

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
February 27, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer: Suzie Irwin

2. Roll Call

Those on the Parish Council in attendance were:

Name:	Role
Rev. Michael Ratajczak	Pastor
Doug D'Agrosa	Pastoral Council Chair
Paul Ibbetson	Finance Chair
Liz Gritt	Secretary
Suzie Irwin	Social Ministries Chair
Bill Ipsen	Development Council Liaison
Sharon Hamill & Rory Griffin	Evangelization & Faith Formation Chair
Kalei/Paul Mendiola	Marriage and Family Life Chair

Those not in attendance were:

Name:	Role
Linda Brault	Pastoral Council Past Chair
vacant	Parish Organizations & Events Chair
vacant	Liturgy Committee Chair

3. Agenda Review

4. Old Business

- The new approach for the Welcome Ministry has been implemented. When new parishioners are interested in THE parish, they fill out a card to alert the parish. They are then contacted, matched with a couple from the Welcoming Ministry, and they meet together in a neutral area to go over parish life and expectations. We are currently covering the following ESL families: Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese. Interviews are going well, with just a little resistance from families who don't expect the level of care and involvement. TBD which council will eventually own this new ministry.
- New construction is coming along. On March 6 a meeting will be held for Parish leadership to review the present design of the Church. Renzo Zecchetto, the architect and designer for our building, will be attending and sharing with us his suggested design for our church. Nothing is set in concrete as far as the design goes at this point.

6. New Business

- A Diocesan Pastoral Priorities pamphlet has been passed out by Bishop Brom for 2006-2010. Each Parish is to become familiar with these Diocesan priorities and implement on the parochial level in the next four years.
- The Parish Retreat is March 18th-22nd. All other parish activities will be put on hold during the Retreat. Council members and their families are asked to act as greeters. The Dominican preaching team from St. Thomas More Center in Wisconsin will be leading the sessions. Youth are to be involved as this is a family retreat. Dinner will be served each night and child care will be available. A Reconciliation service will be on Tuesday, and on Thursday there will be the Celebration of the Eucharist with the Anointing of the Sick. Morning and evening sessions will be available each day.

7. Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

Adult Faith Formation is going very well.
 Liturgy of the Word needs extra volunteers.
 MNM is going very well.
 Middle School retreat is happening in May.
 Steubenville is coming in July.
 This is Sharon's last official meeting as Chair.
 Thank you Sharon for your faithful service to the committee!
 Welcome to Rory Griffin who will be taking Sharon's place.

Marriage and Family Life

Prayer cards for the Feast of the Holy Family went very well as did the candy for Epiphany.
 Parents and tots are doing well.
 This is a very good introduction area for the Welcoming Ministry to draw from for families with young children.

Social Ministries

There is a blood drive in May.
 Project Linus will be gaining support with a raffle item.
 Christmas Angels went very well.
 Carmen Tamayo needs volunteers for Michaelle's House. Fr. Ken is sorely missed in his role there.
 Pro-Life meeting on March 10th.
 Br. Benno's food collection is coming soon.
 Visually Impaired support group is meeting February 28th.
 On March 4th there will be a potluck and presentation from the people who went to New Orleans to help rebuild.

Finance Council

Welcome to Paul Ibbetson as the new Chair of Finance. Everything is on track and going as expected.

Development Council

Parish Information Table will be staffed with greeters from all 3 councils; orientation for that will be on February 28th.

The tuition at St. Francis has been raised for non-parishioners. St. Thomas More has approximately 20 families there. We are encouraging the STM families who have children at St. Francis to remain at STM. Fr. Mike is talking with these families if there is a concern about the rate of tuition there and their financial commitments to STM.

Scrip has turned in their 5th \$5,000 check towards the \$100,000 commitment for the new church.

Annual Catholic Appeal is starting soon. The Diocese has raised our assessment this year due to our excellent efforts in the past. Our assessment this year is \$30,000.

8. Emerging Issues

- The dress code issue is quiet at this time.

9. Clergy Comments

- Fr. Ken's vigil and funeral Mass were very well prepared and celebrated. He will be missed for all he did and all he was.
- Fr. Thomas Thompson is going to be helping out at weekend Masses. He's the Chaplain at Scripps Green Memorial Hospital, Scripps La Jolla Hospital, and Scripps Thornton Hospital.
- The Diocese is going to file Chapter 11 & reorganization. There are 150 unresolved cases of sexual abuse by priests that primarily date back to the 50's and 60's. There were a few priests, most of them now deceased, that had multiple counts against them. The Average amount of each settlement has been \$1.1 million in California. The outcome of that has been that the first people who have judgments get the bulk of the money with little or nothing left for later judgments. No common ground was found during global mediation. In order to give equitable settlements to all victims and to preserve the mission of the Church the choice was made to file Chapter 11.
- The Bishop believes that this will create a fair settlement for all who have cases against the Diocese, and still allow the Mission of the Church to continue.

10. Closing Prayer: Suzie Irwin

Meeting Closed at 8:29 p.m.