

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS MORE
Interior Design Team Meeting
January 8, 2013

Present: Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor; Kathy Arciero, Charlene Buhlert, Diana Diaz, Mario Diaz, Ann Eriksson, Pat Goscienski, Phil Goscienski, Robert Habiger, Brian Leahey, Douglas Lynn, , Kathleen Quinn, Chris Smith

Absent, Excused: Mary Castle, Lorraine Doering, Sondra Parks

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:00 PM.

- **Review of Plans for Parish Town Hall Meeting on January 25**

The Agenda

A two hour meeting is planned beginning at 6:30 PM. Our architect Renzo Zechetto with Rob Rombold will give a virtual tour of the church with a Power Point presentation. Brian Leahey, Director of Construction will give an update on site developments. Our Interior Design Consultant Robert Habiger will give a Power Point presentation on the interior elements of the church.

The designer of the crucifix, Lynn Kircher will give the artist's perspective of the crucifix and the process. Small versions of the crucifix will be available for preview and pre-order. Delivery will take place in June.

Phil and Pat Goscienski, Interior Design Team co-chairpersons will speak about the artist's background. Father Mike Ratajczak will speak about the miniature crucifixes and the ordering procedures. Chris Smith will tell us about available memorial items and the way to adopt one or more of them.

We will present illustrations of the stained glass windows being designed and made by Elizabeth Devereaux.

Members of the Interior Design Team will attend the meeting and be identified as such.

- **Presentation from Brian Leahey, Construction Manager**

Brian Leahey answered questions about the planning process and where we are in relation to the City of Oceanside. As of now we have not been required to fund and plan extra improvements such as another traffic lane or signal. The CUP (Conditional Use Permit) was approved some time ago. He is working on the tasks of coordinating utilities (gas, electric, water), underground plumbing, acoustics and sound systems, and plans

for future pipe organ. In addition he is watching and coordinating plans for landscaping. The designs call for up lights which will be expensive. Wiring for future up lights can be planned and installed now, resulting in cost savings. For an anticipated solar system, “roughing in” space is being made available. Brian gave several examples of how we are saving money with smart planning, spending our money wisely.

- **Presentation from Robert Habiger, Interior Design Consultant**

The Baptismal Font

In past meetings we discussed the design of the “swivel” lid for the pool portion of the font. There is concern about the mechanism that moves the lid. In a new concept, the lid would be completely removable and set on nylon casters. The casters would be let down from inside the lid using a small tool. For the Easter Vigil, the lid would be moved to a nearby storage place. Total immersion baptisms will take place in the pool. This bronze lid will weigh about 200 pounds. The floor surrounding the pool will rise gradually around the perimeter of the pool to no more than a few inches.

The artist Stephen Hirt will design the lid with an “earthy” texture and abstract symbols that incorporates travertine marble like the surrounding floor. A mosaic pattern depicting a dove made of glass and stone will be on the floor of the pool. We were shown a photograph of a similar design in a font that Stephen Hirt made.

Robert Habiger plans to have illustrations of the proposed font ready for the January 25 Parish Town Hall meeting. He told us he had reviewed the 2011 Liturgical Program book (page 32) and this design is in compliance with the original intention.

- **The Paschal Candle**

The Ambo design could have a space to hold the Paschal Candle. After discussion it was decided that we would have a movable Paschal Candle Stand which will provide greater flexibility in movement of the candle, in terms of its placement in the altar area during the Easter season and in the Daily Mass Chapel for funerals.

The Ambo

In past discussions we decided that we need to accommodate readers in wheel chairs. The solution is similar to the design at Our Lady of Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles. Robert Habiger suggests we use a pneumatic riser rather than an electric element. We asked if a mechanical “crank” mechanism would work as well. He will research that suggestion. We were reminded of the ADA requirements to accommodate handicapped members of the parish in every ministry.

The Book of the Gospels will be displayed on the front of the Ambo.

There was a discussion about the possibility of adding some decorative element to the Book of the Gospels bronze holder that would be installed on the front of the Ambo. There had been discussion that there would be a “Four Evangelists” intaglio on the Reader side of the Ambo. Robert Habiger said that he would add this to his list of things to discuss with Stephen Hirt.

- **The Shrine of St. Thomas More**

John Nava, the designer of the tapestry/tapestries for the shrine of St. Thomas More has been invited to be with us at our meeting in March. We do not know at this time what he has in mind for the design. We would like the theme of “Man for All Seasons” to be included. Perhaps the design would be in four tapestries or in one large depiction. We suggested that John Nava could do his own research on the life of St. Thomas More before presenting his ideas to us. The Prayer of Dedication has themes that will be helpful.

We learned there is a video available that depicts how John Nava created the tapestries for the cathedral in Los Angeles. The cathedral website has a link to illustrations. We have a copy of the video tape in our office.

John Nava is in touch with Renzo regarding space available for the shrine. The question of candles in the space can be discussed with him as he may not wish to have flames nearby. We discussed the possibility of having quotations from the works of St. Thomas More inlaid in the floor of the shrine.

We will share our ideas with him about our thematic ideas for the shrine at the next meeting on March 12.

- **Update on Altar**

Robert Habiger told us that Stephen Hirt is working on the new altar. It must be installed before the building is complete.

- **Future Meetings**

There will be no meeting of the Interior Design Team in February. A meeting will be held on March 12

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Quinn