

**Church of St. Thomas More**  
**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Date: August 5, 2009**

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**1. Opening Prayer**

Fr. Mike 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
Marti Harper	Secretary
Rory Griffin	Faith Formation & Evangelization Chair
Paul Ibbetson	Finance Chair
Dick & Charlene Belprez	Social Ministries Chair
Kathy Arciero	Liturgy Committee Liaison
Chris Smith	Director of Stewardship and Development
<b>Those not in Attendance were</b>	
Ron Briseno	Development Council Chair
POSITION OPEN	Parish Organizations & Events Chair
POSITION OPEN	Marriage and Family Life Chair

**3. Agenda Review**

**4. Council Member Updates**

Dick and Charlene Belprez were welcomed as the new chairs for Social Ministries. Congratulations were also extended to them as they celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

Marti Harper is now serving as Secretary.

**5. Old Business**

- Marriage & Family Life:

A wine & cheese social was scheduled for Friday Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> for the young adults (mid 20's-40's). We want to identify the needs of young adults and couples (those without

children or those with children not yet in religious education) and decide what the parish can do for them. Hopefully over time a couple will emerge to lead the group.

- Development:

The Tower Newsletter was mailed out the first week in July. Within three weeks \$720.00 was received in donations. The newsletter has been well received. People were particularly impressed with the bereavement article and ministry as well as Fr. Mike's article.

## **6. New Business**

- Stewardship Awareness: (Nov. 8 – 22):

Chris Smith outlined the use of three weekends for stewardship awareness. Information tables are to be set up on the plaza over two weekends; Nov. 7-8 and Nov. 14-15. The Stewardship Appreciation Reception will be on Sun. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3-6pm. It will be "open house" style reception with wine & cheese, and/or dessert. After discussion among the council, it was decided to identify immediate or short-term needs within each ministry and focus on presenting 2-3 of them per weekend. We won't overwhelm parishioners with all ministries at once, thus avoiding the "ministry fair" rut. Bulletin announcements will alert parishioners as to what areas will be addressed on a particular weekend. Chris and Fr. Mike will be meeting to discuss further and members are encouraged to provide suggestions.

- We are still seeking someone who is licensed/certified in food handling to oversee the kitchen.
- The Golf Chair position is open. We are seeking a highly organized, skilled and computer savvy individual; golf enthusiast definitely helpful.
- One or two more people are needed to launder the altar linens. This involves taking down the linens on Mondays, laundering and returning them for the following weekend.

- Vista Food Resource Center:

Fr. Mike opened the discussion about whether we want to take on another food drive (Thanksgiving Baskets through Catholic Charities) since we have other food drives in progress (i.e. Brother Benno's, PBJ collection, etc.) In addition, the Development Council, will soon begin an ongoing food collection of canned goods. Bins will be available at all Masses, routinely emptied and replaced by North County Food Bank and the goods delivered to a designated organization of our choice. We will continue with those drives already in place. Additional drives will be considered later.

- Pastoral Council Charter:

The Diocese requires that each parish provide a pastoral council charter, finance council charter and parish personnel policies. A temporary pastoral council charter was used to meet the June 30th deadline but now the council needs to review such charter and make any revisions deemed necessary. Rather than form a sub-committee to review and change charter, it will become an action item for the next pastoral council meeting or two. A copy of the charter will be attached to these minutes.

- Capital Campaign:

Fr. Mike met with the Diocese to discuss the financial status of our campaign. Lower construction costs are anticipated for the next couple of years. Therefore, the Diocese wants to help us as much as possible to build in this present economic climate. The Diocese has agreed to allow us to build as soon as we have \$5 million on deposit. This means that we only have \$1.8 million to raise before we can begin to build. The debt service ratio and any amount owing on our present loan will no longer be obstacles preventing us from moving forward. These factors combined should serve as an incentive to fundraising as many parishioners approach their pledge renewal. Any promotional ideas that may encourage parishioner's enthusiasm should be directed to Fr. Mike or Chris as they prepare a new campaign for the upcoming year.

## **7. Committee Updates**

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

- ***RCIA:***

Four new candidates will begin the Rite of Welcome on Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>.

- ***Religious Education for Adolescents and Children:***

VBS (Crocodile Dock) big success – 240 in attendance

- ***Adult Religious Education Committee***

Women's Prayer Breakfast Sat., Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>

Men's Prayer Breakfast Sat., Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>

Retreats: youth Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, adults Jan. 5-7<sup>th</sup>

Parish Mission Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>

Fr. Mike's Bookies: "The Shack" Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>

Re-Discovering Catholicism - 12 wk. course open to all  
YouTube presentations by Fr. Mike & Bret; dates pending  
Special presentations by author, Yaja Boren (survivor of WWII concentration camps); one for youth and one for adults; dates pending

- ***Middle School Youth Ministry***

Summer schedule  
Bowling Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>

- ***High School Youth Ministry***

Monday Night Mass going well / free-will donations appreciated for Stand up for Kids  
Summer pool party  
Miniature golf  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tues adoration continues  
Steubenville San Diego Conference was in July- 60 participants / Photos on STM website  
Fall schedule resumes after Labor Day

- ***Liturgy of the Word for Children***

Summer schedule / still need facilitators year round/ little prep time required

- ***Sacramental Preparation***

Kathleen Bell reports that the evening sessions need more catechists

## **Finance Council**

In the black \$17K for the past year  
Financial report is due in Sept.  
Air conditioning cost \$11K but reserves covered

## **Development Council**

Canned goods drive starting soon  
Restaurant fundraising once/mo pending  
Golf classic netted 54K

Annual Catholic Appeal - \$34K goal; \$43K collected; \$9K for operating fund  
Capital campaign going well/renewal campaign in Jan.  
Membership Reception Oct 18<sup>th</sup>  
Vehicle donations doing very well - \$20K over last 2-3 yrs

## **Social Ministries**

Dick and Charlene Belprez have contacted the head of each ministry to learn about the leaders, purpose, organizational structure and challenges. Forms have been completed for each ministry that include the above information.

Their concerns include:

- There are several one-person ministries - no one to step in should person leave
- Inactive ministries:  
*Bereavement* – no follow-up / Ctr. for Compassionate Care offering sessions  
*Fraternity House* - taking meals once a month to Fraternity & Michelle's House - director asking for help just as we are looking to reactivate
- No CPR recertification - reminders need to be sent out
- Huggy Buddies - not as successful this past year
- Project Linus - more volunteers needed to make blankets
- Pro-Life baby shower in May not good - looking for another date
- North County Solutions for Change - many small groups providing dinners all year; better coordination?
- Knights suggested piggy-backing existing ministries; use liaisons at meetings

## **PO&E**

No report

## **Liturgy Committee**

Kathy Arciero reported that the Art & Environment Team met this past weekend from 9-4pm, planning their liturgical calendar for the year. A banner team is needed to change banners; possibly younger helpers to climb ladders. There are presently six members on the banner team. Recruitment could certainly be included in the stewardship awareness agenda.

Plans and suggestions for enhancing and/or refurbishing the liturgical spaces will be addressed through forms/questionnaires currently being readied for approval by Fr. Mike.



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

Contact Anne Marshall if needed. She will begin publicizing STM events in the North County Times" online "Local Faith and Value" section.

## **9. Emerging Issues**

None identified

## **10. Clergy Comments**

Fr. Mike has completed his duties at St. Francis. Fr. Bud is the new pastor.  
Fr. Pedro Gonzales' mission appeal - 60 Kenya sponsorships @ \$35/mo

## **11. Closing Prayer**

All members participated in The Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Our next Pastoral Council meeting is Wednesday, November 4, 2009. Marti Harper will lead the opening prayer.