

ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – August 26, 2015

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Doug D'Agrosa, Jane Gladden, Jody Cadieux, Diana Diaz, Andrea Sweeney, Valerie Thompson

NOT PRESENT: Paul Ibbetson, Brian Leahey, Mike Nichols, Flora Fallone

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

OPENING PRAYER: Jody Cadieux

ROLE CALL

APPROVAL OF May 6, 2015 MEETING MINUTES: Approved in May, 2015 as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Chris: **Lighthouse Catholic Media** – Maria Cugini has offered to be in charge of taking care of this project. This company provides a variety of CD's, booklets, DVD's, etc. that have different topics of interest for seniors, young families, newlyweds. The idea is to have a display out on the plaza after Masses for parishioners to peruse and purchase. The council agreed that a rolling display would be easiest to move and set up each weekend, close to the Parish Information Table. The Cugini's are helping to offset the rolling cart and start up charges for materials. This will be a service to the Parish and not a fundraiser. The sale of items offsets the cost of items. It was also discussed that it would be better to start this new service after the first of the year, once the new Church is open. The display could then be in the Parish Office during the week.

Chris: **"Tommy's Café"** is the name of the new, upscale coffee, donuts, Espresso and Jerry Peralta's cinnamon rolls that will be available out of the upper level Parish Center warming kitchen. Matt Franklin expressed an interest in continuing to have our youth ministry run it like it is today. The idea is to have a wider variety of items (to be determined) available. This will be an inviting place for people to gather after Mass. This change will take place in January. Ron Briseno told Chris that Matt should contact him for contacts for the equipment and other items that would be needed to make it a success.

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 \$55,958.50 in pledges from 365 families. This year 100% over the assessment will come back to the parish. If all pledges are fully paid by the end of the year our parish should get back \$7,958.50.

Valerie: **MEMBERSHIP**

The next New Member Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, September 20 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. 55 families have been invited so far. The committee is ready. Chris will be sending information to the councils to see who is available to attend. The lack of response continues to be an issue and Valerie has to make 40-45 phone calls to get RSVP's. It was suggested that maybe an Evite might be an option for the next luncheon.

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

Construction is moving along nicely. The wood is almost complete on the ceiling and walls. Travertine floor is being laid and holes are being drilled for the pews. The church will be done by mid-November and we are hoping to have the Dedication Mass the 1st or 2nd week of December. Fr. Mike is looking at having the Mass during a weekday, but it depends on Bishop McElroy's schedule. There will be invitations sent out to a number of people then the Mass will be open to those who wish to attend. It should be noted that this celebration will run about 2 hours. There will be a reception afterwards in the parking lot, similar to Fr. Mike's 40th Anniversary celebration.

Jane: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Press Releases:

- Faith in Fashion (May 9th)
- Great Adventure Bible Study - mornings(June 4th)
- Vacation Bible School (June 22nd)
- Bible Study – Matthew and the King – evenings through November (September 9th)
- Relationship Skills Workshop (September 2nd) This is a Diocesan workshop. St. Thomas More is hosting and John and Debbie Fredette are facilitating.
- Treasures (October 3rd)

Ongoing – Dedication Brochure is still in progress. First raw draft was edited by members of the Interior Design Team and is now in Fr. Mike's hands. Still much to be added and much to be decided.

Andrea:

SCRIP

Scrip sales were \$39,628 for 2nd quarter, which brought in approximately \$1,400 to the parish. Scrip has not been selling after 10:30 Mass since February, but will be able to start up again due to more volunteers. The Scrip list will be updated at the end of September; Carnival Cruises is a new scrip merchant. Ralph's cards will need to be renewed again soon, look for information in the bulletin. There has been an increase in scrip online purchases and reloads. A pulpit announcement needs to be scheduled ASAP, perhaps after Bill Ipsen's financial update.

Diana:

VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

So far in 2015, we have had 10 vehicles donated bringing in a total of \$5,350.00. Our overall total of 91 vehicles donated since September 2006 is \$58,252.18. Over the past three years, we owe a big thank to BNB Auto Sales/Brian Leahey who has brought in \$30,729, which is over half of our grand total in vehicle donations.

Chris:

PLANNED GIVING

Our Towers of Faith Ministry started in 2006. Towers of Faith are those who remember STM in their estate planning. The Towers of Faith reception was held on August 23rd at Shadowridge. There are currently 29 Towers of Faith members, plus 9 new households that have been added in the last 2 years. This brings our total of active members to 38, plus two anonymous households. To date, 24 Towers of Faith members have died. Due to their foresight and generosity in remembering STM in their estate planning, STM has received \$95,830 towards Operations and \$1,275,000 towards the Building Fund. Two recent estates are pending.

Chris:

STEWARDSHIP

January 2016 will be Stewardship Renewal Month. The theme will blend Mercy and Grace to coincide with Pope Francis' Year of Mercy. Stewardship Renewal will be the focus during Masses January 16-31. Tim and Lia Keane will give the Lay Witness talk during that time. The Stewardship booklet is due to be revised and the new one will be mailed to all registered households. It is also given out in all of the New Member Welcome packets. The Stewardship flyer, featuring four ministerial opportunities, continues to be changed and published once a month.

Chris:

WELCOME MINISTRY

This ministry continues to be very busy. There are 3 new members of this ministry working to help register new families. We currently have 1159 registered families and we are still growing. There has been an increase in young families and it was noticeable at the last new member luncheon. The Mom and Kids group is going great.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

Bowling Family Fundraiser is currently scheduled for October 11 from 9:00-5:00 p.m. at Vista Entertainment Center. Ron is working with Boomers to schedule a family day, they are discussing having Boomers staff on the Plaza to sell the wristbands. Boomers! has changed their restaurant to Johnny Rockets which may help increase the participation. K-1 Speed has had management changes and Ron continues to work with them to organize a family day there as well.

COUNCIL REPORTS

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

Fr. Mike (forPaul):**FINANCE COUNCIL**
We have started our new fiscal year the same as always. Everything is normal at this time. Bill Ipsen will be giving a financial update during all Masses at the end of September. It is projected the 3 buildings will increase the operations budget an additional 20%. The new parish offices will not be completed until 2016.

PASTOR'S REPORT

The St. Thomas More tapestry has been completed. It was made in Belgium and is now in John Nava's studio.

Bishop McElroy will be visiting St. Thomas More on September 1st from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. and will be meeting with Fr. Mike, Fr. Karl, Parish staff and lay leadership. There will be a dinner afterwards. The meeting will take place on the lower level. St. Thomas More will be the first Church he is dedicating. He was baptized at St. Thomas More in San Francisco.

Weddings are being scheduled. Lia Keane will be the Wedding Coordinator for the Parish. Once we are in the new Church, there will be childcare at the 10:30 a.m. Mass for children 0-3 years of age. Lia Keane will be the Director of this childcare under the direction of Debbie Fredette. There will be a new Adult Faith Formation Brochure coming soon.

Bishop McElroy along with the San Diego Organizing Project is presenting an Ecumenical event on September 20 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in San Ysidro to spotlight immigration reform. This event is to demonstrate our solidarity with Pope Francis during his visit to the United States.

The Memorial Items list continues to grow and change. Currently vestments for the Dedication Mass have been added to the list. Parishioners continue to purchase Memorial Items.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chris shared a poster of the St. Thomas More tapestry that will be available for sale, \$10 for a smaller poster and \$25 for the larger size. The poster includes quotes from Utopia, written by St. Thomas More. There will also be a smaller version of the St. Thomas More tapestry available for sale for \$200 each. 20-25 will be ordered initially.

The 2016 Gala has been scheduled for April 29, 2016...mark your calendars!

If anyone wants more information about what is included in a Dedication Mass, there are a series of short videos on you-tube from St. Vincent de Paul in Austin Texas.

CLOSING PRAYER: Glory Be

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m.