

ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – February 24, 2016

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Jane Gladden, Jody Cadieux, Diana Diaz, Andrea Sweeney, Flora Fallone, Doug D’Agrosa

NOT PRESENT: Paul Ibbetson, Brian Leahey, Valerie Thompson, Mike Nichols

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

OPENING PRAYER: Andrea Sweeney

ROLE CALL

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2, 2015 MEETING MINUTES: Approved in December, 2015 as posted on the website.

2016 Annual Catholic Appeal Video – This video was not shown to the Council. The video will be showing in the Parish Center on March 6th. It is an approximately 10 minute video.

OLD BUSINESS: Pictorial Directory Update – Chris Smith handed out a list of the dates that families will be able to schedule their photo session for the new Parish directory. The dates are June 6 – 19 and July 18-24 and times will vary during those dates. There is a meeting scheduled with Judy Conner, the Life Touch rep, on February 25th. Kim Wright, Patricia Barbour and Cheryl Rowland are helping with this effort. Families are encouraged to sign up early to ensure the time they want. Each family will receive a free portrait and there will be a variety of different packages available for purchase. Ocean Hills has also used Life Touch and they were very happy with their work.

NEW BUSINESS: 2016 GALA Update – The Gala will be held on Friday, April 29. The theme this year is “A Year of Celebration”. Attendees can dress up or wear church attire. There won’t be a Champagne/Diamond Opportunity this year or the Ratajczak Pizza Beer Party. Anne and Bob Fallone will be hosting an “Oktoberfest” event and there is the possibility of a concert on a Sunday afternoon. The Pastor’s Dinner will be held at The Crossings in Carlsbad this year on Sunday, July 24. Price is \$150 per person. There are only 60 spots this year, 52 spots are available. The sponsor signs from last year will be going up soon. There is a plan to put the signs possibly around the olive trees or near the decomposed granite walkway. New Sponsor signs will be added the night of the Gala and they will be put up again next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flora: **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

The Annual Catholic Appeal kickoff is March 6th. Fr. Mike's Pastor's Column will be geared towards the ACA and a video will be running in the Parish hall that talks about the ACA. The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2016 is \$50,000. Fr. Mike's "love letters" will be mailed on March 7th. St. Thomas More will receive a \$9,208.00 rebate for 2015. All pledges made have been paid from 367 families; this is a 35% participation rate, which is the highest in the Diocese. Lorraine Doering gave a presentation at the Diocese discussing what we do that makes our ACA campaign so successful. The Diocese is looking to our Parish as a leader in this effort.

Jody (for Valerie): **MEMBERSHIP**

Our next membership luncheon is Sunday, March 13 at noon in the lower level of the Parish Center. Invitations have been sent, and we are thinking of trying an e-vite also. I have lost a couple of members, but will assess who is available and possibly ask a couple of others to help out if needed. The menu and format will remain the same as usual.

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

Construction punch list items are being completed. The sound system is now much better. The manufacturer came out from Austin to assist with the issues; a small speaker needed to be moved and it has made a significant improvement in the sound. The outside speakers need to be louder working. The standalone chairs are loud when they are moved; we are working on a solution to deaden the sound. Permanent occupancy should occur in about 2 weeks. Issues with Penick Construction are being resolved and there is a meeting scheduled with the Diocese.

Jane: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Press Releases:

- Game Day - 1/9
- Laudato Si – 1/17
- Twelfth Night Choral Festival – 1/3
- Symbolon – 1/7
- Heartnotes – 2/2 (article written by Dr. Phil Gocienski on our CPR training program)
- Catholic/Muslim Dialogue – Fr. Mike and the Imam – 2/28 (Union Tribune)
- Day of Recollection (Women's Guild) – 2/29

Updates:

Dedication Mass (12/19/15) was covered by a reporter from The Southern Cross – excellent coverage in the January edition. Both the Union Tribune and The Southern Cross have seemingly recognized the reputation of this Parish, offering very robust coverage. The secular Union Tribune’s pieces are a powerful testament to the work God is performing through this church.

Maintenance Handbook – At. Fr. Mike’s request, Jane is contacting artists and manufacturers with the assistance of Robert Habiger, documenting guidelines regarding cleaning aids, frequency of use, special handling of completed works of art and furniture, etc. Robert mentioned the need to cover removal of hot wax from the cherry wood (pew manufacturer) and care and maintenance of the font/water pump system.

Publicity ministry has a new member, Paula Bonilla. She has a very strong journalistic background and will be assuming the lead on certain projects. Her first event will be Fr. Mike and the Imam presentation and exchange of thoughts in the UL of the Parish Center on February 28th.

“Orchids & Onions” Architectural Nomination – Jane contacted the San Diego Architectural Foundation for clarification of submission guidelines, format, timing, etc. We do meet their requirements. The nomination document will require assistance from perhaps the Interior Design team, Lorraine for digital photos, and others. This may be Paula’s first project.

“The Tower” Spring Newsletter is coming in March and will include Fr. Mike’s Dedication remarks. Press releases for the Gala on April 29 will also be submitted to the usual publications.

Andrea:

SCRIP

Scrip sales in November less than half compared to 2014, possibly due the construction and the shrinking space on the plaza during that time. December sales were about \$50,000. Fr. Mike was presented with a check for \$10,000 tonight. The Gala tree for Scrip cards will be on the plaza starting this weekend. It was also requested that the Scrip table is moved somewhere else on the plaza that is more visible. There are plans to do a pulpit announcement in March. It was suggested that it be done on a REACH weekend. Mike Nichols may step down in June; Andrea is talking to Lisa Seufert about helping out.

One suggestion to increase scrip participation by Parishioners is a “Buy Scrip, get a Donut” promotion. Scrip committee could provide donuts and give a ticket for a free donut at Tommy’s Café if a Scrip card is purchased. A question was also asked about how much the Parish has benefitted from Amazon Smile? Deacon John would have that information.

Diana: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

We had 13 vehicles donated in 2015 averaging \$573.00 per vehicle (\$7,449.00 total). Our overall grand total for vehicles donated since September 2006 is \$60,352.00. There are 2 vehicles that have been donated to date in 2016, a 1999 Saturn and a golf cart.

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**

Our Towers of Faith Ministry started in 2006. Towers of Faith are those who remember STM in their estate planning. We currently have 38 TOF households, and another two anonymous members. Twenty eight TOF members have died since 2006. Two Towers of Faith estates are waiting to be closed out at this time.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

January 2016 was Stewardship Renewal Month. The last week Chris Smith focused on “Did You Know?” and Bill Ipsen talked about the financial commitment and Mortgage Offering. There have been increases in the monthly collections and the Parish is just shy of 1,200 households. Many have responded with new stewardship commitments and some have ended their commitments as well. The information presented will be available at the Information Table. Online giving has been going well.

Memorial Gifts – As of February 10, \$137,990 has been collected so far for the mosaic panels. There are 17 panels left and they are \$5,000 each. Several group panels have been purchased. Any amount is welcome towards the purchase as are monthly payment plans. The refurbishing of the panels is currently in process and the panels will be delivered when they are all purchased and paid for.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**

This ministry continues to be very busy. There is a lot of activity and this ministry is in need of more volunteers to help. Moving forward, we are OK to meet with 2-3 households at a time in our welcome meetings. 5-10 blue cards are coming in each weekend.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

Scrip Idea for a Commitment Month. Try Scrip. If every household purchased \$25 in scrip, here’s how much the church could earn. Scrip Committee is taking this idea into consideration.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Doug (not present): **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

See Minutes from February 3, 2016 meeting.

Paul:

FINANCE COUNCIL

Everything is normal at this time. The offertory is up some...it was approximately \$17,000 for the weekend of February 20 Masses. The new maintenance crew has been hired to take care of both buildings. Joe Garcia is doing special projects and is transitioning out of the maintenance

PASTOR'S REPORT

Muslim Dialogue is Sunday, February 28th at 12:30 p.m. The focus of the dialogue will be "Why do we need to get to know our neighbors?". The Imam from Vista will be participating and it is expected to last about 1 ½ hours. The Bishops have formed a 20 member committee nationwide to address this issue as well.

The Pilgrimage door will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. every day. There is an effort to have someone there during this time, but it will not always be possible.

Construction for the Ark, childcare for 0-3 year olds, will begin immediately after Easter. There will be childcare available as an option for parents 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. It will be optional and a co-op. The plan is to start this after Easter.

Thom Hiatt, the videographer for the Dedication Mass, is in the process of editing the footage, 4 cameras at 3 hours each, down to about 1 hour. The plan is to have DVD's available for sale to help offset the costs of the Dedication Mass.

To date, about \$12,500 has been received from the donation envelopes for the Dedication celebration.

MISCELLANEOUS

CLOSING PRAYER: Glory Be

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.