

ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – August 7, 2013

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Chris Smith, Brian Leahey, Flora Fallone, Jane Gladden, Jody Cadieux, Doug D'Agrosa, Paul Ibbetson

NOT PRESENT: Ron Briseno, Mike Nichols, Andrea Sweeney, Diana Diaz, Valerie Thompson

CALL TO ORDER: By Chris Smith at 7:05 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Jane Gladden

ROLE CALL

APPROVAL OF MAY 1, 2013 MEETING MINUTES: Approved in May, 2013 as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS: Pastor's Excursion (Chris) – 50 people signed up as of August 7th. Letters are being sent week of August 12 to those who have attended previously. Anyone who would like to attend has until September 15 to sign up. The sign up board is out at all Masses. The goal is 75 or more to attend.

Second Annual St. Thomas More Gala (Chris) – The Gala was a big success. \$50,000 in proceeds was given to the parish at the end of June. Once the Pastor's Excursion is finished there is hope that more money will be given to the parish as well. Some adjustments to the evening will be made for next year. Fr. Mike's Mystery Day is set for November 9. If there are any new ideas or suggestions for next year's Gala, please let Chris Smith know.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bingo Night Fundraiser (Fr. Mike) - A couple from the Parish approached Fr. Mike about holding a Bingo night as a fundraiser for the Parish and was looking for input from the Council. After much discussion about if it was a viable idea for a fundraiser, it was decided that Fr. Mike would ask the couple who made the suggestion to prepare a plan outlining the evening, keeping in mind that the opportunity is there to make it a very nice event. Fr. Mike will bring their plan back to the Council at the next meeting in November.

Water Bottle to Collect Change (Fr. Mike) – A suggestion was made to Fr. Mike to have a large water bottle on the plaza available for kids to bring in their change and help fill the bottle. The proceeds would go toward the building fund. There was discussion about how this could potentially take away from other fundraisers such as Pennies from Heaven, as well as the potential cost to deposit the change into the bank and the amount of time to sort and roll coins. It was decided by the Council that this idea will not move forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flora: ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2013 is \$48,000. To date \$48,208 has been pledged from 375 families...the goal has been reached! 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. Diane Alesi is leaving and Valerie will need to find a new member to replace her. Any suggestions are welcome.

Brian: NEW CONSTRUCTION

Currently everything is pretty much in line with the budget. The original concrete contractor has backed out of the project and there are 2 proposals being considered. There will not be a significant impact to the budget. In order to build out everything including the millwork in the day chapel the approximate cost is \$11,750 million. We will continue with our Mortgage Offering and Building Completion Campaign which will help us to have the necessary funds for the completion of both buildings.

Many folks have been asking when the new church will be completed. There is much excitement around the progress made so far. The target date is approximately 16 months from the time the building permit is issued, which would put completion in late 2014 or early 2015 timeframe, or as Fr. Mike stated, "In God's time". Everything is going well with the city.

What is happening next? All of the underground infrastructure (plumbing, electrical, etc.) is the next part of the construction. Brian is also in final negotiations with the General Contractor. He is also shopping the drawings for the reinforced steel.

Jane:

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Carolyn Orscheln is our “ambassador” at Immaculate Heart Radio. The station offers free public service announcements. They will make the announcement 2 times per day, with a 3 week lead time and the event publicized must cost \$10 or less to attend. That Man Is You (TMIY) will be announced twice per day the week of August 25.

That Man Is You (TMIY) is being publicized in 5 publications along with the men’s retreat.

The Southern Cross is willing to show our progress with the buildout. Information to be provided to them as the project continues. We will also be submitting high resolution photos of the progress with captions.

Other events that will be publicized are the Choir event in November to close out the Year of Faith.

Vacation Bible school was publicized in 6 different publications along with the Untold Blessings event on July 28.

The Tower newsletter was mailed out in July. The next publication is scheduled for Spring of 2014.

Fr. Mike also asked Jane to prepare a brochure for the new sanctuary which would contain descriptions and meanings of significant interior elements of the church.

Jody (for Mike/Andrea):**SCRIP**

1st Quarter Sales were \$45,319 and 2nd Quarter Sales were \$45,322. It was asked what the net proceeds were for both of these quarters.

Mike and Andrea will be introducing the Shop with Scrip program which is available through our scrip company, Great Lakes Scrip Company. It will enable our scrip users to order and reload selected gift cards directly from Great Lakes Scrip using their computer. Ordered cards can be mailed directly to them, printed immediately as e-certificates for use, and some selected scrip can be used through a smartphone.

Our scrip users will register with Great Lakes Scrip, using our fundraising number, and St. Thomas More will receive the donated percentages. This product provides a convenient way for our users to manage their orders at their convenience while also donating to our building program.

Jody (for Diana): **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

2013 year to date sales is \$10,262.79. Overall total sales for the program are \$37,794.18. We do not have any outstanding donations at this time. Having Brian Leahey on board has made a big difference in negotiating sale prices and STM is receiving 100% of the proceeds.

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**

Towers of Faith members are those who remember STM in their estate planning. During fiscal year 2013, four Towers of Faith estates were settled, with \$10,000 going towards the Operations Budget and \$176,148.06 going towards the Building Fund. To date for fiscal year 2014 two estates have been settled, with \$54,000 going towards the Operations Budget and \$266,214 going toward the Building Fund. There is currently a retirement annuity in process, the proceeds of which will go towards Daily Chapel chairs.

The second casting of the Crucifix replica has 6 reservations so far. The deadline is September 30. The cost is \$750 and there are many payment options available.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

Chris distributed a smaller version of the Stewardship Brochure. It was asked that it be reviewed and provide any changes to Chris. The new home page for our website is currently in the planning stages. Research is being done to see what the best way to have a link to different stewardship opportunities is. 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. This is a work in progress, to be continued.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**

Two new Welcome Ministers will be training next week. This ministry continues to do very well. The Welcome Ministry has registered 525 families since its inception in February of 2007. The families that register are great at contributing their time and talent to the parish.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

See New Business

COUNCIL REPORTS

Doug: PASTORAL COUNCIL

See minutes from July 31, 2013 meeting.

Paul: FINANCE COUNCIL

The Fiscal Year finished up well; we were able to recover a \$28,000 loss from a few years ago and ended up +\$9,000 to start fiscal year 2014. We are currently only a month behind getting everything needed to the Diocese.

A reminder that 10% of all the mortgage offering donations is going into parish reserves.

Bill Ipsen will present a financial update at all Masses the weekend of September 14/15. Bill has moved on to become part of the Finance Council as the Financial Resources Liaison.

PASTOR'S REPORT

One of our Parishioners, Natasha Castellon gave a witness talk at Steubenville this year. There were 5,000 people in attendance.

CLOSING PRAYER: Glory Be

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m.