

Church of St. Thomas More  
**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Date: November 27, 2007**

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**1. Opening Prayer**

Doug D'Agrosa led the opening prayer.

**2. Roll Call**

Those on the Parish Council in attendance were

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Rev. Michael Ratajczak	Pastor
Doug D'Agrosa	Pastoral Council Chair
Paul Ibbetson	Finance Chair
Cathy Zych	Secretary
Suzie Irwin	Social Ministries Chair
Rory Griffin	Faith Formation & Evangelization Chair
<b>Those not in Attendance were</b>	
Ron Briseno	Development Council Chair
Kalei/Paul Mendiola	Marriage and Family Life Chair
POSITION OPEN	Parish Organizations & Events Chair
<b>Guests</b>	
Mary Williams	Centering Prayer
Douglas Lynn	Role of Cantors in the Liturgy

**3. Agenda Review**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the August meeting were approved in content, as Father Mike wanted additional time to review language. Minutes will then be submitted for posting to the website.

**5. Old Business**

There were no issues to discuss.

**6. New Business**

Centering Prayer: Mary Williams, a parishioner is involved with Contemplative Outreach of North San Diego, an organization that

promotes Centering Prayer. Contemplative Prayer through a use of a centering prayer tries to deepen our relationship with God and makes us more available to God's presence in our lives. This is a renewal of an ancient Christian prayer form.

The program could be introduced to STM by the coordinators of Contemplative Outreach of North San Diego to gauge interest in establishing this program at our parish. The details of a possible meeting times and agendas were briefly discussed.

Role of Cantors in the Liturgy: Douglas Lynn reported on the recommendation of the liturgy committee regarding a proposal to change from volunteer to professional cantors at masses and other events such as weddings and funerals. Cantors play an important role in our liturgy here at STM. Currently, we have fewer than six cantors available. Douglas reviewed the different responsibilities that cantors have during mass such as psalmist, song leader and as the first voice the congregation hears at the beginning of the liturgy. He discussed that volunteers may not always be available to perform these important and at times challenging roles with a variety of music to meet our diverse needs. Professional cantors would perform the cantor role and have additional duties such as choir section leaders and they would work with others in small choral groups to provide contemplation and praise music during the liturgy. Recommendation is to move this forward to the Finance Council, with the suggestion that consideration be given when financial resources become available. At this time, it was suggested that four cantors would be needed.

## **7. Committee Updates**

### **Social Ministries**

Christmas Angels: December 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for donations.

Sister Parish: There are 43 people planning to go to New Orleans in February to help work in rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina. A two-week rebuilding effort will be happening this year. Money is available to support a college-age person to go with our group. Sister Maureen has the details, if anyone is interested.

Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice: Our parish will be represented at the Annual Breakfast. They are working on healthcare reform and contract support for UCSD employees.

Brother Benno's: 80 pies were delivered for Thanksgiving dinner.

## **Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee**

Adult Religious Education Committee: Fr. Mike's Bookies will meet in January. The book to be discussed is *Christ the Lord, Out of Egypt*. The Men's Prayer Breakfast was well attended.

Middle School Youth Ministry: The Halloween event was a great success with many children attending from outside our parish. They are working on a service project to provide backpacks to students.

High School and Young Adult Women Ministries: Second Tuesday Adoration is now Second Wednesday of the Month Adoration. This will help accommodate practice for Monday Night Mass which is held on Tuesday evenings. The service project is a Huggy Buddy Drive that collects new stuffed animals for children.

Sacramental Preparation: 30 young parishioners will participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Finance Council**

A note went out in the bulletin stating the operating budget is behind in total income for what was budgeted. The finance council is keeping a close watch on the ratio of income to expenses each month. Parishioner contributions regularly fluctuate so the council is keeping a close watch on the budget. One concern for next year's budget is that maintenance costs will continue to increase as our parish center ages.

## **Developmental Council**

## **Marriage and Family Life**

## **PO&E**

## **Liturgy Committee**

## **8. Upcoming Events for PR Release**

Contact Anne Marshall if needed.

## **9. Emerging Issues**

Bishop Robert Brom will visit STM on December 10<sup>th</sup>. His presentation, "Dialogue on Sexual Abuse and Other Related Matters" is meant to help us better understand all that has occurred in the last several years in regard to seeking equitable ways to resolve the litigation that the Diocese faced. The meeting will be 2 hours in length, consisting of a presentation by the Bishop, and then followed by a question and answer session.

Parish leadership will meet in preparation of our visit to the Diocesan Construction Services Committee on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting is to assess our readiness to continue the build-out of our parish campus. It is hopeful we will be given permission to break ground for our new church next year.

**10. Clergy Comments**

Fr. Mike requests that Pastoral Council members try to attend the Bishop's talk on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**11. Closing Prayer**

Led by Doug D'Agrosa

Our next Pastoral Council Meeting is February 26, 2008. Paul Ibbetson will lead the opening and closing prayer.