

ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – November 30, 2016

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Chris Smith, Jody Cadieux, Jane Gladden, Diana Diaz, Andrea Sweeney, Lisa Attardo, Lisa Seufert, Erik Acheff

NOT PRESENT: Brian Leahey, Ron Briseno, Valerie Thompson, Lorraine Doering

CALL TO ORDER: Jody Cadieux at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Erik Acheff

ROLE CALL

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

OLD BUSINESS: The DVD from the Dedication Mass is available for purchase for \$20.00. It can be purchased at the information table after Mass or in the office. The DVD is 53 minutes long and has beautiful and music, including photos from the previous St. Thomas More Catholic Church locations since 1985.

Parish directory arrived this afternoon, Nov. 30. There were 460 participants out of 1200 households. Kathy Hunt did a great job with the activity pages. The directories are free for those that took a picture and \$10.00 for those that didn't. Directories will be labeled and handed out after the Masses on the weekends of Dec. 10/11 and Dec. 17/18. The directories will also be in the Parish Office during the week up to Dec. 23, and after January 2. There is a typo on page 48, More was misspelled Moore. A correction is being made in the form of an overlay which will be placed in the books at the same time as the labeling process.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jody (for Lorraine): **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

Need to find a replacement for ACA. Chris is taking care of that.

Fr. Mike: The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2016 is \$50,000. To date the ACA has \$59,000 in pledges coming from 1/3rd of the registered Parish families. The average pledge per family is \$147.50. The overage will come back to our Parish. Our Parish was the best in the diocese for participation rate.

Jody (for Valerie): **MEMBERSHIP**

The spring New Member Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, April 2nd from 12:00 – 1:30 pm (sometimes goes until 2pm).

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

The Marian Shrine is scheduled for installment in the near future. The statue of Jesus on the Road to Emmaus has arrived and is located behind the altar in the Daily Mass Chapel.

We are still in the process of negotiating the final payment on the new church building with our contractor. We will need \$900,000 to finish the construction of the Parish offices.

Jane: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Press Releases:

- No Turning Back; A Witness to Mercy by Fr. Calloway – 10/28/16
- Trusting in God's Mercy.... Close of the Jubilee Year of Mercy - 11/20/16
- Anniversary Mass for the Dedication Mass – 12/16/16, Friday at 7 pm.
(Mentioned by Fr. Mike.)

Projects:

San Diego Architectural Foundation's Orchids and Onions – St. Thomas More Catholic Church won the highest honor of all, the **Grand Orchid!!!** Fr. Mike representing all who contributed to the vision and execution of this architectural wonder and House of God received the award at the Spreckels Theater on Thursday night, October 13th. Much publicity ensued in both the San Diego Union-Tribune and The Southern Cross.

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre – On Saturday, October 29th, the San Diego members of the Western USA Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem visited St. Thomas More Parish for a morning of prayer and reflection to celebrate Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy. This event was (will be) featured in our fall/winter newsletter The Tower. A Brief was forwarded to The Southern Cross in hopes of publication.

Chris The Tower will be mailed by Dec. 9.

Upcoming Projects:

Publicity release for the Annual Twelfth Night Choral Festival (Ecumenical Gathering) on Sunday January 8th.

Article on St. Thomas More's CPR/AED training program.

Request for assistance with publicity ministry.

Andrea: **SCRIP**

Lisa Seufert chairs the Christmas Angel Tree. There is a second Christmas Angel Tree in the church, per the recommendation of Kathy Arciero. The partnership of

Lisa and Andrea, for Scrip, has been great. Lots of orders this time of year. The location of the Scrip table by Tommy's Café has helped with orders. Parishioners are starting to get used to the plaza layout. One large donor helps the Camp Pendleton families. Lisa coordinates with the donor how many families the donation will help. Andrea suggested a Scrip drive/announcement to generate more interest. Could do a raffle to encourage larger purchases. Two new members recently signed up online. Could make an announcement prior to the start of the 3rd quarter.

Diana: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

This year, we have had 10 more vehicles donated bringing in \$6,430. With an overall donation of 104 vehicles, our 10 year current total is \$66,782.

All 1098-C IRS forms for the year have been completed and mailed off to the IRS.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

Stewardship Awareness Month initial results: We've received 7 increases for their online giving to date, plus a number of new ministry signups. These should continue for the rest of 2016 as people have time to decide on their specific choices.

Review the Christian Stewardship Opportunities Response Form and see how much goes on and what area(s) that best fit your desire to serve. We are, in the diocese and the country, looked upon as one of the highest rated parishes as far as involvement, based on the number of stewards that we have active here.

The "Did You Know?" campaign has been effective in getting stewards to help with numerous St. Thomas More ministries. We need more Hospitality Ministers. We will continue to advertise that in our 4 square. Joyce Meehan has been doing a great job training the stewards. We will advertise for the PR help, for Jane, in January.

Solutions for Change has undergone some adjustments because of changes to the contract for their government funds. The federal government has adopted the 'Housing First' program. Because of this Solutions for Change would have to convert their drug free housing to allow hardcore drug users placed among sober and working residents. Efforts to get the contracts changed were denied. As a result, they are taking a stand and voluntarily giving up federal funds at an estimated loss of \$700,000 - \$900,000 a year. There is an on-going fundraiser on their website "Bridge to Freedom", where they are asking for 2,000 people to give \$24 per month. Father Joe's Village is continuing to take the funds and we aren't exactly sure how they will handle this problem. The Federal government is not allowing for different models.

Chris:

WELCOME MINISTRY

This ministry continues to be very busy and we are constantly looking for additional members to help out.

TOWERS OF FAITH / LEGACY GIVING

Towers of Faith program, (people who include STM in their estate plans) which was launched in 2007, has raised \$2,800,000: \$300,000 toward the Operations Budget and \$2,500,000 toward the building of this Church. Chris has received 7 increases for their online giving.

There is a new Catholic Community Foundation that Bishop McElroy has started in San Diego, as our area didn't have a foundation. Chris Smith is one of the Trustees for this foundation and her role is to do a 4 week prep for parishes that want to do a seminar. On January 31, 2017 STM is hosting a free seminar, assisted by the newly formed Catholic Foundation of San Diego. The seminar will be done in two sessions, a morning session from 10:00-11:30 am and an evening session from 6:30-8:00 pm. The seminar will explain how to contribute to the foundation and for St. Thomas More and/or other organizations in line with our Catholic faith. It is open to all parishioners as well as non-parishioners. There will be some great speakers, refreshments, and free education from attorneys and investment professionals about wills, living trusts, and probate. There will also be an offer for a free, no obligation consultation afterwards. The unique thing about the Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego is that donor specific funds can go to non-Catholic organizations, as long as the organization is not in violation of Catholic principles. This is another way of becoming a Towers of Faith donor.

2016 GALA FINAL UPDATE

Christmas Cookie Exchange is Dec. 17, from 10:30am -12:00noon. About 60 people have signed up with an expected 2,800 cookies to be exchanged. Plenty to take home and repurpose them as holiday gifts for neighbors, as Sr. Maureen does. This is the last weekend for the bulletin announcement on this event. Hot chocolate and refreshments will also be available. Dedication Mass DVDs will be available for purchase, as well as the beer mugs from the Oktoberfest, which Chris will fill with Hershey's Kisses and candy canes. This is the last of the 2016 Gala events. We gave the parish \$61,000, which was a \$1,000 over our goal.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

Jody: There were no new ideas at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jody (for Ron): Restaurant fundraisers at Nucci's every month and Souplantation is doing fundraising now. Jody to email Ron for an update.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Lisa: **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

There was a recent leadership training because of the changing of the guard for the committees. At the training a discussion occurred on “what can we do new?” Back in 2013-14, there was a push for a website for stewardship, similar to a job board. The website would be used for listing your ministry needs. The website is ready, but never really got rolled out. Pastoral Council in conjunction with PO and E had a leadership training on the website, to get them on board. Need to coordinate times to hold meetings to roll out the website portion, to get the recruitment and retention of stewards and teach them the tools that are already in place. Also need “How To” videos or a sheet, that can empower the parish. Lorraine did do something like this for Scrip. A “How To” sheet could be attached to the “Did You Know” flyer and could be introduced by the Welcome Ministry. Fr. Mike suggested that we also mention it at the New Member luncheon and pass out the “How To” sheet again.

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

Offertory is up 12% this year, but expenses are up 16%, now that we are supporting two buildings. There is a new format for the bulletin of the mortgage building completion fund that we hope will be simpler for people to understand. It will be a month by month update. For November we were \$2,000 short, but we were able to take that money out of the reserves. Also we are not going to send money to reserves, unless we have it. With Christmas falling on a Sunday this Year, it is normally an estimated \$10,000 - \$15,000 loss in donations for the church.

PASTOR’S REPORT

There will be an anniversary Mass for the celebration of the Dedication Mass on Friday Dec. 16, at 7:00pm.

St. Thomas More is hosting a screening for a new documentary, by the Unity Productions Foundation, who promote peace making between Muslim and Christians. The title is “The Sultan and The Saint” and it is narrated by Jeremy Irons. It is the story of St. Francis during the Crusades. St. Francis hoped to bring about peace by converting the Sultan of Egypt to Christianity. He didn’t succeed, but he did get ideas that called for Christians to live harmoniously with Muslims. It will be shown on Saturday January 7, at 7:00pm, on the Parish Center Upper Level. This is also the feast of the Epiphany, where Jesus is open to the world. The same weekend, on Sunday night, we have the Choral Festival concert, which makes this an Ecumenical and Interreligious weekend for the Parish.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

CLOSING PRAYER: Glory Be

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 pm