

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
Date: February 2, 2011

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was lead by Jen Frost.

2. Roll Call

Those on the Parish Council in attendance were:

Name	Role
Rev. Michael Ratajczak	Pastor
Doug D'Agrosa	Pastoral Council Chair
Marti Harper	Secretary
Rory Griffin	Faith Formation & Evangelization Chair
Lisa Attardo	Parish Organizations & Events Chair
Charlene Belprez	Social Ministries Chair
Kathy Arciero	Liturgy Committee Liaison
Jen Frost	Marriage and Family Life Chair
Those not in Attendance were:	
Ron Briseno	Development Council Chair
Paul Ibbetson	Finance Chair

3. Agenda Review

4. Old Business

The council reviewed the Joint Councils' Meeting held on Dec. 3, 2010. A correction was made to the minutes regarding the \$3 million (not \$5 million) raised during Phase I & II of the Capital Campaign, "Standing on Holy Ground". There has been positive feedback on the meeting from those who attended. The information from the joint meeting plus that from Bill Ipsen's Capital Campaign report in January now provide the details of the diocesan loan to all parishioners.

5. New Business

No new business at this time.

6. Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

- ***Ecumenical & Inter-Religious Affairs***

Children of Abraham – Approximately 200 people attended the interfaith prayer event joining Christians, Jews and Muslims

- ***RCIA:***

There are now three Candidates and three Catechumens
Three members were welcomed into the Inquiry stage this week

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

Special Education – currently servicing three members
All levels are growing in attendance
Operation Rice Bowl scheduled for Lent

- ***Adult Religious Education Committee:***

Parish Mission is April 4-6 with Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy OFM
Rediscovering Catholicism – 12 wk course in progress
Fr. Mike's Bookies will resume discussion on The Future Church after Fr. Mike's medical leave

- ***Middle School Youth Ministry***

EPIC – meets twice a month on Sundays
Attendance is growing
Retreat in June

- ***High School Youth Ministry***

IGNITE – weekly Mon. night meetings
Attendance is growing
Steubenville San Diego, "ROOTED" set for July 29-31

LEAD Young Adult Ministry

Developing a strong youth leadership team to help lead peers and younger teens to Christ
Meets weekly on Tues. night
LEAD Retreat "Restored!" Jan. 21-23 had 30 participants

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

Always looking for more facilitators – the question was raised as to whether young adults (18 yr olds) could be considered as facilitators

- ***Sacramental Preparation***

31 children will celebrate First Eucharist in May (date to be determined)

31 teens are preparing for Confirmation at the 10:30 Mass on Pentecost Sunday, June 12th

Women's Ministry – Beginning this month, meetings will be held the 1st Friday of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 pm on the lower level

Men's Ministry – Meeting the 2nd Friday of the month 7:00-8:30 pm on the lower level

Finance Council

Offertory income is up 4.2%. This significant increase may be due, in part, to a turning economy, the excitement of the new construction and/or to Bill Ipsen's Capital Campaign report touching on the operating costs of the parish.

Development Council

Annual Catholic Appeal - STM's assessment for 2011 is \$48K, up from \$43K last year. The increases, affecting all parishes, are due to the goal for the diocese increasing. The bishop wants to raise \$10 million over the next 5 yrs. for the parishes in the Imperial Valley; for obtaining land and/or new facilities where needed within the valley. Fr. Mike will draft a "did you know" type letter to remind parishioners that our land was given to us free from the diocese and that our first loan from the diocese was interest free, not to mention the exemptions we received in order to obtain the \$5.6 million loan for our new buildings.

New Member Reception – Jan. 23rd – 65 attended the luncheon

Restaurant Fundraiser at CPK Feb. 1st & 2nd (Vista CPK will be closing)

Social Ministries

Brother Beno's – Collected over 100 pies at Thanksgiving (increase over last year)
Food Drive March 12th & 13th

Christmas Angels – Good response to both Christmas and Birth Choice collections
Suggestion was made to promote the Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital Adoption program more this year

Fraternity House – 15 residents received Christmas gifts from STM donors

Just Faith – stable membership of four home groups, completing 17 weeks of 30 week program

Groups will meet Feb 25th for soup supper and talk by Cara McMann on Global Poverty

More's Workers – installed picture-hanger molding in lower hall
Major apartment unit renovation for ICS in Feb
Working on possible painting project at Fraternity House
St. Bonaventure Mission – excellent response to Knights of Columbus clothing drive Jan. 29th & 30th
A retreat for all committee chairs is scheduled for March 19th

PO&E

Golf Classic – Skip Wilson is the new chair
Historian – position open
Knights of Columbus – Breakfast Feb. 6th; Fish Fry on Friday nights during Lent
Senior Ministry – Play at Balboa Park in March; lunch & beer tasting at Stone Brewery in April
Social Activities – Ash Wednesday Soup Dinner; Holy Thursday dinners
Women's Guild – Fashion Show sold out
Widows & Widowers – the group thanked STM for hosting them Jan. 23rd; group meets 2nd & 4th Sundays

Marriage & Family Life

Focusing on making this a year of awareness
Feb. – World Marriage Day – recognize parishioners with flowers
April – photos with the “First Easter Bunny”, coordinating with Fr. Rich Ladowski's “First Easter Bunny” book and video
May - Mother's Day flowers
June - Father's Day cookies
Aug. – Engaged Encounter/Evenings for the Engaged
Sept. – Natural Family Planning

ACCTS – continues to welcome college-aged singles and young couples
Group works with Theology on Tap programs

Marriage Preparation – couples are to see Fr. Mike

Liturgy Committee

Jan. 29th – 100 people attended the Oceanside Deanery Formation Workshop for Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers for the Hospital & Homebound and Lectors at STM. Mary Ann Fallon, former director of the Office for Worship for the diocese of San Diego, gave a lecture on the “Theology of the Mass”. Then she, along with Sr. Madeleine from St. Francis and Kathy Arciero from STM conducted the workshops in the afternoon.
Committee will review surveys from liturgical ministers at meeting on Feb. 12th

Religious Education Congress starts March 17th (Youth Day) in Anaheim followed by weekend events (18th-20th) for anyone interested in their faith, not just religious educators.

7. Clergy Comments

Brian Leahy continues to meticulously oversee the completion of the contract with our architect, Renzo Zecchetto. Plans are also being included for the daily chapel. Ground breaking, hopefully, will be sometime in October.

8. Closing Prayer

All members participated in The Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2011. Rory Griffin will lead the opening prayer.