

Church of St. Thomas More  
**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Date: May 27, 2008**

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

**1. Opening Prayer**

Rory Griffin 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
Cathy Zych	Secretary
Rory Griffin	Faith Formation & Evangelization Chair
Kalei Mendiola	Marriage and Family Life Chair
<b>Those not in Attendance were</b>	
POSITION OPEN	Parish Organizations & Events Chair
Ron Briseno	Development Council Chair
Suzee Irwin	Social Ministries Chair
Douglas Lynn	Liturgy
Paul Ibbetson	Finance Chair
<b>Guests</b>	
Sondra Parks	Victory Garden
Mark Darcy	Laughter Ministry

**3. Agenda Review**

**4. Old Business**

Social Ministries: Discussion regarding concern for the many requests of donations during the Christmas season tabled until our next meeting in August when Suzie is present to discuss with council.

**5. New Business**

Victory Garden: Sondra Parks shared her idea for the members of the Parish and nearby community to be able to use the land set aside for our school at STM for a Victory Garden. Sondra shared that this idea is popular in other areas of the country and that many people may like to garden but are unable to participate as

they live in condos or apartments. Near STM, we have elderly people and young children who would benefit from the gardening experience. Fruit trees could be planted. Water is available, but many details will have to be worked out. Members of the council suggested that a bulletin announcement run for a couple of weeks to determine parish interest and lead to the possible formation of a committee to study the idea and determine the feasibility of the project at STM.

Laughter Ministry: Mark Darcy shared about how laughter clubs have helped him with chronic pain management and how this therapy has improved his life. He talked about how laughter groups create bonds with others and can give participants stress relief and a more optimistic outlook on life. He participates in and leads laughter clubs and he would like to share this “medicine” of laughter with our parish. The sessions will include breathing and stretching exercises along with various types of laughter actions. Mark suggested the group could meet monthly. Mark could place a bulletin announcement and make an announcement during the masses to promote this ministry.

## **6. Committee Updates**

### **Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee**

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

Liturgy of the Word for Children: We are looking for people to help facilitate during the summer months so LOWC can be at both 8:30 & 10:30 Masses.

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children: Another year of Faith Formation has been completed; 254 children participated

### Adult Religious Education Committee:

- Father Mikes Bookies will continue with staff members leading discussions beginning in the fall; 5 sessions will be held next year
- Parish Lenten Retreat (the week before Palm Sunday) is in the planning stages with Sound Mission Ministries leading the retreat
- The Men’s Prayer Breakfast was well attended with 35 men in attendance; Women’s Prayer Breakfast will be held in October

### Middle School Youth Ministry:

- PUSH Middle School Youth Group Retreat was just completed. The theme of the retreat was Answered Prayers. “The Thirsting” Catholic Rock Band provided the music. Father Tom celebrated Mass in Polish.
- Bishops Cordelione and Chavez and Abbott Charles Wright celebrated Mass during the last three months with the Monday Night Mass Group. Father

Anthony Saroki will celebrate on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Abbott Charles is returning on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

- On May 12<sup>th</sup> the STM Youth Ministry hosted a concert featuring “The Thirsting” Catholic Rock Band. Over a 100 youth attended along with 28 adults.

#### High School and Young Adult Women Ministries:

- Steubenville San Diego will take place on July 25-27 at San Diego State with 60 participants from STM.

#### Sacramental Preparation:

- 29 children are preparing to celebrate First Eucharist on May 31 and June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Bishop Brom confirmed 30 young adults at Mass on May 11<sup>th</sup>

Vacation Bible School: “POWER LABS” is scheduled for July 21-25; children can sign up at present time

#### **Finance Council**

No new information to report.

#### **Development Council**

- At the upcoming STM Golf Tournament, we have about 100 golfers signed up the dinner later that evening is sold out.
- Outdoor banners on Melrose Drive have been displayed showing our Mass times to encourage people to come to STM
- The Capital Campaign is moving along as pledges are being renewed

#### **Social Ministries**

Disability Facilitation: Six people from STM attended a Braille Institute Resource Fair in La Jolla

Brother Benno's: March food drive was very successful with 3 truckloads of non-perishable items donated

Sister Parish: Sr. Maureen Brown organized a potluck dinner for STM parishioners to learn about our efforts to help in New Orleans following Katrina hurricane. This was very successful with 60-70 people attending.

CPR Training: Dr. Phil reports 300 people have been trained so far.

More's Workers: A new group, now to be included under social ministries. Suzee will contact Dick and Charlene Belprez for their activities.

### **Marriage and Family Life**

- Mother's Day flowers went well and volunteers are needed to bake the cookies for Father's Day
- Monthly parishioners prepare dinner for the homeless shelter in Vista. If more people respond, we would like to increase our support. Meals are prepared and served on the fourth Sunday of the month. Council recommended using the Parish email list to solicit volunteers
- Family movie night during the summer is in planning stages.

### **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**

- Lan Parsons put together a market analysis of our parish for her master's degree at CSUSM. She shared her results with Father Mike and he found this business model to be a different and interesting way of looking at information about STM.
- A meeting with Renzo Zecchetto Architects will be on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> to begin discussing the construction of the church.

#### **10. Closing Prayer**

Led by Rory Griffin.

Our next Pastoral Council Meeting is Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Father Mike will lead the opening and closing prayer.