

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

### **MEETING MINUTES – December 2, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Jane Gladden, Jody Cadieux, Diana Diaz, Andrea Sweeney, Flora Fallone, Paul Ibbetson, Brian Leahey

**NOT PRESENT:** Doug D'Agrosa, Valerie Thompson, Mike Nichols

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ron Briseno at 7:10 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Flora Fallone

#### **ROLE CALL**

**APPROVAL OF August 26, 2015 MEETING MINUTES:** Approved in September, 2015 as posted on the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE

**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 collected \$56,033.86 in pledges from 366 families. This is a 35% participation rate, which is the highest in the Diocese. 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 \$8,033.86.

Jody (for Valerie): **MEMBERSHIP**

The new member reception went very well. Having Chris speak for a couple of the others who couldn't make it actually worked out well, consolidating the program and making the information more concise. Food was great as usual, and the committee wonderful, with Sondra and Dave Parks joining us to pitch in in the absence of two of our regulars. The disappointment was that we did not have more of the new members. Several who responded did not appear, but our response was low also. The unseasonably hot weather may have played a part. I suspect that with the new church, we may have a larger group in the future. We are also looking at using Evites with a simple response by checking a box. We will just keep trying!

Brian:

### **NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Construction is moving along nicely. We are waiting to get the amount for the TCO fees. Fire alarm testing is this week and the HVAC is working. The travertine is almost done. There a lot of minor things to be completed that won't be noticeable. The Carillon bell system is being installed. They will peal a call to worship 5 minutes before Mass begins and also on the hour. The bells in the bell tower are fiberglass. The tapestry will be installed on Friday. The wood floor is completed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the Presence Lamp is installed. The slope on Melrose has to be planted. The Parish may have to hire a landscape maintenance company to keep up with all of the new landscaping. We are losing several handicap parking spaces as the parking lot needs to be brought up to code and there were too many in the lot. Judy Ritter, the Mayor of Vista has RSVP'd to attend the Dedication Mass along with Jack Feller from the Oceanside City Council.

Jane:

### **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

#### **Press Releases:**

- I Hunger
- Annual Men's Retreat in October
- St. Bonaventure Clothing Drive
- Beloved (January)
- Dedication Mass is a focus. Immaculate Heart Radio will be playing a PSA for the Dedication Mass twice a day starting December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Union Tribune had an article in the Local section. Aida Bustos, a reporter for the Southern Cross, has been assigned to cover the Dedication Mass as well. Press releases have also been submitted to the Vista Press and the Deanery.

We are considering submitting the Church to the San Diego Architectural Foundation for an "Orchid & Onion" nomination. The deadline has already passed for the next round, but not out of the question for the next time nominations could be submitted. We are also considering submitting for the Union Tribune's "Archtoberfest", when the time comes.

Fr. Mike is planning to go back to all of the artists who created works for the Church to ask about maintenance for all of the elements. Jane has been asked to contact these artists for the maintenance information. A handbook would be created to have it all in one place.

Andrea:

### **SCRIP**

Scrip sales in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter were just about normal \$34,000 in sales. The partnership with Angel Tree Ministry has been great, it is expected to generate \$30 - \$35,000 in sales just in the couple of weeks before Christmas. Scrip sales on the plaza start this week, and will no longer be out of the warming kitchen.

Diana: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**  
We have 15 vehicles donations so far this 2015 totaling \$6,650.00. Our overall grand total of 95 vehicles donated since September 2006 is \$59,552.00.

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**  
Our Towers of Faith Ministry started in 2006. Towers of Faith are those who remember STM in their estate planning. A Towers of Faith estate is estimated to be settled in the January/February 2016 timeframe. \$9,200 in annuities has been received, and another \$26,000 is at the Diocese.

To date, Towers of Faith members who have died have contributed more than \$1,000,000 towards the Building Fund, plus \$157,000 to our Operations fund.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**  
The last three weeks of January 2016 will be Stewardship Renewal Month. The theme will blend Mercy and Grace to coincide with Pope Francis' Year of Mercy. The Stewardship booklet is being 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.

There are still 28 mosaic panels available for \$5,000 each. 26 have been sold and \$82,750 has been collected. Groups of people can also contribute towards a single panel or donation can be made toward the purchase of a panel. People are buying more of the pews and chairs as the church gets closer to being ready for the Dedication Mass.

There will be a door mat at the main bronze doors of the Church. It will say "Our Church is a house of prayer for everyone."

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**  
This ministry continues to be very busy. There is a lot of activity and this ministry is always looking for more volunteers to help.

## **NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING**

Bowling Family Fundraiser unfortunately was not a success; only 7 people were in attendance. We are asking everyone to be on the lookout for other fundraising ideas.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Doug (not present): **PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
See Minutes from October 28, 2015 meeting.

Paul:

### **FINANCE COUNCIL**

Everything is normal at this time. There has been an increase in expenses (electricity specifically), but it will all settle in after the first couple of months after the Dedication Mass. We have been able to establish a reserve for unforeseen expenditures. The “Mortgage/Building Completion Fund” is doing well, but still a bit shy each month in terms of meeting the actual cost. In the New Year we will begin to address this.

There was a conversation about contributions/donations to the Church. It is standard for Parishes that 1/3 of all Parishioners will cover costs, 1/3 are occasional givers, and 1/3 are not able to participate at all.

### **PASTOR’S REPORT**

Dedication Mass – 1200 have RSVP’d so far. We will have a total of 387 parking spots available. There will be 2 large tents set up for the reception after the Mass. 40 priest will be in attendance along with Bishop McElroy, Bishop Brom and Bishop Chavez. A sound check will be held on December 12 after the 5p.m. Mass. It will be helpful to have as many people there as possible.

December 8<sup>th</sup> Pope Francis is declaring a Year of Mercy. St. Thomas More will be one of 6 Pilgrimage Churches in the Diocese. Our door will be blessed for this. Other churches include Mission San Diego, St. Joseph Cathedral and 3 other churches in the Imperial Valley.

The Diocese has purchased 14 acres behind our property, which includes 5 acres that was purchased from St. Thomas More. The Diocese will turn the land into a new Diocesan cemetery. The Diocese invited neighbors to a meeting to discuss the cemetery; about 10 people attended. There was concern about home values and how the cemetery would affect them. Mark Fisher with the Diocese and 2 brokers attended the meeting and explained that home values were actually higher near cemeteries. The Diocese is also looking for input from their new neighbors for the cemetery, landscaping, etc.

Once we are in the new Church, there will be childcare available as an option for parents at the 10:30 a.m. Mass for children 0-4 years of age. Lia Keane will be the Director of this childcare under the direction of Debbie Fredette. It will be optional and a co-op. Childcare will be located in the old Blessed Sacrament Chapel and where the Daily Mass altar is now.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Dedication Mass – There will be a collection at the reception with envelopes in the program and a collection box available. Chris is looking for volunteers to work ½ hour shifts at the reception. There will be tours after the Mass. The Interior Design Team will be docents and located at different elements in the church for those who want more information.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Glory Be

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

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.