

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

### **MEETING MINUTES – August 13, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Chris Smith, Andrea Sweeney, Paul Ibbetson, Doug D'Agrosa, Flora Fallone, Diana Diaz, Valerie Thompson, Jane Gladden

**NOT PRESENT:** Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Brian Leahey, Mike Nichols, Jody Cadieux

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Chris Smith at 7:00 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Jane Gladden

#### **ROLE CALL**

**APPROVAL OF FEBURARY 19, 2014, MEETING MINUTES:** Approved in February 2014 as posted on the website.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

2014 Gala Wrap Up (Chris) – The June 13<sup>th</sup> Gala was a success and brought in \$56,000 to STM. A survey will go out in September to see what people liked about the gala and would like to see in a future gala. This will give the committee fresh ideas to move forward.

Building Update (Chris) – Bill Ipsen will be giving the annual financial update for all Masses instead of a homily on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. He will be bringing the Parish up to speed on several changes that have taken place since our last financial update. He will also address our upcoming monthly mortgage payment to the Knights of Columbus. The Diocese is backing the loan, however all new loans are coming from the Knights at a fixed rate for 20 years. Copies of the talk will be inserted in the bulletin and there will be no homily that weekend. Love letters from Fr. Mike will be mailed immediately after this update, regarding everyone coming on board with an initial three year commitment to help with the Mortgage Payments. Our building collection efforts have been very good over the years, so we should be able to make the new monthly payments with all on board to help. This is especially so since people can see the progress to date and realize how close we are to this new reality!

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Presentation on new scrip website 'shopwithscrip.com' – Andrea Sweeney and Lorraine Doering introduced a new easy scrip website for ordering scrip online which also has an online payment service 'prestopay.' They

can immediately print their purchased scrip certificates or pick up the scrip at STM. There are options to reload selected gift cards and pre-order gift cards for birthdays, an anniversary, etc. by entering in a date. There will be a 'soft rollout' of this new online ordering and pulpits will take place on September 20-21 with flyers and cards to help people sign up to make purchasing Scrip easier than ever!

STM Flea Market – Our annual STM Flea Market will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2014. Save your items or contact John Murphy to pick them up and store them in our storage container on site.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2014 was \$48,000. The total pledges received were \$57,178. So we will receive the entire \$9,178, provided everyone pays their pledges in full.

There were 383 families (36% of registered households) who made a pledge or gave a single gift.

### **Valerie: MEMBERSHIP**

The next New Member Luncheon will be August 17, 2014. Valerie has added four more to the committee to help in the kitchen. She also made 40 follow-up rsvp phone calls to those she had not heard back from. It is anticipated that we will have at least 100 in attendance. We are ready!

### **Chris for Brian: NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Brian is working very hard on every detail and everything is moving along well. Brian has worked tirelessly on saving money on every facet of our buildout and with the increase in costs, this has really helped us!

### **Jane: PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Press releases went out for May 3<sup>rd</sup> Game Day, May 10<sup>th</sup> Women's Prayer Breakfast, and the June 13<sup>th</sup> Gala.

Published the spring edition of The Tower newsletter.

The theme of the next newsletter is For God's Glory.

Jane will submit press releases to The Southern Cross for the Men's Fellowship Annual Retreat, Bible Timeline, Symbolen program,

Solutions for Change \$1M Grant, and STM's efforts with emergency needs for the refugees of Central America. Current photos of the church build-out will also be submitted.

Andrea: **SCRIP**

Andrea did a soft-sell presentation of the new scrip website. About 10% of Parish families currently purchase scrip, and she thinks with shopwithscrip.com that at least another 10% of the parishioners will start buying scrip online using their computers when they see how easy and convenient it is. Over the next few months, Andrea and Mike are going to attend the Women's Guild and a few other committees to soft-sell this new online scrip feature and get parishioners familiar with using it.

Diana: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

2014 has already seen 10 vehicles (6 cars, a van, a truck, a trailer, and a boat) donated to this program! Overall total for the Vehicle Donation program is \$52,402.18. Having Brian Leahey on board has made a big difference in negotiating sale prices and STM is receiving 100% of the proceeds. Wow!

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**

Towers of Faith members are those who remember STM in their estate planning. Chris was a co-presenter on Planned Giving at the Regional International Catholic Stewardship Conference in Orange County in May 2014. The presentation went very well and our materials were much appreciated by parishes in attendance.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

Jen Frost is on board creating new flyers each month of our STM ministries. The theme for our Stewardship Renewal/Awareness in November is Fulfilling God's Purpose. We will have a thank you reception this year.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**

As we have a constant flow of new families registering with STM, the Welcome Ministry is always looking for young families to help out. New Welcome Ministers are always welcome.

## **NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING**

Doug: STM APP to be considered at \$350/month.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Doug:           **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Last meeting was January 22, 2014. Next meeting is scheduled for August 27.

Confirmation went well on June 7, 2014.

STM had 90 teens attend the Steubenville retreat at the University of San Diego on July 25-27, 2014. This was a high energy, faith filled retreat and our youth came back with batteries charged!

Paul:           **FINANCE COUNCIL**

Finance had their meeting last week and STM finished up the year even. The income pattern is the same this year as has been our pattern over the last several years.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** ~ Chris gave an update of our build out and financial status, sale of the Rectory and 5 acres adjacent to the land across from the parish center, offices and church.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Glory Be to the Father ~ all

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:50 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** November 12, 2014