

CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE
FINANCE COUNCIL MINUTES

August 22, 2007

Members Present: Father Mike Ratajczak, Paul Ibbetson, Don Eppich, Janice Treat, Jim McGlone, Charles Salter, Wilma Rolland, Ron Briseno (Development Council), Natalie Provinse (Bookkeeper), Chris Smith (Stewardship and Development)

Members Absent: Genevieve Green, Doug D'Agrosa (Pastoral Council)

Opening Prayer: The meeting was called to order with an opening prayer by Paul Ibbetson at 7:00 pm.

Opening remarks: Chris Smith spoke about the upcoming "Stewardship Awareness Month" in October. It will begin with the "Stewardship Appreciation Dinner" on Friday October 12. Father Mike will address stewardship awareness in his homilies the weekend of October 13/14.

The lay witness talks will be given the weekend of October 20/21 followed by the Ministry Fair on October 27/28.

Chris Smith will speak at all the Masses at announcement time with a "Did You Know" type format regarding stewardship.

Representatives from the Pastoral, Finance, and Development Councils will be present at all Masses on the plaza to answer questions and accept new stewardship forms from parishioners.

Sign-ups for representatives from our council will take place at our next meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the June 27th meeting were presented and reviewed. One correction was made. The first paragraph under New Business should read "The budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008 is being prepared. A preliminary copy will be presented at our next meeting in late August. The year-end financial report for 2006-2007 must be submitted to the Diocese by August 10th".

A motion was made by Paul Ibbetson and seconded by Don Eppich to accept them as presented with this correction and approved by all present.

Review of Financial Statement: Don Eppich presented a financial report for July 2007. Our income is down 11.65% compared to this month last year. Part of this is a slight decrease in collections income and a large part is that we have not yet received any "Annual Catholic Appeal" rebates from the Diocese compared to last year. Expenses are up \$11,000 compared to this month last year. These are mostly due to Faith Formation expenses, supplies taken at the beginning of the fiscal year and timing of the reading of the water meters resulting in two bills being paid in the month of July.

Spreadsheets were presented representing month to month income comparisons for this year to last, a review of the reserve account and a summary of the account Saint Thomas More uses for bill paying etc.

It was noted that we need a projected schedule of collections for the Capital Campaign for our budget. The three year pledges for the present campaign will finish at the end of 2007, and we will need to approach these parishioners and ask them to renew their pledges for another three years.

Old business: Joe Garcia is obtaining estimates from landscapers for clearing the area on the five acre parcel where the fence will be installed, and is also securing estimates for construction of the fence. There were no replies from the letters sent to the property owners whose land is adjacent to the parcel informing them of our plans to build a fence on the three sides not adjacent to ours.

Parish lay leadership representatives will go to the Diocese with Father Mike in December to present a review of our progress in regard to our Capital Campaign and the build-out of our parish campus.

Father Mike spoke about the insert in the bulletin this past weekend regarding the Dioceses Chapter 11 bankruptcy. We must continue business as usual and *Keep the Faith*.

There was a question regarding the decision the council made at the February-2007 meeting to keep the home donated to the Church of Saint Thomas More by a deceased parishioner as the rectory.

The issue was regarding whether we should keep the property permanently as the rectory or would it better serve us if we keep our options open.

Sometime in the future, we may want to sell the property in order to increase the amount of money we have on deposit with the Diocese, and this may help us to begin to build sooner.

After much discussion and confirmation that the donor did not specify how the property should be used, the decision was made to keep the property as the rectory, but keep our options open for the future.

New Business: A copy of the purposed budget for the 2007-2008 year was presented and reviewed. After a discussion regarding the changes made for the upcoming year a motion was made by Charles Salter, seconded by Don Eppich and approved by all present to accept the purposed budget as presented.

Building and Maintenance: The painting of the interior of the building is complete. The work was well done with a minimum of interruptions for the staff and activities taking place.

The gopher eradication is still in progress. It seems to be much better; however Paul and Joe are going the walk the property this month to check on the outcome.

Joe Garcia is obtaining bids for hydro-washing all or part of the exterior of the building. This will be coordinated with the regular washing of the windows which is done twice a year.

A discussion ensued regarding vandalism and damage done to the property by skateboarders. It was decided to ask Joe Garcia to check with the Oceanside Police Department regarding their patrol and placing "No Skateboarding" signs on the property.

Jin McGlone is still working on the inventory for planning and replacement purposes.

Personnel Report: Genevieve Green is working on the job descriptions of the staff, and this task is nearing completion

Update from Pastoral Council: There was nothing new under this category.

Update from Development Council: Our Annual Catholic Appeal assessment was \$30,000. We are currently \$18,000 over this which means this money plus all that is pledged and collected until the end of 2007 will be returned to our parish for the operating budget.

The new parishioner reception was very successful with 40 new members present. The next one is scheduled for February 17, 2008.

Car donations for the building fund have yielded \$8,000.

Brian Leahey is looking into erecting poles and flags around the boundaries of our new Church so we can better visualize where it will be constructed. They also are considering an art rendering of the preliminary design of the building.

Request for Press Releases: There was nothing under this category.

Comments from the Pastor: Father Mike asked that we begin work on the 2006-2007 financial report with a goal to finish by November. Janice Treat and Don Eppich will begin work on this project.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Don Eppich at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilma Rolland

