

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – November 12, 2008**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Jody Cadieux, Paul Ibbetson, Anne Marshall, Chris Smith, and Doug D'Agrosa

NOT PRESENT: Louise Briseno, Theresa Goeltz, Henny Jocelyn, Flora Fallone, Brian Leahey, Bill Ipsen, Diana Diaz and Michael Yambrach.

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

OPENING PRAYER: Ron Briseno

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2008 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on the website in September, 2008.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chris:

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP AWARENESS MONTH:

1. The new 2008 Stewardship books will be mailed on Friday, November 14. 1,500 Books were printed and there was a significant cost savings from the last time. These are updated and published every two years.
2. Stones inscribed with the names of each registered parish household were handed out at all Masses the weekend of November 8-9; there are about 1,000 stones total. There was also information in the bulletin about the stones as well as reader announcements. All of the stones will be distributed by the end of the month.
3. The Rudolph Family will give the Lay Witness talks the weekend of November 15-16.
4. Fr. Mike and Chris will give an updated "Stewardship: Did You Know" talk the weekend of November 22-23.

The Towers of Faith dinner was held on November 9 and it went very well. There are currently 41 members named, 3 anonymous. We welcomed five new participants this year.

January 2009 is our current target date for updating the parish with the comprehensive status of our build-out. It was discussed that a single sheet be provided to parishioners with a very basic breakdown of the fund-line as it relates to a time-line. The information provided would be simple with bullet points. The January issue of The Tower newsletter will also feature an informative "Behind the Scenes" article on the numerous aspects of preparation involved in building a Church.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ron:

Restaurant Fundraising – There are many restaurants in the area surrounding STM that do fundraising to help support local organizations. It was discussed that STM could have a monthly "Restaurant Night" to provide another source of fundraising for the parish. These restaurants typically contribute 10- 20% of sales for the evening when a flyer is brought in and used. Some restaurants discussed were Pick Up Stix, Cold Stone, California Pizza Kitchen, Ruby's, Rubio's, Souplantation, Islands, Chic-Fil-A, and possibly Nucci's. The council also agreed that alternating nights each month (Sunday one month, a Wednesday the next) would be a good idea. We need to plan 12 nights for 2009 and need a coordinator to oversee the printing of flyers, contacting the restaurants for dates and times, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Catholic Appeal – Flora Fallone *(no report given)*

Flora Fallone is the new ACA Chairperson. She will be training with Lorraine in January 2009.

Capital Campaign – Bill Ipsen *(report given by Chris Smith)*

The Capital Campaign is on track. We have had to make some adjustments down due to families being affected by the present economy. On a positive note, there are more new parishioners contributing to the campaign, and the number of contributions is increasing.

Membership – Louise Briseno

The New Member Welcome Luncheon on October 12 went very well. The next luncheon dates are March 1, and October 4, 2009.

New Construction – Brian Leahey *(report given by Fr. Mike)*

- Fr. Mike met with Renzo Zecchetto Architects, and Liturgical Consultant, Robert Habiger in October. We are moving forward with the Liturgical Program for the interior of the Church as Robert Habiger and the Interior Design Team continue to meet and discuss. The building cost estimates are now about \$9.3 million. Therefore, we need \$3 million on deposit with the Diocese as one major condition for securing a loan.
- We continue to pay \$11K per month on the debt for the parish center. The loan will be paid off in December 2011.
- Due to the current economic situation and its effect on our Operations Budget, Fr. Mike made the decision to slow things down a bit. The Liturgical Program will continue to be designed with completion in the next several months. The schematic design process for the Church will begin in July 2009 and the construction documents will begin to be created in January 2010 with actual construction beginning in late 2010. This is the present plan. Much continues to depend upon the health of our Operations Budget.
- The next meeting of the Interior Design Team with Robert Habiger will be in January, 2009. Douglas Lynn and the Acoustics Committee is interviewing for acoustical experts.

Planned Giving – Chris Smith

- See Old Business (Towers of Faith)

Publicity & PR- Anne Marshall

- We have a new parishioner, Christopher Carmichael who will be helping Anne get more information out about the parish. Christopher is an expert in radio advertising.

Sacrificial Giving –

- Nothing to Report.

Scrip – Theresa Goeltz

Scrip Sales are still going well with increased sales in December anticipated. This is historically the most profitable month of the year. The Christmas Angel tree and set up are right next to the Scrip Sales table.

Stewardship – Chris Smith

- See Old Business

Other Reports:

- **Vehicle Donations** – STM just received a check for another car, and donations continue. Michael Yambrach will be delivering a pulpit announcement about vehicle donations during masses the weekend of December 6-7.

CHAIRPERSON: New Ideas/Brainstorming

- See New Business – Restaurant Fundraising
- 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 August 26.
- Social Ministries – Discussion regarding the many requests for donations during the Christmas season Suzee Irwin will look at spreading out and tying to the season (ex. Birth Choice during May for Mother’s Day) on the 2009 calendar.
- Brainstorming on ideas for attracting more parishioners to STM has been added as a standing agenda item.
- There are currently seven candidates and catechumens in the RCIA program. Current group will celebrate the Easter Sacraments in 2009

Finance Council – Paul Ibbetson

- The Council met in October. Operating income is down in the first quarter of this fiscal year. This has been the pattern in the last few years due to projected expenses coming in sooner than later in the year. In addition, the downturn in the economy has adversely impacted our offertory income. The council continues to closely monitor the budget situation. Cash flow is normal, however the weekly collections are down. The “Did You Know” campaign is ahead in contributions over the same time last year, so that is a positive. The Finance Council anticipated the economic downturn in the preparation of the budget for this year, but still income is less than what was planned. Having a healthy budget will be key to our parish build-out plans.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

Fr. Ramon has resigned as Pastor from St. Francis. Fr. Mike will be continuing his duties as “Pro-tem” Administrator at St. Francis until June 30, 2009. He asks for continued prayers, support and patience as he assumes these extra responsibilities.

CLOSING PRAYER

MEETING DATES FOR 2009: January 14, April 8, July 8 and October 14, 2009 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer for meeting on January 14 – Flora Fallone