

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
Date: February 26, 2008

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

1. Opening Prayer

Paul Ibbetson led the opening prayer.

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
Cathy Zych	Secretary
Ron Briseno	Development Council Chair
Rory Griffin	Faith Formation & Evangelization Chair
Kalei Mendiola	Marriage and Family Life Chair
Those not in Attendance were	
POSITION OPEN	Parish Organizations & Events Chair
Suzie Irwin	Social Ministries Chair
Douglas Lynn	Liturgy

3. Agenda Review

4. Old Business

An informational meeting on Centering Prayer was held and attended by 18 persons. There is enough interest to begin a group.

5. New Business

Communal Penance Service: On this Sunday, March 2nd at 4 o'clock our communal penance service will be held. Please encourage Parishioners to attend. This service should last about an hour.

Update on Parish Build-Out: The architect interview committee has been meeting this month with architect firms, as we are moving forward with our plans to construct our church. To date three firms have met and the fourth and final presentation is this week. The committee will meet and review all the materials before making a decision.

6. Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

RCIA: At STM we have four candidates and catechumens currently in our RCIA process. Since we have a short time before Easter this year, our current group will celebrate the Easter Sacraments in 2009 rather than at the Easter Vigil, 2008.

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children: The students in R.E.A.C.H. are doing Operation Rice Bowl for Lent.

Adult Religious Education Committee:

- Father Mikes Bookies (session 3) *The Life of St. Thomas More* by Peter Ackroyd is scheduled for discussion on April 2nd.
- Over the Edge (session 3)
- Woman's Prayer Breakfast was rescheduled, new date is not available

Middle School Youth Ministry:

- PUSH Middle School Youth Group Retreat is in the final stages of planning.
- Monday Mass Group Bishop Salvatore Cordileone will be celebrating Mass on Monday March 3rd at 7p.m. Retired Bishop Gilbert Chavez will be celebrating Mass on April 7th and Abbott Charles Wright from the Prince of Peace Abbey will be celebrating on May 5th. Monday night Mass has been a success with each month we have averaging over 100 Parishioners attending the evening Mass.

High School and Young Adult Women Ministries:

- Their annual retreat, six35john, in January went well.
- Early registration is underway for Steubenville San Diego; this event will take place on July 25-27.
- University of Arizona Newman Singer/Band mini-retreat will be on May 19th.

Sacramental Preparation

- 29 children are preparing to celebrate First Eucharist on May 31 and June 1st.
- 28 teens will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on May 11th.

Finance Council

No new information to report.

Development Council

- Annual Catholic Appeal assessment is \$34,000.
- Bill Ipsen, Chairperson of our Capital Campaign, spoke at all the Masses in January. He gave a summary of our progress as we move forward in building our church.
- New Membership Luncheon was held for 30 new Parishioners that attended.
- Parish Newsletter, The Tower, was mailed out to Parishioners in January.
- In December, we had a successful month selling scrip.
- At the upcoming STM Golf Tournament, a family activity for non-golfing families is planned this year. It will be a miniature golf tournament at Boomers.
- In the last 11 months, we have been averaging 4 to 5 new households per month registering and joining our Parish; 85% of these have made pledges to the STM Capital Campaign.

Social Ministries

A member of the social ministries team expressed a concern that our Parishioners may have too many requests for donations during the Christmas season. She felt they might be able to be more effective if these requests are spread out through out the year. For example, Birthchoice could be at Mother's Day, and Stand Up for Kids could be in August, as students to get ready for their school year could use the backpacks collected. Team decided to add to the agenda for next time we meet when Social Ministries Chair is present to discuss.

Huggy Buddies: Many stuffed animals were given to senior citizens during the Advent Season.

Project Linus:

At the coffee in January 49 blankets were collected and new members joined the group.

Disability Facilitation: Ann Eriksson will be promoting a Visual Awareness seminar on March 26th.

Brother Benno's: In January, Deacon Tom and Pat Goeltz collected blankets and warm clothing for the poor. On March 1st and 2nd, they are planning a food drive.

Christmas Angels: Many local charities such as North County Solutions for Change, Catholic Charities, Brother Benno's and Casa de Amparo received toys and gift cards. Toys were delivered to Brother Benno's, 150 stockings and gifts were delivered to Catholic Charities. Forty-six families at our Sister Parish were helped.

Sister Parish: Sr. Maureen Brown is in New Orleans now with a contingent of parishioners (24) helping to rebuild ruined homes. More information is available about their trip on STM web page.

Marriage and Family Life

- Holy Cards were given out at the Feast of the Holy Family and they were well received by those attending Mass on this Sunday.
- A group of Parishioners have volunteered to prepare meals for Solutions for Change, a homeless shelter in Vista. Approximately 25 to 40 people are served dinner nightly. Our Parish commitment is dinner for one evening per month. If more people respond, we may increase our support.
- Mother's Day flowers in May and Father's Day cookies in June are planned.
- Eucharistic Adoration for families is at 6:30PM-7:30PM on Exposition Days.

PO&E

Liturgy Committee

7. Upcoming Events for PR Release

Contact Anne Marshall if needed.

8. Emerging Issues

There were no issues to discuss.

9. Clergy Comments

A new "button" is on our website that gives information and progress on our new church.

10. Closing Prayer

Led by Paul Ibbetson

Our next Pastoral Council Meeting is Tuesday, May 27th. Rory Griffin will lead the opening and closing prayer.