

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

### **MEETING MINUTES – May 6, 2015**

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

**NOT PRESENT:** Ron Briseno, Brian Leahey, Mike Nichols, Valerie Thompson

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Flora Fallone (running the meeting for Ron Briseno) at 7:00 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Jane Gladden

#### **ROLE CALL**

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 25, 2015 MEETING MINUTES:** Approved in March, 2015 as posted on the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:** 2015 Gala Update – The event took in \$27,478 for the evening. The bar, raffle tickets, Wheel of Fortune tickets, Silent and Live Auction numbers were higher than last year. The committee should be able to give St. Thomas More a check for \$55,000 in June. Additional monies will be forthcoming in November which will put the total close to \$60,000.

There were 34 tables this year, and the bar took credit cards for the first time.

Unfortunately there were several complaints on the quality of the meal this year. The caterer was one that had been used in the past for other large events. The committee will go in a different direction next year.

The Tequila Tasting party scheduled for June 28 is sold out, \$100 per person (\$40 is tax deductible). The Pizza and Beer Party scheduled for November 1 is sold out, \$50 per person (\$25 is tax deductible). Payment is due October 1.

Pastor's Dinner signups are ongoing. Currently 58 people are signed up, we can go up to 75-85 people. \$150 per person (\$75 is tax deductible). All payments are due on June 19.

Christmas Cookie Exchange signups currently have 64 participating and can accommodate up to 100. Cost is \$20 to sign up and bring 4 dozen cookies to take home. Coffee and hot chocolate will be provided. This event is scheduled for Saturday, December 19 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. at the parish.

Payments for all events can be taken at the Information table, in the offertory or in the Parish office, with checks made payable to St. Thomas More Gala. Online payments are available for the Pastor's Dinner and other events starting May 11.

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Flora: **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2015 is \$48,000, the same as 2014. To date the ACA has about \$38,000 in pledges. Another mailing is going out as soon as possible after the server issues have been resolved. This year 100% over the assessment will come back to the parish.

Jody (for Valerie): **MEMBERSHIP**

The next New Member Luncheon is scheduled for September. The date may have to be moved based on the Dedication Mass for the church. We are hoping for the Dedication to occur sometime this fall.

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

Construction is moving along nicely. For those that are taking the Sunday "Closer Look" tours please wear close toed shoes. Folks will not be allowed to go on the tour if they are wearing open toes. No exceptions.

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

### **Press Releases:**

The Gala was heavily publicized in six different resources.

The Spring Choral Concert information was published in only two resources due to short notice.

A tribute to Fr. Mike on his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was submitted to The Southern Cross but has not yet been published. It could be a problem since they normally only publish 25 and 50-year anniversaries, but the editor is trying.

The article for The Tower (spring/summer edition) will be entitled "By God's Grace." It will include information about our targeted permanent church completion date as well as the Dedication timing, progress since the last newsletter, and comments on our ongoing Closer Look tours. Also included will be 2014 sacraments received and a tribute to Fr. Mike.

Working with Debbie Fredette on Adult Faith Formation publicity.

The Church Brochure is slowly progressing. A new parishioner, Paula Bonilla, has been in touch offering publicity assistance. Paula is a journalist and her help will be much appreciated with the church brochure and future newsletters.

Andrea:

**SCRIP**

The Scrip numbers are down 35% compared to 2014, and 20% down in April compared to 2014. Mike and Andrea are not sure what is causing this.

Scrip Program is due for a pulpit announcement in May. There was also discussion about a bulletin insert with Scrip numbers. Scrip purchases may pick up more once we move into the Church. The Scrip table will be moving its location on the plaza to the corner where the Gala table has been located.

Scrip is still in need of volunteers, especially at 10:30 a.m. Mass. The Scrip Committee did receive all of the money back for unpurchased Kirkorian tickets.

A donation of Scrip items was made to the Gala this year.

Andrea will be giving a 10 minute power point presentation to the Women's Guild on May 11 at their meeting. They will also be contacting some of the other church organizations (Knights of Columbus) to also give presentations to them as well.

If 800 people bought \$100 per month in scrip it would provide \$40,000 per year to the church!

Diana:

**VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

A 1997 Toyota 4Runner was donated today, which makes the fourth vehicle donation in 2015. The STM Vehicle Donation Program which started in August 2006 has brought in a total of \$54,352.18 to date and Brian Leahey / BNB Auto Sales has brought in 49% of that total to St. Thomas More in just the last two years (2013 = \$12,405.79, 2014 = \$13,215.00 and \$1,000 to date in 2015).

Chris:

**PLANNED GIVING**

Towers of Faith members are those who remember STM in their estate planning. There is one new Tower of Faith member since the last meeting. The Towers of Faith reception is being scheduled for August.

Chris:

**STEWARDSHIP**

The Stewardship booklet is due to be revised this fall. It is given out in all of the New Member Welcome packets. Jen Frost is helping out three times per month. The Parish Stewardship Network meeting is now meeting every month. The Diocesan Stewardship Commission has developed a set of guidelines to give parishes ideas of how to incorporate stewardship.

Stewardship Renewal will be in January, 2016. Once we are in the new church it may also be a good time to create a new directory for the parish.

Chris:

**WELCOME MINISTRY**

There is a lot of "parish shopping" occurring in North County. The ministry continues to be very busy and is always looking for families to help out.

## **NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING**

NONE

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Doug:           **PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
See Minutes from April 29, 2015 meeting.

Paul:           **FINANCE COUNCIL**  
We have had a good year. The fiscal year ends on June 30 and the budget should finish positive with the proceeds from the Gala. The council is working on the formal budget which is coming due to the Diocese on June 1.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

Fr. Mike will preside over confirmation on May 23.

We are currently in the process of selling the 5 acres behind the Parish center. There is an offer in process and it will be summer before we know all of the final information and details.

The St. Thomas More tapestry by John Nava (he created the tapestries in the Los Angeles Cathedral) is being woven in Belgium and should be ready in a few weeks.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Glory Be

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:15 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, August 26 at 7:00 p.m.