

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

### **MEETING MINUTES – November 6, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Andrea Sweeney, Jane Gladden, Jody Cadieux, Doug D'Agrosa, Paul Ibbetson

**NOT PRESENT:** Brian Leahey, Mike Nichols, Diana Diaz, Flora Fallone, Valerie Thompson

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

**OPENING PRAYER:** Jody Cadieux

#### **ROLE CALL**

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 7, 2013 MEETING MINUTES:** Approved in August, 2013 as posted on the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Financial Status after Bill Ipsen update September 2013- Since mid-September the Mortgage Offering has increased from \$35K per month with 450 families contributing (44% of parish families) to \$65K per month with 563 families contributing (53% of parish families). To date \$650K has come in, \$550K on deposit with the Diocese, 10% in reserves. The total on deposit with the Diocese is \$3.5 million. Thank you letters recently went out to those who have committed to the second pledge request.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Flora: **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2013 is \$48,000. The total pledges as of August 31 is \$48,613 per the Diocese, STM records as of October 10 show \$50,803, which includes pledges received after August 31. The total payments as of August 31 is \$45,305 per the Diocese. Additional known payments after August 31 is \$2,500 for a total of \$47,535. We can be pretty certain that at least \$500 more in payments will be received before December 31, so we will meet our assessment and perhaps have the surplus returned to us. This year the parish will receive 100% of the overage collected.

Chris (for Valerie): **MEMBERSHIP**

The New Member Luncheon was held on Sunday, October 27, 2013. It was very successful. There were over 100 people that attended; many of them were young families. Marcus Cabrera treated the children in the front lobby with movies during the talks. As a result of this, the Moms & Tots ministry is being re-established. A new parish member is chairing, and Jen Frost will be helping as well. The next New Member Luncheon will be June 22, 2014.

Fr. Mike (for Brian): **NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Currently everything is moving along. There is a lot of deliveries of rebar and wood. The main construction web camera is out right now and is in the process of being repaired. The contractor should be pouring concrete in the next couple of weeks.

Jane: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Press releases were sent to five or six resources each on the Annual Men's Retreat, Treasures 2013, and our final Year of Faith music program. A press release for Untold Blessings and Just Faith Small Group Program went to the Deanery only.

Updates: The Southern Cross has been giving us good coverage; Year of Faith, a photo of our construction site in the September edition and a photo of the new Corpus in October. The editor was thanked profusely. Interfaith Community Connector planned on running our Youth Justice Foundation story and photos in October, but it has been pushed to November due to space.

The draft of the page or pages on the Crucifix are underway for the Church brochure.

Upcoming: Vicky Molina is once again holding a Christmas party for under privileged children on December 14. The Union Tribune will report on this in their Community News section. Interfaith has assigned a reporter for the December issue, and a press release is being submitted to the Southern Cross. Are there more human interest stories we could report on and possibly get published? Jane is looking at new news resources, the Christian Examiner and Catholic Digest.

There was a discussion about Channel 10 soliciting our business for their website, which would have a link to a full page with church detail. Ron has worked with Datasphere who partners with Channel 10. Jane will be sending the contact information to Ron. There was also discussion about ending the Yellow Pages ad as well.

Andrea: **SCRIP**

Sales are up from last year. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Sales in 2012 were \$45,400, they were \$54,234 in 2013. Ten percent more people are purchasing scrip, which equates to about 100 households. The parish earns about \$500 - \$550 per month from scrip; which equals \$7,500 - \$8,000 to the Parish per year. The average rebate from the scrip purchased is 3%. The Scrip committee is waiting to give a check to the Parish until after the holiday rush.

After January 1, Mike and Andrea will be doing a “hard sell” to introduce 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. Jody Cadieux has offered to help explain this program to those interested at the Scrip table after masses.

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

2013 year to date sales is \$12,405.79, which includes a recent 2005 Nissan that was donated and sold for \$2,143. Overall total for the Vehicle Donation program is \$39,937.18. 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. There has been an increase in inquiries about the Towers of Faith from the information posted in the bulletin.

Some parishioners are already planning to donate larger gifts at the end of the year for tax purposes; this continues to be a pattern.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

Jen Frost is on board to help revamp the website. The website will have a new look. We are currently working on condensing the ministerial descriptions. There will be features such as clicking to fill an immediate need, clicking to get information about a specific ministry, and clicks to see what is currently available. The colors will also be incorporated into other publications such as The Tower newsletter, and the upcoming 2014 Stewardship booklet.

Stewardship Awareness and Renewal will be the last three weeks in January, 2014. The theme is Fulfilling God's Purpose. There will be a lay witness talk one weekend at all Masses and Bill Ipsen will also update the parish on our financials with a pulpit announcement at all Masses during the last weekend.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**

New Welcome Ministers are always welcome. All are very busy. The Welcome Ministry was happy to show Fr. Karl Bauer how it works to introduce the life of the parish, as he registered with the parish as well!

## **NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING**

Bingo Night Update – Fr. Mike met with Judy and Jerry Buonoconti about a Bingo Night Fundraiser. It was decided that a Friday night date in 2014 would be selected. The event will be a nice event and geared for parishioners to attend, not the general public. More information to follow.

There was discussion about having a scrip workshop to gather folks to explain how easy it is to use scrip. Andrea and Mike could use a PowerPoint presentation or create a YouTube video to explain the process. It was also suggested that Andrea and/or Mike request 10-15 minutes of time during some of the group meetings (Knights of Columbus, Women's Guild, Spirited Seniors, etc.) to also help explain the program.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Doug: **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

See [minutes](#) from October 30, 2013 meeting.

Paul: **FINANCE COUNCIL**

The Annual Financial report has been released. The fiscal year to date is normal, we are behind on budget, but it is typical for this time of year. The water and electric bills are higher, the council is trying to determine why. There is a cushion currently, but we need to pay attention to expenses. Offertory for weekend of November 3-4 was \$20,700.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

Infrastructure is being added to our Bell Tower to allow for the potential of a cellular tower to be installed. This could bring in some additional funds to the Parish. The installation of the tower would need to have approval from the Bishop.

Fr. Mike wanted to also remind us that for Christmas Eve Masses there will not be room to have the tent outside this year due to the construction. Overflow for 4:00 p.m. Mass will be directed to the lower level for a 4:15 p.m. Mass. There will also be no overflow parking as the dirt is fenced off as well. Please arrive with your family and carpool to have as many parking spaces available as possible. Douglas will be making pulpit announcements for two weeks prior to Christmas regarding our new reality as pertains to parking and seating. This information will also be included in the Advent mailers. The 4:15p.m. lower level Mass will be decorated by the youth and the Tower Bells will provide the music for this liturgy, led by Fr. Karl.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Glory Be

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

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.