

**St. Thomas More Development Council**  
**Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Paul Ibbetson, Chris Smith, Flora Fallone, Bill Ipsen, Brian Leahey, Jody Cadieux, Diana Diaz, Vlad Bolsakov, Doug D'Agrosa, Theresa Goeltz

**NOT PRESENT:** Louise Briseno, Anne Marshall

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

**OPENING PRAYER:** Flora Fallone

**APPROVAL OF MAY 12, 2010 MEETING MINUTES:** Approved as posted on the website.

**NORTH COUNTY SOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE:** Dick Belprez gave a presentation to the Council on North County Solutions for Change. The presentation included a video that talked more about the organization. It is based in Vista, and approximately 550 families have been worked with to date. The program is based on a 1000 day University model to turn lives around. The families are screened thoroughly before being accepted into the program. The program includes 500 days on campus to give the families classes, training, and support. The next 500 days are spent off campus when families work, pay rent, become self sufficient, and restructure their lives. Dick and Charlene Belprez are the Chairpersons for this new ministry, which falls under Social Ministries.

On September 25 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. there will be an Open House at North County Solutions for Change to tour the facility and to get the Parish more acquainted with them and what they do. STM has made a commitment to be supportive of NCSC in a substantive way in the years to come. The new NCSC Committee will create the ways in which to make this happen.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Ron:           **RESTAURANT FUNDRAISING UPDATE**  
The Claim Jumper FUNdraiser brought in about \$350 or 15% for the evening. STM has earned about \$3,000 since we started the restaurant fundraising. The next restaurants for the fundraising are Famous Dave's and California Pizza Kitchen.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **NEW STM FUNDRAISER**

Jerry and Judy Buonoconti will be heading up a fundraiser titled "Treasures 2010" to be held on November 6 in the parking lot. It will be a combination of Craft Fair and Tag Sale. The Craft Fair will allow vendors to sell handmade items. The tag sale lets parishioners donate items to be sold and they bring them in tagged with what they believe the items should be sold for. The Knights of Columbus will be providing or selling food and there will be things for the kids to do. There is a planning meeting on August 8 for this event.

### **AEGIS DINNER FUNDRAISER**

Aegis will be hosting a fundraising dinner for us on Friday, September 24. The cost will be \$50 per person, and there is a 50 person limit. There is no cost to STM and all proceeds benefit STM. Aegis hopes to make this an annual benefit event.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Flora: ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

As of July 21 we have \$40,990 for the Annual Catholic Appeal, approximately \$2,000 short to date. The contributions are coming in slowly from people reading the bulletin and they are helping to reach the goal.

### **Bill: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The on-going campaign as of July 20 has 607 households that have responded. 31 households indicated that they were unable at this time to make any pledge. 10 households were adopted by other St. Thomas More members. We still need to hear one way or another from 390 families. Ideas were discussed as to how to get these remaining families to respond, even if the response is "Unable to Pledge".

### **Chris: MEMBERSHIP**

The next New Member Reception will be held on August 15 at 12:00 p.m. 55 households have been invited. Council members were asked to contact Chris if they will be attending.

Brian: **NEW CONSTRUCTION**  
Construction prices are still low due to the economy. Brian will run current numbers and then build on that to see if it helps with the amount of money we need to have on deposit with the Diocese. We are looking to have a Guaranteed Maximum Contract with whoever we choose to build the sanctuary.

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**  
The Towers of Faith Reception is scheduled for November 7 at the Rectory. There are several new members who recently remembered our Parish in their estate plans.

Chris: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
The Tower Newsletter is being sent to the printer at the end of the month. It will kick off the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration which occurs on October 17 and includes the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo. The newsletter will also include articles about the anniversary, Jeff & Gale Gibbons, Ron & Louise Briseno, Vacation Bible School, as well as an article by Fr. Mike. Information is being sent to The Southern Cross and North County Times about the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. New flags are on order; they will have the STM 25 Years on them. We hope to have delivery by the end of July.

Theresa: **SCRIP**  
Sales are still very good – approximately between \$2,600 and \$3,000 per week in sales.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**  
November is the Stewardship Renewal and Awareness month. It will start on November 6 and end the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. Fr. Mike will talk about Stewardship in his Homily the weekend of November 6-7, the weekend of November 13-14 will be the Lay Witness talk, and the weekend of November 20-21 will be the Ministry Fair. There will be no new Stewardship booklet or Stewardship Reception this year to save costs. The International Catholic Stewardship Conference will be in San Diego this year from September 19 – 22. We have four people attending and they should bring back solid ideas on how stewardship can help our Parish.  
There are four new Welcome Ministers. This ministry helps to add 4 – 5 families a month to the parish family.

Vlad: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

In the last 2 months we have received 1 vehicle about every 3 weeks to be donated. The proceeds after auction bring STM anywhere from \$25 to a few hundred dollars. We currently have a 2001 vehicle being auctioned. Brian Leahey has offered to help with those vehicles donated that are drivable to take them to auction. The total donation proceeds since the inception of the program in 2006 is \$16,708.83. Total proceeds to date in 2010 are \$723.25. There are 5 vehicle donations in process and the proceeds should be finalized before December 2010.

**NEW IDEAS/ BRAINSTORMING**

An idea was presented to sell 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo T-shirts. Ron Briseno will look into pricing.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Doug: **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

See minutes from May 26, 2010 meeting [Click here](#)

Paul: **FINANCE COUNCIL**

Fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. The budget finished with a \$28,000 deficit. The loss may roll into next year. The next year's budget is currently being worked on. The Diocese has a new ledger and accounting system as well as a new budget template. It may be September before a new budget is determined.

We currently are paying and \$11,000 mortgage on our original loan which will be paid at the end of 2011. What can the Parish handle for a mortgage? The payment could range anywhere from \$22,000 to \$33,000 per month. The interest rate is variable for the new loan.

The Golf Tournament brought in \$57,500.

The Did You Know campaign was over \$16,000 below budget and the Offertory was down \$15,000 from our last fiscal year. The economy has had a definite impact on contributions.

**PASTOR'S REPORT**

Stay Optimistic!

**CLOSING PRAYER:** The Lord's Prayer

**NEXT MEETING:** October 20, 2010 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer – Jody Cadieux

**Church of St. Thomas More**  
**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Date: May 26, 2010**

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

**1. Opening Prayer**

**2. Roll Call**

Those on the Parish Council in attendance were:

| <b>Name</b>                          | <b>Role</b>                                |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Rev. Michael Ratajczak               | Pastor                                     |
| Doug D'Agrosa                        | Pastoral Council Chair                     |
| Marti Harper                         | Secretary                                  |
| Rory Griffin                         | Faith Formation & Evangelization<br>Chair  |
| Paul Ibbetson                        | Finance Chair                              |
| Dick & Charlene Belprez              | Social Ministries Chair                    |
| Kathy Arciero                        | Liturgy Committee Liaison                  |
| Ron Briseno                          | Development Council Chair                  |
| Pat & Lisa Attardo                   | Parish Organizations & Events Chair        |
| <b>Those not in Attendance were:</b> |  |
| Jen Frost                            | Marriage & Family Life Chair               |
| Chris Smith                          | Director of Stewardship and<br>Development |
|                                      |  |

**3. Agenda Review**

**4. Old Business**

The Council continues to revise the Pastoral Council Charter. Simple changes regarding number of committees and their names, council responsibilities and frequency of meetings have already been made.

The term limits for council members will be three years rather than two. A second three-year term may be served at the pastor's discretion. After a total of 6 years a member will be asked to step down from their specific position for two years.

A delegate may stand in for an absent committee chair.

Once the Charter is approved it will be reviewed bi-annually and kept on file both in writing and electronically.

## **5. New Business**

The International Stewardship Conference will be held in San Diego this year, September 19-22. The parish will divide the enrollment among 2-3 interested members of the three councils, along with Fr. Mike and Chris Smith.

## **6. Committee Updates**

### **Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee**

- ***Evangelization:***

Still vacant

- ***RCIA:***

Seven candidates and one catechumen were confirmed at the Easter Vigil.

- ***Religious Education for Adolescents and Children:***

Re-enrollment is under way for the 2010-2011 program.

VBS 2010 – “High Seas Adventures” July 19-23

- ***Adult Religious Education Committee:***

Bookies presentations continue every other month.

Deacon Tom and Pat are facilitating Rediscovering Catholicism II.

Two presentations by concentration camp survivor, Yaja Boren, are scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>.

- ***Middle School Youth Ministry:***

Summer schedule

Ron & Louise Briseno will step down - new Youth Advocate, Mark Raymundo, begins his ministry July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mark will speak at all the Masses the last weekend of June.

- ***High School Youth Ministry:***

Summer schedule

Steubenville San Diego is July 23-25

Jeff & Gale Gibbons will step down after 20 years of high school ministry.

All retiring youth ministers (middle & high school) will be recognized on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> at the 10:30 Mass.

- ***Liturgy of the Word for Children:***

We are still in need of facilitators. Recruitment ideas will be discussed with Chris Smith.

- ***Sacramental Preparation:***

27 children are celebrating their First Eucharist this year at different Masses: May 9<sup>th</sup> (10:30), June 12<sup>th</sup> (5:00) and June 13<sup>th</sup> (10:30).

35 teens and one adult were confirmed May 15th

## **Finance Council**

Golf Classic raised \$55,000.00

Meeting this year's budget will be difficult although we are close. The budget for the next fiscal year will be tight as well, and the Finance Council is doing all it can to balance the budget.

Expenditures for the year include resurfacing the parking lot that was put off from last year.

Needed general repairs and remodeling of parish will be kept to a minimum.

Capital Campaign reports 53-57% of parishioners pledging after a second mailing. It is imperative that we take advantage of current decreased costs of building new sanctuary if at all possible.

The council discussed several ideas to increase financial support.

## **Development Council**

Restaurant fundraisers doing really well - next location pending

Recent update on Capital Campaign was reported at all Masses

Looking for more innovative ways to help meet building fund goal

## **Social Ministries**

North County Solutions for Change - Objective set to educate parish on mission and accomplishments of Solutions. Social Ministries is working with staff to plan a fall open house involving STM. A short video on Solutions for Change was presented to council members.

Blood Drive – May 30<sup>th</sup>

Brother Benno – food drive less than last year in spite of two truck loads and \$261 cash

Birth Choice – Pennies from Heaven collection in July

Fraternity House – information meeting for interested parishioners May 27<sup>th</sup>

Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice – tracking issues related to local elections

Sick & Homebound – seeking more Eucharistic ministers

St. Bonaventure Mission – seeking volunteer in Knights of Columbus to head fall clothing drive

## **PO&E**

Golf Classic was a success April 30<sup>th</sup>

Anne Marshall, historian, is stepping down though she will continue to take photos – seeking someone to archive events

Knights of Columbus June Breakfast pending

Parish Potluck – August 20th

Senior Ministry luncheon April 15<sup>th</sup>

Women's Guild luncheon May 22<sup>nd</sup> raised \$3000.00. Installation of officers is June 12<sup>th</sup>. Quilt raffle is final planned event.

Catholic Widows and Widowers (No. Co. group) meet twice a month and are looking for meeting space.

## **Liturgy Committee**

Kathy Arciero, Fr. Mike and Douglas Lynn are working on restructuring the present liturgy committee. Bishop Brom has designated the second Sunday in October as "Rosary for Peace Sunday".

## **Marriage & Family Life**

April 2010 Mother's Day Flowers - about 800 flowers were distributed at Masses on Mothers Day weekend.

June 2010 Father's Day Cookies – coordinating baking and distribution with parish members

February 2011 Valentine's Day – coordinating marriage-focused events with Jolene Schanzenbach over the summer

- **ACCTS:**

Monthly meetings with varying levels of participation

After-Mass Dinner May 22<sup>nd</sup> after 5pm Mass

Padres Game TBD in July

## **7. Emerging Issues**

None identified

## **8. Clergy Comments**

Annual Catholic Appeal assessment for STM is \$43K, increased from \$39K last year and we're presently at \$39,700. The diocesan goal is \$3 million which is an increase of \$500,000 from last year. The increase of money will be directed to inner city parishes and schools. Because of this increase, our parish assessment was raised.

Secondary Education Initiative - we have pledged \$1 million and have paid \$370K so far, exceeding diocesan expectations. Monies go to Cathedral High School now, and in turn will be repaid to Pax Christi, when building plans begin in North County.

Aegis wants to organize a cocktail hour and dinner fundraiser for STM.

STM 25th Anniversary Celebration is October 17<sup>th</sup> – an inexpensive, family-friendly gathering possibly using the adjacent 5 acres

"Fr. Mike's Table" at Bucca de Beppo another possible fundraiser

## **9. Closing Prayer**

All members participated in The Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.



Our next Pastoral Council meeting is August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Kathy Arciero will lead the opening prayer.