

CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS MORE
INTERIOR DESIGN TEAM

Minutes of the Meeting of February 5, 2008

Attending: Father Mike Ratajczak, Dr. Phil Goscienski, Pat Goscienski, Douglas Lynn, Charlene Buhlert, Lorraine Doering, Bob Wong, Mary Castle, Chris Smith, Ann Erickson, Diana Diaz, Kathy Quinn

Absent: Mario Diaz, Sondra Parks, Amy Martinez

We welcomed a new member of the team, Mary Castle.

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM with the reading of the Prayer of Dedication. The minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2007 were read and approved as submitted.

Dr. Phil Goscienski commended the committee members for their dedication and the work that has been done so far.

He told us that four architects are scheduled to be interviewed by the New Construction Committee. Father Mike, Dr. Phil, and Pat Goscienski are members of that committee. All these architects were recommended by the Diocese. Phil mentioned the name of Bennett Lord, noting that he declined our invitation to be a liturgical consultant two years ago. His firm is not one of those being considered at the present time for the architect position. It is up to the NCC to issue an invitation if they so choose.

There are eight people on the New Construction Committee who have the task of interviewing and choosing the architect. We are fortunate to have knowledgeable, experienced parishioners on the committee; e.g., one person has a Master's Degree in Acoustics.

Our team has several sub-committees. Members have expressed their preferences as follows:

Altar/Ambo: Amy Martinez, Mario Diaz

Flooring/Seating: Douglas Lynn, Diana Diaz, Chris Smith

Blessed Sacrament/Daily Chapel: Charlene Buhlert, Kathy Quinn

Artwork: Mary Castle, Kathy Quinn

Acoustics/Sound/Choir/Music: Douglas Lynn

Baptismal Font: Amy Martinez, Diana Diaz, Mario Diaz

In discussion it was noted that Flooring/Seating are integral to Acoustics/Sound/Music/Choir as liturgical movement must be taken into consideration. As stated in the agenda, the input from these team members will complement the resources of the architect and the liturgical consultant. All team members will have input throughout the process.

We discussed the planned visit to the new St. Margaret Church in Oceanside on February 19 at 10:00 AM. Members will meet at St. Thomas More at 9:30 to carpool.

We discussed how best to keep the parish informed of our work and progress utilizing the website. We do not know how many “hits” our website receives. We talked about our “Our Journey into the Future...Together” and how the new church planning fits this concept. The organization of the page relevant to the building program has not yet been decided. In addition, we will have notices in the bulletin telling of our progress.

Chris Smith mentioned that the parish newsletter will be in the mail this week. It will inform the parishioners of where we stand now with regard to building the new church.

Bob Wong questioned whether we will have enough money to build the church. Father Mike brought us up to date. Presently, we have Diocesan permission to hire the architect, the liturgical consultant, to draw up the construction documents, and obtain all the necessary permits. Money that we presently have on deposit will pay these costs. This process should take from 18-24 months. After this is done, we will then obtain our loan from the Parish and School Deposit and Loan Trust (PSDL Trust) to begin actual construction. Before we can build, we must have one-third of the cost of the project on hand. So it is very important that parishioners continue to renew their pledges and replenish the capital campaign account so that we will be able to secure our loan.

Following the recommendation of the architect Renzo Zecchetto, we will include the “shell” of the daily chapel in the new construction even if we do not have sufficient funds to complete it. This is necessary to protect the integrity of the building.

We talked about having a lower level devoted to storage, perhaps even the entire “footprint” of the building as extra space for classrooms.

We discussed Marilyn Morgan's proposal to have scheduled meetings with parishioners as the planning of the church goes forward but our current plans do not include such meetings. The architect and consultant will present plans and ideas to the IDT and the NCC who will keep the parish updated via the web site, the bulletin and the semi-annual newsletter. It is important that we keep people informed.

Mary Castle asked if we plan to have a “quiet room” or space for parents with children. We talked about good and bad designs we have seen in various churches we visited. No decision has been made regarding that matter. It will be discussed as we move forward with the interior design and construction.

We had a discussion about the four liturgical consultants we interviewed. It appears that Robert Habiger is the most qualified, having received favorable ratings from all members of the IDT who submitted one as well as favorable recommendations from all three referral clients. This led to a discussion of details as to how the consultant would

work with the architect and with us. The IDT will make the final judgments regarding design features.

We voted to notify Robert Habiger that we wish to engage him as our liturgical consultant. The other three interviewed liturgical consultants will be notified of our choice. In case Robert Habiger cannot accommodate us, we will begin a new round of interviews of liturgical consultants.

Robert Habiger's firm is located in New Mexico and he makes frequent trips to our area. We will ask if he is available to meet with our committee the next time he is in town. We could schedule our regular meeting at that time. In any event, we will plan to meet on March 4 unless the meeting with Habiger is scheduled for another time.

Father Mike suggested we look at the renovation of St. Vincent Church in Mission Hills that Renzo Zecchetto designed and implemented. We can plan a field trip. In the meantime, we should look at his website: www.zecchetto.com.

Douglas asked if he could see the proposals from the architects that will be interviewed by the NCC. Father Mike will make his copies available.

The meeting closed at 9:00 PM with prayer led by Father Mike.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Quinn

02/13/08