

St. Thomas More Development Council Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2010

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

NOT PRESENT: Jody Cadieux, Flora Fallone, Louise Briseno, Theresa Goeltz

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

OPENING PRAYER: STM's 25th Anniversary Prayer Card was read by all.

APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2010 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS: 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION UPDATE

Everyone felt uplifted from Bishop Brom's announcement at the very beginning of Mass, saying we could move forward with our plans to build our permanent church and our parish offices as long as we keep up the level of our financial giving. Bishop Brom set the stage for sacrificial giving for the future of St. Thomas More Church. It was a great day and spirits were high.

After Mass, we had a celebration with music and food under the tent. Father Mike visited each table, as well as Bishop Brom who stayed after Mass for our celebration and visited with each table. The rain couldn't dampen the mood at all. It was a day to remember.

Anne Marshall is working on an article to put in the Southern Cross.

We ordered 161 25th Anniversary t-shirts, and we have 47 left at \$10 each if anyone would still like one. The vendor donated part of the cost of the t-shirts, which in turn helped to offset other costs associated with the event.

Expenses on the entire event haven't been calculated yet.

RESTAURANT FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Ron: We received a check for \$500 from the California Pizza Kitchen. The Elephant Bar Restaurant is our next fundraiser, then in December, two days at Rubio's. STM has earned approximately \$3,500 since we started the restaurant fundraising.

AEGIS FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Chris: Aegis generously hosted 60 people for a wonderful dinner at no cost to STM. We profited \$3,200 with this fundraiser. Next year we may go to 75 seats for dinner.

Anne took pictures for a Southern Cross article.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fr.Mike: ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We are 95% complete to date in collecting our \$43K assessment for 2010. The contributions are coming in slowly from people reading the bulletin, and they are helping to reach the goal.

The San Diego Diocese is looking at a new approach for the ACA in order to help them raise more funds for the needs of the Diocese after the legal settlement. The Diocese raised \$3 million this year, but needs to raise more in order to better serve the needs of the Diocese.

Bill: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We have \$1.43 million pledged, but we are \$550,000 short. We need to keep moving forward and stress the importance of how we need and will raise this \$550,000. November is Stewardship Awareness Month, and we will focus on this as the treasure piece of "Time, Talent, and Treasure."

Father Mike will discuss the implications of our loan approval with the Finance Council, the Pastoral Council, and the Development Council to seek input and to make sure that "we are all on the same page" as we move forward.

Chris: MEMBERSHIP

We have several new registrations and several new Welcome Ministers to meet with each new family who has registered. A meeting was held on Friday, October 15th for all Welcome Ministers. It had been two years since all the Welcome Ministers had come together to share their experiences/stories in a meeting with new members. We are always looking for new Welcome Ministers as the parish is growing, and that will increase with news as our ground breaking circulates. Our current Welcome Ministers are working very hard to keep up with all the new requests. The next New Member Reception is Sunday, January 23, 2011.

Brian: NEW CONSTRUCTION

We are looking to have a Guaranteed Maximum Contract with whomever we choose to build our permanent church and our parish offices. We are hoping all permits and paperwork are in order to start construction at the end of 2011. Brian will be meeting with Renzo Zecchetto, our architect, to plan our initial steps as we move forward. To be cost effective, as the parish offices are being constructed, we will need to re-configure our current building.

Chris: PLANNED GIVING

The Towers of Faith Reception for 40-50 people is scheduled for November 7, 2010 at the Rectory. List of names will be updated. There are several new members who recently remembered our Parish in their estate plans.

STM received 35 boxes from an estate for the Treasure Sale on November 6, 2010. Also, an RCIA candidate has 21 nurseries donating plants for the Treasure Sale.

Anne: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Working on an article for the Southern Cross in regards to STM's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Will place an ad for the 2010 Treasures Sale in the North County Times (Nov. 1st-7th), and the Penny Saver, as well as a radio announcement with KOCT (Oceanside).

Also, working on an announcement for the Women's Ministry for distribution to the Oceanside Deanery.

Wanted to do a news release for the K of C Tootsie Roll drive, but the Knights should handle this program, as it is a nationwide effort.

Chris: **SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

We need to, at least, maintain our present level of giving in order to manage the loan the Diocese has offered STM for our build-out.

SCRIP

Theresa: The feedback is mostly positive. Online orders are slow, but growing. Weekday sales are high, and overall sales are down about \$500, but are picking up.

Suggested STM put in a link in the website to online ordering of scrip.

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 open the topic of Stewardship with 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 Awareness on the plaza for those ministries in special need of new stewards at this time.

Our theme this year, in keeping with our 25th Anniversary, will be: "The King's good servant, but God's first."

Vlad: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

A table for vehicle donations will be added to the plaza for the Ministry Fair on November 20-21. \$350 was raised since our last meeting, and also two more cars were donated, but we haven't received the money for them yet. We have had 14 donations in a 12 month period which equals \$3,400.

Suggested there be a link in the STM website so people can fill out a form of interest.

NEW IDEAS/ BRAINSTORMING

A little Catholic gift store at STM which sells t-shirts with our logo, rosaries, bibles, etc. Would need to be managed like our scrip program (ordering and preparing financial spreadsheets).

Discussion on this topic will need to continue. It has many implications and variables.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Doug: PASTORAL COUNCIL

See minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting held August 4, 2010 meeting.

Paul: FINANCE COUNCIL

The first quarter of the new budget was completed September 30th. For the first three months, STM has a deficit of \$55,000. We budgeted a \$22,000 deficit. It is our usual pattern that we have more expenses than income in the first six months of the fiscal year. We need to continue to watch this carefully.

The \$28,000 deficit from last fiscal year was included in this year's budget. Two "planned giving" gifts that we will receive this year will offset that amount. The offertory is level with what we budgeted.

Last year's "Did You Know?" campaign raised \$49,000, but it was less than what we budgeted. Presently, this year's "Did You Know?" campaign is below what we budgeted. We will have a better assessment of things at the end of December.

We currently are paying \$11,000 a month on our original loan which will be paid off at the end of 2011. The \$5.6 million loan the Diocese has offered us comes with a variable rate for 25 years. The payment could be \$30,000 per month. Paul suggests Finance Council does a presentation to all three STM Councils for discussion and input. Father Mike agrees and will set a date for that meeting in November or early December.

PASTOR'S REPORT

On the night before Thanksgiving, Wednesday, November 24, at 7:00pm, STM will host a prayer service, "The Children of Abraham." It will be a blend of Jewish-Christian-Muslim scriptures, short homilies given by a Rabbi, a Priest (Fr. Mike), and an Imam, and music. A reception will be held afterwards.

CLOSING COMMENTS: Discussion on Bishop Brom's message and STM's finances.

CLOSING PRAYER: The Lord's Prayer

NEXT MEETING: TBD

Opening Prayer: Jody Cadieux

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
Date: August4, 2010

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer

Kathy Arciero led the opening prayer.

2. Roll Call

Those on the Parish Council in attendance were:

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

3. Agenda Review

4. Old Business

The Pastoral Council Charter was finalized and approved by the council. Fr. Mike suggested that in the future, the charter could be amended to include a youth representative on the council.

25th Anniversary Celebration:

An **October Fest** will be held Oct. 17th after the 10:30am Mass (with Bishop Brom officiating). A tent will be erected in the parking lot with food (brats, salads), drinks (beer), music/karaoke, and jumps for the children. Tickets will be sold in advance for \$10/person or \$25/family. Details will be in the upcoming newsletter.

Treasures 2010

Jerry & Judy Buoniconti are heading a 15 member committee to organize a tag sale/flea market event on Sat., Nov. 6th. Tables can also be rented for crafts. Everyone is responsible for tagging and delivering their own items on the day of the sale. All remaining items at the end of the sale will be donated.

STM T-shirts

The design and ordering of 25th Anniversary versus general STM T-shirts was discussed. STM Christmas ornaments are another item being considered.

5. New Business

New Member Reception is August 15th. Kathy Arciero volunteered to represent the Pastoral Council.

Interfaith Shelter Network

STM will no longer support this ministry due to the large commitment it has made to North County Solutions for Change.

6. Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee Evangelization

Position still vacant

RCIA

Rite of Welcome Aug. 8th for 2 catechumens and one candidate

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children

Position still vacant

Adult Religious Education Committee

2010: Evening of Worship - Aug. 27th

What a Difference a Day Makes - Sept. 8th

Just Faith - week of Sept. 13th

Men's Prayer Breakfast - Oct. 9th

Fr. Mike's Bookies - Oct. 19th

Women's Retreat - Nov. 12-13th

Children of Abraham Prayer Service - Nov. 24th

2011: Fr. Mike's Bookies - Jan. 19th, Feb. 9th, March 2nd

Parish Mission - April 4-6th

Women's Prayer Breakfast - May 7th

YouTube and Faith - June 8th
The Internet and Faith - Aug. 10th

Middle School Youth Ministry

Summer schedule

High School Youth Ministry

Summer highlight was Steubenville San Diego with 60 participants
Fall schedule will resume after Labor Day

Liturgy of the Word for Children

LOWC going well but still in need of facilitators

Sacramental Preparation

Preparing for the new school year

Finance Council

The fiscal year closed at the end of June with a deficit of 28K that will be rolled over into the next year. (Recently, the parish was remembered in the estates of two parishioners who have died recently. The two gifts will cover the shortfall from this past fiscal year.) The council is currently working on the new budget. They are also in the process of installing a new general ledger and budget system.

Development Council

The Capital campaign continues.

Dine-out fundraisers continue- next one at Famous Dave's BBQ on Aug. 10- 11
(20% goes to STM)

Cash for Cars is going well.

Social Ministries

Brother Benno's Collections has been temporarily separated from Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers for the duration of Deacon Tom's leave of absence. The committee chair position for the collections is available.

Culture of Life

Pennies from Heaven collection for Birth Choice Aug. 7-8

Mother of Life Conference at SDSU Aug. 14th

Fraternity House

Committee working with More's Workers to address repair projects

Just Faith

37 participants registered; 33 from STM

More's Workers

88 hours of work at ICS Fairweather Lodge #3 completed

North County Solutions for Change

Open House for STM parishioners on Sept. 25th

St. Bonaventure Mission

Having difficulty finding volunteer from Knights of Columbus to lead the fall clothing drive

PO&E

Historian position stills remains open

Knights of Columbus parish breakfasts planned for Sept. and Oct.

Parish Librarian position has been closed

Senior Ministry - "Treasures 2010" parking lot sale Sat. Nov. 6th

Social Activities - Thank you reception for Jeff & Gale Gibbons and Ron & Louis Briseno was Sun. Aug. 1st

STM 25th Anniversary Celebration Oktoberfest will be on Sun.

Oct. 17th

Women's Guild will resume in September.

Liturgy Committee

Fr. Mike, Douglas Lynn and Kathy Arciero have been working to revitalize our parish Liturgy Committee through several meetings and a retreat for current and prospective members. 20+ liturgy members hope to meet quarterly. The retreat was held July 31st with 16 members. **Upcoming Liturgy events:**

Rosary for Peace – Oct. 9th, following 5pm Mass 25th Anniversary Mass – Oct. 17th, 10:30am

Music Ministry Thanksgiving Concert – Nov. 21, 4:00pm

Children of Abraham (Interfaith event) Nov. 24,
7:00pm

Marriage & Family Life

ACTTS

ACCTS has joined with North County Young Adults (NCYA), an organization of individuals in their 20's and 30's from multiple No Co. Catholic parishes. Those interested should still contact Jen Frost via the parish website ([HYPERLINK "mailto:ACTTS@stmoside.org" ACTTS@stmoside.org](#)) and she will forward to NCYA. **Note:** [HYPERLINK "mailto:ACTTS@stmoside.org" ACTTS@stmoside.org](#) will remain functional since NCYA does not have direct public email access and forwarding messages is necessary for now.

Family Life

June 2010 – hundreds of Father's Day Cookies were distributed

February 2011 – Planning underway for marriage-focused events for Valentine's Day

8. Clergy Comments

The structure of the RCIA program has been reshaped. More catechists (10-12) will be involved, and they will also be leading the "Breaking of the Word" at Sunday dismissals. Fr. Mike will have more details at the next meeting.

9. Closing Prayer

All members participated in The Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled on November 3rd.

Pat and/or Lisa Attardo will lead the opening prayer.