

ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – March 15, 2017

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

NOT PRESENT: Brian Leahey, Ron Briseno, Valerie Thompson, Andrea Sweeney, Lisa Seufert

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

OPENING PRAYER: Lisa Attardo

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF November 30, 2016 MEETING MINUTES: Approved in November 2016, as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: 2017 STM Gala (Chris Smith) – Gala forms have been sent in the mail. A new section, with names of dinner guests that are paying with the form, has been added, to try to make it easier to do the data input. Sponsor signs from the previous Gala year are on display outside the church before all weekend Masses. Everyone that signs up this year, as a new sponsor, their sign will go up on Gala night and then all next year in 2018. Signs range in price from \$100 to \$2,500. New signs get made up a week before the Gala. The deadline for new sign sponsorship and reservations for the Gala, is April 25th, 2017.

There are also post Gala activities, such as the as the three Pastor dinners at the rectory. Sign up boards are located in the Parish office. Each sign up board is a different color to distinguish the different day of the dinner. Dinner dates are July 16th, July 23rd, and July 30th. Dinners are filling up quickly. The deadline for payment for the dinner is June 1st. The first 20 paid signups are guaranteed a spot. Other Gala events are the Wine Tasting 101 on October 1st and the Christmas Cookie Exchange on December 16. Wine Tasting 101 tickets are \$50 each and Wine Tasting 101 Premium tickets are \$100 each. Christmas Cookie Exchange tickets are \$20 each.

The Gala dinner is going to be a buffet served by El Torito. Only the buffet food serving lines and condiments will be outside. The buffet service will be two long stations, one on each side of the plaza, each with the same foods. Half of the room will get their food from one side and the other half of the room will get their food from the opposite side, this should speed up the process. Buffet food consists of Mexican chef salad, fruit, steak and chicken fajitas with fresh tortillas, cheese enchiladas with rice and two types of beans, and condiments. Desserts will be flan and cake and they will be served inside with coffee. We are working on getting

canopies to cover the food lines. The salsa, guacamole, and chips will be **INSIDE** on the dinner tables. We are going through two buffet lines outside and bringing the food back inside to our dinner tables. **We are not eating outside.** The inside of the upper level of the parish center is where all the eating, raffles, Wheel of Fortune, Champagne Diamond, Live and Silent Auctions will take place.

Brother Benno's silent auction form worked great for them and we will look to use the same style form. Chris to email the form. The auctioneers will be the same as last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

ACA \$13,029 from 81 families, average donation is \$159. Mary Rudick is being trained to take over ACA.

Fr. Mike: The assessment for St. Thomas More in 2017 is \$50,000, same as last year. The overage will come back to our Parish in December of this year.

Chris (for Valerie): **MEMBERSHIP**

The spring New Member Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, April 2nd from 12:00 – 1:30 pm (sometimes goes until 2pm). 51 household invitations went out about a week ago. About 4 more households have registered since then.

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

We are still in the process of negotiating the final payment on the new church building with our contractor. Fr. Mike has been in consultation with the parish leadership and also with the finance council to make them aware of the present process.

Jane: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Press Releases:

- Catholic Estate and Planned Giving Seminar – 1/31/17
- XLT Event – High School Youth Ministry fellowship gathering- 2/06/17
- A Mother's Journey to Faith – motivational lecture by Dr. Cyndi Peterson – 2/10/17
- Saving Souls and Hearts – instructional lecture by Dr. Phil Goscienski on CPR/AED usage – 1/29/17
- Spring Ring – musical event at STM sponsored by Handbell Musicians of America – 4/16/17

Projects:

Article on St. Thomas More's CPR/AED training program developed by Dr. Phil and Jane. (Expected to be published in the March edition of The Southern Cross)

Development of training program for Publicity/Public Relations Ministry.

Training sessions with two new Publicity volunteers.

The Tower will be published in June highlighting the Marian Shrine, a bereavement write-up by Sr. Maureen, a listing of sacraments received and parish deaths, as well as photos of the Communion classes and Confirmation class.

Updates:

The Publicity/Public Relations ministry was recently blessed with two new volunteers. Parishioner Jen Frost is a temporary addition, currently handling press releases. Parishioner Lena Rumps, who has a strong interest in writing, will begin her ministry responsibilities by drafting the cover article for the Tower on our new Marian Shrine. Both Jen and Lena were introduced to our two primary resource contacts – Denis Grasska, Assistant Editor for the Southern Cross, and Linda McIntosh, reporter for the Union Tribune.

Jane will continue to 1) oversee the publicity ministry; 2) attend Development Council meetings; and 3) serve as a Greeter at weekend Masses.

Chris (for Andrea and Lisa): **SCRIP**

The Scrip Team is giving the church \$10,000 and it is going toward two mosaics.

Diana: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

The current vehicle donation Program spreadsheet total is \$67,702 from 108 vehicle donations.

In 2016, we had 11 vehicles donated bringing in a total of \$7,350. (Averaging \$668 per donation)

All 2016 IRS paperwork (1098-C) for donations over \$500 was completed and mailed out to our donors and the IRS.

We have 2 vehicles donated so far in 2017.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

Planned Giving – On January 31st we had two Planned Giving estate planning seminars. They were presented by the new Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego, which is separate from the diocese. There was an attorney, Jan Akre. The seminars were very well attended and received. Attendees were offered a free one hour consultation. About 20 people have followed up with a consultation. Jan will be back on March 29th for those consultations and possibly March 30th. Seminars made the complex subject simple to understand. Attendees received a packet with all of the forms that they would need to put an estate plan in place. More seminars coming up. All Hallows is having one in May, Our Lady of Guadalupe is having one in April, and Santa Sophia is having one June 5th. There will be a summer break and then starting again in September. Saint Mary Star of the Sea, in Oceanside, is planning to have one in the fall.

Lisa Attardo – Suggested when advertising the seminar to highlight some of the clever and creative ideas that the attorney presented. Even though she and her husband have had a financial planner for years, the information provided was very useful.

We now have an endowment now with the foundation, so anyone that wants to give, can. The endowment is currently at \$10,000.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**

The Easter month Stewardship flyer is completed and will be in the bulletin and in the restrooms in both the parish center and the church.

We are going to be sending out an Easter mailer to all who fall within our parish boundaries, which include Carlsbad, Oceanside, Vista, and a part of San Marcos. The mailer will have the header "Our Church is a House of Prayer for All People". Thom Hiatt is doing the mailing for us. He is saving us \$700 by mailing out of the Carmel Mountain Post Office. Lisa Attardo suggested the mailer to have a format of photos of the interior and exterior of the church on one side and photos of the parishioners on the other side.

Looking for help with Treasures, John Murphy is going to be stepping back after this year. Chris has asked Bob Wojcik to consider it. We don't want to lose Treasures, so we need someone to step in and help. Need to find a co-chair to shadow this year.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

Jody: Asked the council for some new and fresh ideas. Lisa Attardo recommend a tailgate event that would be really simple and affordable, but would have high volume. Maybe show the Sunday night football game on the big screen. Father Mike suggested to show a movie. Erik suggested the Ignatius Press movie fundraiser. You raise funds by renting out a local movie theater and show a catholic film. Their newest release is Ignatius of Loyola. More details to be provided. Father Mike suggested a tailgate for Halloween, Trunk or Treat. Can serve hot cider. Maybe something that Erin Barela can take on as she takes over Marriage and Family Life. Chris mentioned an idea that John Fredette has brought up in the past, to have music and dancing on the plaza, with some real simple catering, such as tacos, rice, and beans, or gourmet food trucks in the parking lot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Erik (for Ron): We are looking at Texas Roadhouse in Oceanside, it should be our April stop. Just waiting for confirmation. Followed by Nucci's toward the end of the month.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Lisa: **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

RCIA is continuing to grow. There were 10 adults preparing for the sacraments of initiation for this Easter. There is already a group of 11 that are starting the process for next year. There are a couple of open positions. Holy Thursday dinners has now been replaced by family dinners at the end of June, around the feast day of St. Thomas More. We are in need of a chair person.

Support for the Syrian family was an overwhelming response. Lisa met with Catholic Charities and because of the overwhelming response by St. Thomas More, we will be able to use some extra items to help out several other families. We were the only church in the diocese to support a family. Catholic Charities really needs help with donations for the refugee families. As a reestablishment site, there is a certain list of items that they must provide. Due to the lack of donations from the community, they have no supplies. They are having to use the Federal grant money, which should go to the family, just to meet the minimum requirements. In addition, the grant money is only supplied for 3 months, and then the family is expected to be on their own. Fr. Mike suggested to publish an article in the Southern Cross, working with Catholic Charities, to bring awareness to the challenges they are facing with trying to service refugee families. We should cite St. Thomas More as an example of what can be done. Brother Benno's is going to partner with us to see how they can help. Catholic Charities was not aware of Brother Benno's. We are going to be able to support our Syrian family for an entire year. We are also providing job leads and helping them to learn English. Four people donated the entire contents of their home to show their support.

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

The challenge that we are having is our parish reserves are being tapped on a regular basis and we also had a building fund that we could temporarily rely on to get us through some lean weeks, like a bridge loan. The building fund would be reimbursed when other income came in for the operations budget and which would be repaid to the building fund. But the building fund is now depleted. This has tightened the spending a bit, but we should be okay.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

CLOSING COMMENTS: None.

CLOSING PRAYER: Glory Be

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00 pm