to STM.
- The banners are up; we will use different messages for different seasons (Christmas, Easter, etc.) and rotate the banners.
- Any new ideas should be emailed to the council before the next meeting.

COUNCIL UPDATES:

Pastoral Council – Doug D'Agrosa

- The last Pastoral Council meeting was on May 27.
- Social Ministries – Discussion regarding the many requests for donations during the Christmas season postponed until August meeting.
- Victory Garden – an idea was presented to take land set aside for the school and create a Victory Garden that would allow parishioners who may not have the opportunity to garden at home to have that experience at STM. Sondra Parks is moving forward with this to see if there is any parish interest in pursuing this project.
- Laughter Ministry – Mark Darcy shared information about this ministry and how it can help with illness and pain. A bulletin announcement or pulpit announcement may be made to determine interest and promote the ministry.
- CPR Training – Over 300 people have been trained so far.
- Steubenville San Diego took place in July. There were 60 participants from STM and over 4200 participants in total
- Vacation Bible School took place in July and was once again a success.
- More's Workers – There is an article in the Tower Newsletter about the most current project of working with Interfaith Community Services and having a "paint party" for 10 apartments that needed to be ready for occupancy on August 1.

Finance Council – Paul Ibbetson

- The June meeting was a Budget Meeting. The "Did You Know" campaign brought in \$60,000 in 1 year and the Golf Tournament generated \$50,000 for the Operations Budget. We are in a good budget position compared to 3-4 years ago. We are prepared for the economic downturn.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Father Mike has asked for Patience during the next 6 months as he will be doing double duty as both the Pastor at St. Thomas More and the "Pro-tem" Administrator at St. Francis while Fr. Ramon is on sabbatical.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: November 12, 2008 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer- Louise Briseno