

ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – May 4, 2016

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Jane Gladden, Diana Diaz, Flora Fallone

NOT PRESENT: Paul Ibbetson, Brian Leahey, Doug D'Agrosa, Andrea Sweeney, Valerie Thompson, Jody Cadieux, Mike Nichols

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

OPENING PRAYER: Diana Diaz

ROLE CALL

APPROVAL OF February 24, 2016 MEETING MINUTES: Approved in March 2016, as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chris: **2016 Gala Update** – The committee did a trial run the night before because of some changes and just to decide on a Plan B if Plan A didn't work. John, our new emcee this year, did a wonderful job. Joe Bradley, the professional auctioneer, and his two spotters did a great job bringing in bids, often with several increases and several in \$50 increments when \$100 increments weren't bringing higher bids. Having some activity available during the dinner was a good thing. People had a chance to stay at their table and visit, go to the bar, or continue to shop the raffle, auction tables and the Wheel of Fortune. The dinner was delicious and enjoyed by all. The live auction pulled in the most money, then the Wheel of Fortune. The raffle pulled in more money this year than the silent auction. Overall, the 2016 gala was a success. New ideas will be discussed regarding the Silent Auction for 2017.

The Ark (our new childcare center) plea at the Gala brought in \$1,400 that evening along with future pledges of \$850.

The Pastor's Dinner, at the Crossings in Carlsbad on Sunday, July 24th, has 42 people signed up so far. The Oktober Fest on Sunday, October 23rd is sold out already. For the Wine Tasting on September 11th, a billboard sign-up will be on the plaza after Masses. The Christmas Cookie signups will be on the plaza after the Pastor's Dinner is over.

Pictorial Directory - Parishioners can now go online to schedule an appointment for a portrait sitting for the new parish photo directory. Photos will be taken in the upper level of the parish center (1:00pm – 8:30pm). Dates: June 6-13, July 6-24.

Kim Wright is chairing this project, and will be doing pulpits the w/e of May 14/15. Sign up sheets will be on the plaza through July 17. Volunteers to work the sign up tables at the weekend Masses, plus those who'd like to help with Photo Session check in are welcome. Kim's contact information will be in the bulletin the weekend of May 14/15.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chris: Discussion of new silent auction ideas for our May 5, 2017 Gala evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flora: **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2016 is \$50,000. To date the ACA has \$34,628 in pledges from 225 families. The average pledge per family is \$153.50. Father Mike's second mailing to parishioners will go out next week.

Chris (for Valerie): **MEMBERSHIP**

The next New Member Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, September 25th from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

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

We are in the process of final payments on the new church building to the contractor and calculating how much more we will need to finish the construction on the new office building.

The Ark doors for our new childcare center go up this week. Childcare will be available soon for the 10:30 am Mass. Lia Keane will be the Director of this Ark childcare program under the direction of Debbie Fredette.

Jane: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Press Releases:

- Spring Ring
- Gala
- Biblical Walk through the Mass
- Vacation Bible School

Once again, Immaculate Heart Radio came through for us, announcing the Spring Ring for a full week before the event. And the Union-Tribune devoted extra space to our press releases on the Gala and bible study, entitling the piece "Church Celebrates new Building with Fundraiser." I sent our thanks to each.

Updates:

Catholic/Muslim Dialogue – New Publicity volunteer, Paula Bonilla, wrote a brief on Fr. Mike's Catholic/Muslim dialogue on February 28th and did a great job. The piece plus photo was published in The Southern Cross.

Maintenance Handbook – All recently contacted artists and/or company representatives have provided maintenance guidelines for:

- Corpus
- Reconciliation Window
- Lebanese Cedar (inlaid in cross)
- Pews and Kneelers
- Font's Water/Pump system
- Presider's and Deacons' Chairs
- Altar and Ambo – Daily Chapel

In some cases, guidelines were simple narratives and in others, prepared documents were distributed to all clients. When we are ready to assemble our actual handbook, a format will need to be developed.

Orchids and Onions / 2016

Per an administrator at the San Diego Architectural Foundation, information and nomination forms for 2016 will not be on their live web site until June 3rd – delayed due to a major event they are planning on June 2nd. I will monitor and report on what is needed at a later date.

Spring Newsletter (The Tower)

It was published with Fr. Mike's dedication homily and with tributes in April ... beautiful photos ... well received.

Andrea:

SCRIP

Parishioners are starting to find us on the plaza. Total sales for the 1st quarter 2016 are down 8% compared to 1st quarter last year ... 1st quarter is usually slow.

Diana:

VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

We have a good start in 2016 with 5 vehicles donated so far. A golf cart brought in \$1,205 and a mini-van brought in \$1,250. With 99 vehicles donated, our current 10 year total is \$63,407.18. Who will make the 100th vehicle donation?

Chris:

PLANNED GIVING

We have received the second installment on one pending estate settlement. A third will come in three years. We are awaiting the second installment on another estate. In regards to the Towers of Faith, the Diocese has formed a Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego. Part of the outreach of this Foundation is a sub-committee which will be dealing Legacy Gifts and giving informative seminars in the diocese, with a representative from the new Foundation being present to help and offer information on options of end-of-life issues.

Chris:

STEWARDSHIP

The Parish Newsletter with pictures of our Dedication Mass and with our Sacramental Blessings for 2015 was mailed out and well received. Remaining Dedication Mass booklets will be in new parishioner packets and a few will also be available inside the church on the Mercy table.

Father Mike mentioned that the new reconciliation time is 3:30 – 4:30pm before the 5pm Mass on Saturdays.

Chris:

WELCOME MINISTRY

This ministry continues to be very busy and we can always use more help. The Mom and Kids group is doing great and we have a couple of moms on the WM.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

Ron:

Went to a different church out of town and listened to a homily that day on individual sacrifice and giving. The pastor asked all of them to go home after the service and have a “family” meal together and talk about how they could sacrifice \$10 each to a worthy cause of their choice. Then as a family go and give your sacrifice to your cause of choice from the heart. ... Creating a family moment and everlasting memory.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Doug:

PASTORAL COUNCIL

- Looking for a lead for the Holy Thursday Dinners which will not be held on Holy Thursday, as previously discussed
- Confirmation this weekend, May 8th at the 10:30am Mass
- First Communion for all Masses the weekend of May 21st
- See Minutes from February 3, 2016 meeting.

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

Everything is normal and finances are on track.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Confirmation is at 10:30 am Mass this weekend, May 8..

The Interior Design Team has a meeting with the artist Claire Wing tomorrow evening, May 5th. She has created a mock up model of the Marian Shrine that should be delivered tomorrow. The team will get to view the mock up model in the reserved space which will be the Marian Shrine.

The bronze statue of Jesus on the Road to Emmaus will soon be mounted in the Daily Chapel. It will be a beautiful reminder to walk with Christ.

We are focused on finding a chairperson for the Holy Thursday dinners. Hoping to have these family dinners moved to Sunday after Mass, possibly around the feast day of St. Thomas More.

We are coordinating another Muslim dialogue with the Imam in Vista and it would be held at the Mosque. We also are coordinating a community picnic with the Imam and Muslim community. The picnic will be after their Ramadan which is a month of fasting during day light hours beginning the evening of Sunday, June 5th through Tuesday, July 5th (30 days).

Doug D'Agrosa is our new Parish Financial Liaison replacing Bill Ipsen. We thank Bill for all his hard work and years of dedication in helping to explain our finances to our parishioners and raise funds for our new church building.

Doug has also taken on the task of STM being an evacuation center / emergency center.

MISCELLANEOUS

CLOSING PRAYER: Glory Be

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 24th at 7:00 pm,