

ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – February 25, 2015

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Mike Nichols, Jody Cadieux, Valerie Thompson, Flora Fallone, Diana Diaz, Andrea Sweeney

NOT PRESENT: Brian Leahey, Doug D'Agrosa, Paul Ibbetson, Jane Gladden

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

OPENING PRAYER: Flora Fallone

ROLE CALL

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014 MEETING MINUTES: Approved in December, 2014 as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: 2015 Gala – Reach for the Stars, Friday, May 1st

This year there are 3 diamond necklaces that have been donated, from Aegis, Eternal Hills and a winner of the first diamond necklace. Dinner cost per person is \$45 until April 1st when it will be \$50 per person. This year there will be 3 items for the Live Auction and many big ticket items will be on the Wheel of Fortune. There are 10 of the 35 tables already reserved. The layout of the space has been changed...the bar is in a different location as is the Wheel of Fortune, coffee and dessert stations.

Fr. Mike's Pastor's dinner will be at the Green Dragon Tavern and Museum, Sunday, July 19, in Carlsbad, cost is \$150 per person with \$75 tax deductible. The Ratajczak family will also once again host a Beer and Pizza party that Gala attendees can sign up for. This event brought in about \$3,700 last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flora:

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2015 is \$48,000, the same as 2014. Fr. Mike's "Love Letters" have already been mailed out. In the first week 45 families have pledged a total of \$8,725. This year 100% over the assessment will come back to the parish. Last year about \$9,000 came back to the parish and the funds went towards the operations budget. The average participation rate for

parishes in the Diocese is about 15%, St. Thomas More's participation rate is in the 33-36% range.

Valerie: **MEMBERSHIP**

The committee met February 20. The New Member Luncheon is Sunday, March 1st. The committee has 5 new members which makes it much easier to get things done. There is frustration in households not responding to the invitation. Many phone calls have to be made.

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

Construction is moving along more rapidly than before, there is a new site manager for T.B. Pennick, Frank Bruni. The altar will be set in place on March 6, but they don't have the plenum yet. In 1-2 weeks the building will be dried so there will be more going on inside. There have been one or two minor thefts but nothing major. Hoping to be in the new space by the end of summer, but no specific date.

Jody (for Jane): **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Press Releases:

Because of a hectic holiday schedule, not too much was publicized since the last meeting but there were a few submissions: "O Ye Works, Praise the Lord" choir performance – deanery only

Ecumenical Choir Performance – to several publications as well as Immaculate Heart Radio who aired our announcement two to four times a day during the week of December 28th. They're a very supportive resource.

A piece on STM's internal medical training program (CPR and AED training) was published in the February edition of The Southern Cross in the Local Church section. With the help of Dr. Phil, it included our initiative to have medical personal identified with gray seat covers and red crosses on designated chairs within our church. This is an innovative idea I know we're all very proud of here at STM.

Ongoing Initiative

The Church Brochure is slowly progressing. In a very raw draft, I've compiled the architect bio as well as bios for all the artists. Now I'm working on liturgical narratives for works of art and other church items with information noted in the Liturgical Report. Kathy Quinn has kindly offered to help her with the history of STM.

Andrea/Mike: **SCRIP**

A check for \$10,000 was presented to Fr. Mike this evening, which represents the final "payment" of the original pledge of \$100,000. How future scrip funds are allocated is to be determined.

Sales in 2014 were down compared to 2013. The scrip sales may have lost a week during Christmas because of how the holiday fell during the week, however \$50,000 in Scrip was sold in 2 ½ weeks in December. The Shop with Scrip

program netted \$230 in December. The average weekly scrip sales is about \$4,300.

Scrip is in need of volunteers, especially at 10:30 a.m. Mass. A pulpit announcement will be made during the 10:30 a.m. Mass to target those attendees. Kirkorian in Vista is now Cinopolis. They bought back the remaining tickets in scrip inventory and they are no longer being sold. Anyone with Kirkorian tickets can still use them through May 10. Andrea and Mike have sent an email to Cinopolis to ask them if they can work with us to provide gift cards as a scrip item.

Diana: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

In 2014, STM had 14 vehicle donations that brought in \$13,215 to the church. The STM Vehicle Donation Program which started in August 2006 has brought in a total of \$53,152.18. Thanks to Brian Leahey / BNB Auto Sales, STM has received almost half of that current total in just the last two years (2013 = \$12,405.79, 2014 = \$13,215.00). Joe Garcia has been helpful to Brian with a couple of the latest donations.

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**

Towers of Faith members are those who remember STM in their estate planning. Six Towers of Faith have come on board in 2014. The Towers of Faith reception is being rescheduled during Summer.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

The Stewardship Appreciation reception was held in November. It is an opportunity for everyone who participates in the many ministries to socialize. Everyone enjoyed the reception. Jen Frost is continuing to help with the monthly highlights of ministries in the bulletin insert, and updating the pertinent documents when there are chairperson changes.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**

The parish has grown 10% in the last year. The Welcome Ministry is always looking for families to help out.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

“Family Night Out” in 2015 update: K-1 Event, have to start from scratch as there is a new General Manger, hoping to have this in 1st quarter; Vista Entertainment/Bowling 2nd quarter, Boomers in 3rd quarter and Get Air/Jump It in 4th quarter. These events will be set up very much like the restaurant fundraisers. Rubio’s has agreed to have a fundraiser at 4-6 locations this summer. More details to follow.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Jody (for Doug): **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Some highlights from the meeting on February 4, 2015: Parish Mission 3/2 to 3/4 with Father Franklin Fong, RCIA has 12 candidates scheduled for Easter Vigil, 47 candidates for confirmation 5/23 5pm mass, and Vacation bible school is back, week of 6/22, "Everest " is the theme.

Fr. Mike (for Paul):**FINANCE COUNCIL**

On the Finance side we are going through the year in our normal manner. Will be preparing new budget due 4/1/2015 for next fiscal year. Budget is due to the Diocese on June 1. We are always behind from a budget standpoint but will catch up from the Gala.

PASTOR'S REPORT

We are currently in the process of selling the 5 acres behind the Parish center. The process will take about 2 years. The Diocese is giving us a \$700,000 bridge loan and will be charging use interest but we won't pay any interest until the property is sold. We will be providing an easement prior to selling the property.

There will be a template in the bulletin showing where we are at as a Parish for the mortgage payment. There is a shortfall for the September 15 – February 28 timeframe of \$21,991.43. The next update will be through the end of March. Brian Leahey will continue to conduct tours of the sanctuary every Sunday before 10:30 a.m. mass. Must sign up beforehand.

CLOSING PRAYER: Glory Be

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:15 p.m.

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