

## **ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

### **MEETING MINUTES – May 1, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Mike Nichols, Andrea Sweeney, Diana Diaz, Brian Leahey, Flora Fallone, Jane Gladden, Jody Cadieux, Doug D'Agrosa, Paul Ibbetson

**NOT PRESENT:** Valerie Thompson

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

**OPENING PRAYER:** Flora Fallone

#### **ROLE CALL**

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2013 MEETING MINUTES:** Approved in February, 2013 as posted on the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Second Annual St. Thomas More Gala - Chris

To date there are only 2 1/2 out of 35 dinner tables available for the Gala! New to the Gala signup table this year is the Item Donation Tree. This is similar to the Christmas Angel tree, with specific items listed on tags, giving people an easy way to participate. The tree, complete with a wide variety of tags, is outside on the plaza during weekends and also on the lower level during the week. There has been a great response to this with many items purchased using scrip.

The fundraising goal at the Gala this year is \$60,000. Last year Sponsorships totaled \$20,000; so far \$14,000 has been pledged in Sponsorships, \$6,000 short of last year. The team is working on getting new donors as several of our previous sponsors have moved or died. Sponsors receive a sign that is displayed along the walkway in the two months leading up to the Gala, which provides exposure for businesses. Sponsors also receive recognition in the program.

So far there are trips to Palm Desert, Cabo, and Hawaii (all time shares) which should bring good return at the Gala. One yacht outing for 10 has also been donated, as well as many new and different items. All donations for auction items and opportunity baskets are due by May 24.

New this year is a "Mystery Day with Fr. Mike" for 15 people. This will be a live auction item and replaces the Dinner for 12 at the Ratajczak compound.

Also new is the "Wheel of Fortune" with a spin cost of \$10 per ticket and two Fr. Mike dinners for 10 at the rectory; one to be held during the Easter Season and one during the Christmas Season. The Easter Season dinner will be a \$10/ticket raffle item (next to the Wheel of Fortune) and the Christmas Season dinner will be a live auction item. Tickets for the Wheel of Fortune/Easter Season dinner for 10 with Fr. Mike tickets are being designed. Ticket prices are \$10/each or 6 for \$50 and can be used for either or both of the items. Debbie Ipsen and her team are in charge of selling these tickets and explaining the choices.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2013 is \$48,000. To date \$42,723 has been pledged from 328 families. Second letters for the ACA went out the week of April 22. This year the parish will receive 100% of the overage collected.

### **Jody (for Valerie): MEMBERSHIP**

The next New Member Reception will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2013.  
UPDATE: Valerie has been able to rearrange her schedule and will be able to attend.

### **Brian: NEW CONSTRUCTION**

The following was discussed during the meeting. The text is taken from the update in the Pastor's Column dated May 5th 2013:

In the last several months our Grading Plan has been going through the Plan Check Process with the City of Oceanside. During the review we needed to respond to Plan Check comments by Grading and the City of Oceanside Fire Department. Some of the comments were minor, and others would have involved substantial costs to the Parish. For example, the widening of an existing fire lane on the north side of the multi-purpose building was being suggested. Through several meetings with the City, a more cost-effective solution was proposed and finally approved. The Grading Plan is now approved and a permit is ready to be issued.

Our Architect, Renzo Zecchetto, has now completed the final designs of both buildings. We delivered the building plans to the City of Oceanside for Plan Check approval this past week. The final design coordination took longer than

expected due to some acoustical issues that affected structural design and final architectural coordination. During this time, we continued to negotiate and seek better pricing from additional sub-contractors. This, in turn, has benefitted the Parish and has saved us money.

In the past week we completed some tree relocation and utility capping in the construction area. Last week, the Diocese of San Diego and Bishop Brom gave the final approval of our construction budget, and we are in the final stages of mobilizing the Grading Contractor and moving forward with grading for the Church and the Parish Offices.

Our construction web cams are now operational. Just go to the Parish website, [www.stmoside.org](http://www.stmoside.org), and click on the camera icons to see the construction sites for the Church and the Parish Offices. The dirt will be moving full force, soon and very soon!

Jane:

### **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Five Year of Faith events were published in February, March and April in the Southern Cross. The Year of Faith closing event in November will also be publicized.

Four publishing resources were used to promote the April 14 Spring Sing. Fr. Rich Lewandowski's "Call to Holiness" was published in three different resources.

The Southern Cross submission of the Youth Justice Foundation promotion presented a need for more than just a press release. The editor, Denis Grasska, said he would consider a full-length article and that offer was accepted. Cherie Abrahms and Susan Lagasse provided invaluable assistance in the development of that article. After inadvertently publishing the original press release in the April edition of The Southern Cross, Denis apologized and suggested a June submission of the full-length article along with a photo. Also, an edited version of the short piece was published in the Union-Tribune.

A Press release for the Gala was submitted for publication in the May Southern Cross; other resources will also be utilized.

An article on the build out is needed for the next Tower newsletter. A photo of the machinery on site would be helpful to add as part of the article.

Mike/Andrea: **SCRIP**

The February/March raffle was a success. February Scrip Sales were approximately \$18,000 and March Sales were \$16,000, which was great considering there were 10 days scrip was not sold. Raffle Winners for February -

Wendy Murphy, Martha Bergman, Donna Smith, Brian Leahey, Rick Reaves.  
March Raffle Winners - Barbara Ruiterman, Maureen Ibbetson, Judy Mitchell and Paul Mendiola.

They are continuing to see more new names buying Scrip. Mike spoke with the Murphy's about having volunteers sell Scrip at the 2013 Treasures Flea Market.

New Ideas - have scrip available for REACH weekends for nearby restaurants such as Subway or El Pollo Loco. There is also the possibility of having scrip available for the teens as well (Subway, Starbucks, etc.)

Mike and Andrea are looking more into the Shop with Scrip program which allows online ordering by individuals and the ability to set up debit cards online to buy scrip, reload cards, or obtain instant scrip (ScripNow) much like St. Francis School PTG is able to. This could mean even more scrip sales for the parish.

Diana

#### **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

Since the February meeting we have received a final check from Cars for Causes in the amount of \$3,434 for 3 vehicles that were donated in the Fall of 2012. Another vehicle was donated in March and we are waiting for it to be sold at auction. 2013 year to date sales for 6 donated vehicles is \$7,762.79. Overall total sales for the program are \$35,294.18. Brian Leahey will continue handling future vehicle donations.

Chris:

#### **PLANNED GIVING**

The Towers of Faith members are those who remember STM in their estate planning. The Towers of Faith reception was held a couple of weeks ago and 20 people were there. It was a nice intimate gathering. We currently have 51 active Towers of Faith. The reception may be held every other year moving forward for budget reasons.

Chris:

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

A committee will be formed in the summer to update the information on our website with regard to volunteer opportunities. The goal is to have a uniform informational format for all of the ministries such as: description, time period of commitment, number of people needed, number of hours per week required and contact information. Chris is getting in touch with the committee chairs to help gather this information. The chairpersons will be responsible for informing Chris of updates. Chris will review to update Stewardship brochures and booklet, and also pass it on to Lorraine to update the website, as necessary. Lorraine will also provide a "quick click" on the homepage for Volunteer Opportunities. This is a work in progress, to be continued.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**

As our parish continues to grow, Chris continues the search for new Welcome Ministers, which requires 1/2 hour to 40 minutes per month. If anyone can help please contact Chris.

## **NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING**

Host a Murder Mystery Dinner? It could be put together by volunteers willing to do so or there are companies that also coordinate this type of event. Could possibly be a Gala auction item?

A Golf event may be returning...stay tuned.

Is there a possibility to have one more fundraiser during the year? When would we be able to do it? Would it possibly take away from participation at the Gala?

Restaurant FUNdraisers - BJ's May 7-8...15% is coming back to the Parish. Nucci's has agreed to be the 2nd restaurant FUNdraiser every month starting in May forward. This will be during the 3rd week every month. There was also discussion about what places would be good to have FUNdraisers. Size, capacity (50 seats or less is not ideal unless it is a fast food place such as Rubio's) and location are all key. Any ideas? Send contact information to Ron Briseno.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Doug: **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

[See minutes from April 24, 2012 meeting.](#)

Paul: **FINANCE COUNCIL**

The Fiscal Year is going very well. We are \$55,000 over budget in offertory collections. The Did You Know is helping a lot. We may be able to recover our \$28,000 deficit from several years ago.

The Diocese changed their accounting system and required the budget be submitted by April 30. We met the deadline with a balanced budget.

Moving forward 10% of the mortgage offering is going into parish reserves.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

The Pastor's Column the weekend of May 4-5 will have a Construction Update (see Committee Reports above). There are 48 confirmation candidates this year, our largest group yet. Confirmation is May 19 with Bishop Brom. Chairs and a tent will be rented for the 10:30 mass to accommodate overflow.

Welcome back to the Reznicek family who moved back into the area. Also  
Welcome back to the Wilson family!

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Our Father

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, August 7 at 7:00 p.m.