

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – January 26, 2011**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Diana Diaz, Doug D’Agrosa, Paul Ibbetson, Anne Marshall, Chris Smith, Agne Bolsakov, Flora Fallone, Bill Ipsen, Jody Cadieux

NOT PRESENT: Louise Briseno, Theresa Goeltz, Brian Leahey

CALL TO ORDER: By Ron Briseno at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Jody Cadieux

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 20, 2010 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

Fr. Mike: **REVIEW OF JOINT COUNCILS’ MEETING**

A meeting of the joint councils (Pastoral, Finance and Development) took place on December 3, 2010. Feedback from the meeting was positive and overall well received. Many who attended liked the openness of the information presented. Some council members were unaware of what was occurring in the parish from a financial perspective. All members of all councils will be encouraged to read the minutes from the other councils to stay informed, and attendance at their respective council meetings is imperative.

It was noted that in the minutes it should read that \$3 million not \$5 million was raised in Phase I and Phase II of the “Standing on Holy Ground” Capital Campaign that brought us into our present multipurpose building.

NEW BUSINESS – NO NEW BUSINESS TO REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flora: **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

Currently, about \$43,595 has been paid against total pledges of about \$44,036. The diocese has raised the total ACA to \$3.5 million. \$1 million will go to help with Imperial Valley development of parishes, \$500,000 to Catholic Charities and \$2 million to religious education formation, marriage & family life, and seminarian formation. Bishop Brom wants to raise \$10 million over the next 5 years for parish development in the Imperial Valley. Our assessment for 2010 was \$43,000. The assessment for St. Thomas More will be \$48,000 for 2011. Letters will be going out to parishioners the week of February 27.

Bill: **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

An update was presented at all Masses the weekend of January 22-23. More people stopped after all Masses with questions/issues than after past updates. The feedback was very positive. People seemed to like the “live” update and indicated things were well put and clear. Several people indicated that no one in the parish should be surprised about anything, we have explained every detail. Others asked about donating towards specific items in the new Church.

Chris:
(for Louise) **MEMBERSHIP**
A New Membership Luncheon was held on January 23rd. 65 people attended including new families, parish leadership and Welcome Ministers. Past luncheons had color coded nametags with different colors to help differentiate new parishioners from existing parishioners. The point of the different colors was to make sure that the leadership and staff present mixed with the new parishioners, as the point of the luncheons is to meet and mix with our new parishioners. Everyone is encouraged to work on mingling more. Louise Briseno is transitioning out as Chair of this committee. Valerie Thompson will be taking over as chair in June after her term is up as Women's Guild President. We are very thankful to Louise for the terrific job she has done with the committee and the receptions during the last three years. The next New Member Reception is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2011 (date scheduled after DC meeting).

Fr. Mike: **NEW CONSTRUCTION**
A meeting with the New Construction Committee took place a couple of weeks ago. The committee is ready to move forward as things move forward. Brian Leahey is finalizing the contracts with Renzo Zecchetto, the architect and with Robert Habiger, the Liturgical Consultant. Groundbreaking is anticipated for the end of 2011.

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**
St. Francis will be hosting a seminar in May and we will be participating with them. Chris will be attending a seminar on February 15 at Fr. Joe's Villages. We were just informed that another parishioner has remembered STM in their estate planning, so our Towers of Faith number increased again!

Anne: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**
The next STM Tower newsletter is in production and scheduled to be mailed in February. It has been reduced to 4 pages to save on costs. It will include articles on the 25th Anniversary Celebration, STM's Youth Advocate Marc Raymundo, as well as a list of Baptisms, Weddings, and Deaths. There will also be an envelope attached for donations to help offset the cost of the newsletter. Anne is looking for more material to get published such as our Parish Mission in April and the Spring Sing concert. We have been in the Southern Cross recently with articles about the Children of Abraham Prayer Service, the 25th Anniversary Celebration, the Women's Retreat, and the Choir. Anne has built a rapport with a contact at Southern Cross. If she continues to send them articles, we hope more will get published. The suggestion was made that Anne regularly check the parish bulletin for upcoming events to be published in the Southern Cross and North County Times.

Ron:
(for Theresa Goeltz) **SCRIP – NOTHING TO REPORT**

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**
There were good results from the November Stewardship Month. We have more Hospitality Ministers. More greeters are needed from Pastoral Council.

Agne: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

We've netted \$21,000 to date since the program began in 2006. Our latest donation of a 1998 Mercedes is in process. It was received in December and we should have a check by March. Pulpit updates were given at all Masses in January to keep up awareness of this donation opportunity.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

Restaurants for FUNdraising: California Pizza Kitchen February 1-2, Elephant Bar in April. Other suggestions were for Red Lobster and El Torito.

Electronic Waste Recycling event? The Parish can earn money for each pound of e-waste collected.

A Religious Gift Store discussion could take place after the church is built.

The Council needs to send a thank you letter to Jerry and Judy Buoniconti for their help and success with the Flea Market held in November. Are they willing to do it again or help anyone else who may be interested in taking the lead?

COUNCIL REPORTS

Doug: **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

See minutes from November 3, 2010 meeting.

Paul: **FINANCE COUNCIL**

For the first 6 months of the fiscal year the parish is approximately \$25K short, which is close to our budgeted forecast. All is good for now. Christmas collections were about \$1,000 over projections and the "Did You Know?" campaign has brought in \$41K for the year so far which is above where we expected to be at this time.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

Fr. Mike asked Agne Bolsakov to explain what she has been doing for the parish. She has acquired a Food Safety Manager certificate from the county. Anyone who prepares food in the kitchen needs to have a Food Handler's Certificate. Currently 4 or 5 Knights have this certificate. Members of the Bereavement team also need to get certified, as well as anyone who does food preparation in the kitchen. The certificate is valid for 3 years and needs to be displayed.

CLOSING PRAYER: Our Father.

NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2011 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer- Vlad Bolsakov