

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES – August 24, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Chris Smith, Jody Cadieux, Jane Gladden, Flora Fallone, Diana Diaz, Andrea Sweeney, Valerie Thompson, Lisa Attardo

**NOT PRESENT:** Brian Leahey (in Venice)

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

**OPENING PRAYER:** Jane Gladden

**ROLE CALL**

**APPROVAL OF May 4, 2016 MEETING MINUTES:** Approved in May 2016, as posted on the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Gala events have brought in \$52,000 to the parish so far. The Gala Committee will be giving the Parish more money in the coming months from our ongoing “Year of Celebration” events. We are on track to give the Parish enough to make our \$60,000 goal for 2016.

We had 40% of our parishioners show up which is wonderful for picture taking for our new directory.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chris: The Wine Tasting 101 event will be held on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Wine Tasting event flyers have been created and will be going out in the mail this Friday to everyone who has signed up to attend. Lisa and Patrick Attardo have worked hard on the details of making this an educational event with food pairing. There will be plenty of food and a dessert bar available.

The Octoberfest for Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> is already full.

The Christmas Cookie Exchange signup sheets will go up in mid September. That will be the last of the 2016 Gala “Year of Celebration” events.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flora: **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2016 is \$50,000. To date the ACA has \$58,000 in pledges from 353 families. The average pledge per family is \$164. The overage will come back to our Parish.

Flora announced that she will be stepping down from ACA. We would like to thank Flora for her eight years of dedication and doing a wonderful job in handling the ACA for our Parish.

Valerie: **MEMBERSHIP**

The New Member Luncheon invitations are completed and ready to be mailed out for the next New Member Luncheon scheduled for Sunday, September 25th from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. These will be mailed to reach homes right after Labor Day weekend, giving new parishioners time to RSVP.

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

We have only been in our new church building for eight months and we ask everyone to be patient as we tweak the church sound system for improvement.

The Marian Shrine is scheduled for installment late October. The installment for the statue of Jesus on the Road to Emmaus is scheduled for late November.

We are still in the process of negotiating the final payment on the new church building to the contractor and calculating how much more we will need to finish the construction of the parish offices.

Jane: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Press Releases:**

- Vacation Bible School – June 20th
- Adventures in Acts bible study – begins September 7th
- Matthew The King and His Kingdom bible study – begins September 8th
- Relationship Skills Workshop – begins September 13<sup>th</sup>
- Aging with Grace – September 17<sup>th</sup>
- Treasures 2016 – October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Men's Retreat – October 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9th

**Projects:**

San Diego Architectural Foundation's Orchids and Onions nomination was submitted. We are among the finalists thanks to Renzo Zechetto's input, fabulous photos and parishioners' comments.

We had 25 architectural students take a tour of our new church building. Voting starts in September and awards are on October 13<sup>th</sup>. It is important to encourage all

to go on the Orchids and Onions site and make comments on our new Church and also to vote when the voting starts in September!!! This link will be on our website again so that folks can simply click on it to participate and help our chance to win!

**Upcoming Projects:**

The Tower Newsletter fall edition perhaps entitled “Empowered by God’s Mercy and Grace” with our stewardship 2016 theme. Paula Bonilla will assist possibly interviewing newly initiated Catholics from the last Easter Vigil. Other possible features would be articles on the sculptured image of Jesus on the Road to Emmaus, dependent on Lynn Kircher’s completion date. Also, the Marian Shrine dependent on Claire Wing’s completion date.

**Future Paula Bonilla Project:**

Stewardship coverage for bulletin inserts, perhaps interviewing a ministry leader. Paula has strong writing and interviewing skills.

Andrea:

**SCRIP**

Parishioners are starting to find us on the plaza and scrip sales are on track and steady. Net sales for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter are \$1,580.45 and profit for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is \$1,248.23.

Andrea will make a September pulpit announcement for a reminder to purchase scrip on their way out after Mass and let our parishioners know that they have just added Nordstroms and Southwest Airlines to the list of scrip available to purchase.

Mike Nichols has stepped down from the Scrip Program and we thank Mike for his dedication these past few years.

We would like to welcome Lisa Seufert as she will be joining the Scrip Program as a partner with Andrea.

Diana:

**VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

So far this year, we have had 7 vehicles donated for a total of \$5,005. With an overall donation of 101 vehicles, our 10 year current total is \$65,307.

Chris:

**TOWERS OF FAITH / LEGACY GIVING**

On January 31, 2017 STM is hosting a Legacy Planned Giving Seminar, assisted by the newly formed Catholic Foundation of San Diego. Details forthcoming soon.

Chris:

**STEWARDSHIP**

November is Stewardship Awareness Month. Doug D’Agrosa will give the financial talk at Mass and inform parishioners in regards to the mortgage payment shortfall that has accumulated since September 2014 and what that approximate

amount is monthly that needs to be covered. This talk should take place the weekend of November 12-13. Lay witness family to be determined.

Chris:

**WELCOME MINISTRY**

This ministry continues to be very busy and we are looking for additional members to help out in meeting with new parishioners.

**NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING**

Ron:

In helping the Welcome Ministry, Ron suggested that a video be created for new parishioners to view. Fr. Mike recently was interviewed on video and this piece will be on our website. This is a possibility for the video for prospective new members to watch before registering. TBD.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Fr. Mike:

Ron Briseno is stepping down as Development Council Chair and will become our new Finance Council Chair. He will be working with Doug D'Agrosa who is our new Parish Financial Resources Liaison replacing Bill Ipsen.

Jody Cadieux is replacing Ron as our new Development Council Chair.

Lisa Attardo is replacing Doug as our new Pastoral Council Chair.

A big thank you to all for your continued dedication to our parish.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Lisa:

**PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Women's Guild presented Fr. Mike with a \$27,000 check from their past year's fundraising. It is the largest one year amount they have ever given!

The Knights are back and are expanding.

Doug D'Agrosa and Mario Cugini are working on a Red Cross plan to allow STM to become a disaster relief site if ever needed.

Because of our changing demographics and because of our new church, the number of church weddings at STM is increasing.

Ron:

**FINANCE COUNCIL**

Everything is normal and finances are on track. This year will be a challenge as we are now supporting two buildings and not just one. We are doing well with more

on-line giving, which is a fast growing trend with all ages switching to this convenient way of donation.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

Doug D'Agrosa and Mario Cugini are creating a plan for disaster evacuations and responses to any emergency situations that may occur here at STM. Mario attended a "Faith Based Active Shooter Preparedness Workshop" sponsored by the CIA and Homeland Security. Conversation has begun with Fr. Mike, Deacon John, Doug D'Agrosa, and Mario Cugini.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS:**

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Glory Be

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:40 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm