

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS MORE  
Interior Design Team Minutes  
Minutes of the Meeting of June 10, 2008<sup>1</sup>

Present: Father Mike Ratajczak, Charlene Buhlert, Mary Castle, Diana Diaz, Ann Ericksson, Pat Goscienski, Phil Goscienski, Douglas Lynn, Sondra Parks, Kathy Quinn, Chris Smith

Excused: Mario Diaz, Lorraine Doering

Resigned: Amy Martinez

The meeting opened with the Prayer of Dedication at 7:05 PM.

Minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2008 had been distributed earlier. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

In opening remarks, Phil Goscienski told us that Amy Martinez has resigned from the team. The team now has thirteen members.

Father Mike reported on the meeting the Architect Sub-Committee of the New Construction Committee had with Renzo Zecchetto and Steve Lesko on May 29. In the three hour meeting they discussed what we would like to have and what we can afford. We will not have the basement storage/meeting area that we had hoped for as the cost would be three million dollars.

Father Mike said that four scenarios were created. These will be discussed at the next meeting on Thursday, July 10

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1. Using the best materials with a 1,200 seat sanctuary
2. Using less expensive materials (inside and outside) with 1,200 seats
3. Using the best materials with a smaller sanctuary, seating 1,000-1,100
4. A sanctuary seating 1,000-1,100 with less expensive materials

It was emphasized that we must build at least the exterior elements of the Daily Mass Chapel. Items that can be postponed as money is available were discussed. As we know, costs of everything are going up and our budget of \$8.5 million will not be enough. A matter of great concern is the present operating budget which must be maintained. More will be known as we approach the end of the fiscal year, June 30. Father Mike mentioned that all parishioners are affected by the present economy which in turn is affecting our offertory income.

Father Mike told us that he has been assured by both Robert Habiger and Renzo Zecchetto that they will stay with us through this long process. We can assume that it will be at least 18 to 24 months before we can begin construction.

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes June 10 08\_final version 2.doc

Douglas Lynn expressed concerns that decisions regarding acoustics might be made before his sub-committee has presented his recommendations. He was assured that no decisions have been made.

Phil and Pat Goscienski act as liaison between the New Construction Committee and the Interior Design Team. Phil Goscienski told us the New Construction Committee will make price range recommendations. The top of the line sanctuary we want could cost as much as our entire Capital Campaign goal. He discussed the fear of inflation or the prospect of recession and its effect on our plans. Still he remains optimistic.

Reports from the sub-committees were submitted as follows:

#### Liturgical Furniture: Altar, Ambo, Celebrant Chair, Baptismal Font

A detailed, illustrated report was given to each team member. A reading of the report and discussion followed. Comments included the addition in Item 6 of the wording describing the altar as “the altar is the table.” Further discussion of the altar was the matter of Eucharistic Ministers who wish to assist in the preparation of the cups. Many cannot reach high enough to pour the wine. Perhaps a step that can be pulled out can be incorporated into the base of the altar. Also, to accommodate readers, it may be possible to have the ambo raised and lowered electronically.

*Questions that arose in the discussion to be presented to Robert Habiger:*

Q. Can a section of the baptismal font be left unfilled? The area that is reserved for total immersion adult baptism can be a source of danger for young children. Can the font be designed in such a way that the font is filled with water only at Easter for adult baptism?

Q. Can the altar be modified to accommodate Eucharistic ministers?

Q. Is it preferable to have the baptismal font raised or at floor level?

#### Art, Seating and Finishes

A detailed report was given to each team member. Comments included the addition of the cantor stand to items used in music. Also sacred art was mentioned as being made with human hands, not manufactured. In addition to painting, sculpture and stained glass that are the “work of hands”, we will consider tapestries which are machine made.

Options regarding a shrine to St. Thomas More were discussed. No recommendation was made by the sub-committee. We discussed the use of votive candles.

*Question for Robert Habiger:*

Q. How may we use votive candles at shrines dedicated to saints? Does the fire code allow candles to be left unattended?

In a general discussion of the altar crucifix, Father Mike asked us to consider one that incorporates the two thieves who were crucified with Christ. In addition he suggested that the ambry for the holy oils and the baptismal font be designed to harmonize with one another.

### Acoustics

A detailed report prepared by two members of the New Construction Committee as well as two members of the Interior Design Team was given to each team member. Utilization of a professional acoustical engineer was highly recommended. The inclusion of space and support for a future pipe organ was recommended.

*Questions to be presented to Robert Habiger:*

Q. What is the estimated cost of planning for the pipe organ now compared to having it installed at a later date? Douglas Lynn indicated that he has access to figures for the incremental cost of retrofitting a church space for a pipe organ.

Q. Is the CUP affected by the presence of a pipe organ? It was the feeling of the committee that the CUP could not be affected by the presence of a pipe organ. But it would be good to confirm this feeling.

### Music and Choir

A detailed report was given to each team member. This report included comments from musicians Sally Fay, Alba Garcia and Joleen Schanzenbach as well as Douglas Lynn.

### Daily Mass/Blessed Sacrament Chapel

A detailed report was given to each team member. A discussion followed regarding the placement of the tabernacle. It must be visible to all in the congregation even as it is separated from the sanctuary by a wall (glass??). In addition it must be directly accessible to the altar. Included in the report was a list of items for a "Dream Chapel" – everything the sub-committee could wish for.

At the conclusion of the discussions of the various reports, Phil Goscienski asked to have updated reports to him by June 18 for submission to Robert Habiger by his deadline of June 20.

We were reminded of the meeting with Robert Habiger scheduled for Saturday, June 28 from noon to 4:00 PM at St. Thomas More. We will meet for lunch at 11:30 before the meeting begins.

Comments from team members as the meeting ended included those from Douglas Lynn who expressed confidence in our abilities and said this process was energizing. Diana Diaz was pleased by our enthusiasm. Chris Smith expressed optimism as we look to the future. Sondra Parks said she was surprised by how much study was involved in the process as we learn together. Pat Goscienski said it was obvious we all did our homework and we had fun together. We are all on the "same page".

The meeting concluded with prayer led by Father Mike at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathleen Quinn*