

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
May 9, 2012

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm

Opening Prayer

Marti Harper led the opening prayer prepared by Kathy Arciero.

Roll Call

Pastoral Council attendance:

Name	Role	P	A
Rev. Michael Ratajczak	Pastor	X	
Doug D'Agrosa	Pastoral Council Chair	X	
Marti Harper	Secretary	X	
Rory Griffin	Faith Formation & Evangelization Chair	X	
Paul Ibbetson	Finance Chair	X	
Dick & Charlene Belprez	Social Ministries Chair		X
Kathy Arciero	Liturgy Committee Liaison		X
Jen Frost	Marriage and Family Life Chair	X	
Patrick & Lisa Attardo	Parish Organizations & Events Chair	X	
Ron Briseno	Development Council Chair		X
Chris Smith	Director of Stewardship & Development	X	

Agenda Review

Old Business

Chris Smith led a discussion on how to increase stewardship for the many ministries at STM since the number of recipients steadily increases thereby, at times, stretching our volunteers thin. Currently, the Welcome Ministry along with the Ministry Booklet supplies important information to incoming and other interested parishioners about all the ministries offered in the parish. New ideas include setting up a quick link on the STM website to direct inquiries to the correct contact person as well as a summary of what the ministry involves, and designing a template for all ministry chairs to use for prospective volunteers to their ministry.

New Business

Forty applications were received for the full time Youth Advocate position. After interviewing 1/3 of those applicants the field has been narrowed to two or three. A decision to hire one of those remaining applicants will be made by July 1st.

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

- **RCIA** – no report
- **Religious Education for Adolescents and Children**

Final church session May 20th

Re-enrollment under way for 2012-2013

VBS coming soon

- **Adult Religious Education Committee**

Little Rock Scripture Study completing session this week; will resume in September

- **Middle School Youth Ministry**

The middle school program has been transformed into the EDGE program on REACH nights

- **High School Youth Ministry**

IGNITE and LEAD groups doing well

Spring Retreat, March 9-11, at Oakbridge Young Life Camp was a big success

Steubenville San Diego is July 27-29; a young adult (ages 18-23) conference has been added to run concurrent with the high school program

- **Liturgy of the Word for Children**

Still looking for more facilitators so LOWC can be offered to both 8:30 and 10:30 Masses

- **Sacramental Preparation**

First Holy Communion: all Masses June 2/3

Confirmation: May 20th

Twenty-one teens and one adult

Retreat will be moved from January to September

- **Women's Ministry**

Prayer Breakfast Sat. May 19th, 8-10:30 am with speaker Tammy Evevard

- **Men's Ministry**

Fellowship every 2nd Friday of the month

Retreat October 12-14th at Camp Cedar Glen in Julian

New program, "That Man is You", to begin in September

PO&E

- **First Annual Gala** – June 1st
- **Historian** - Brandon Oswald has submitted a rough draft for the STM Archives Charter. He is hoping the new church will have room for both storage and viewing of material. He is looking into a “history” link on the STM website.
- **Senior Ministry** – Day of Recollection with Fr. Efrain was successful on March 22nd. A trip to the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in LA with Fr. Mike is planned for May 17th. June is membership month for Spirited Seniors (all those over 50!)
- **Social Activities** – Ash Wednesday soup supper and Holy Thursday dinners went well with approx. 150 people participating. The Parish Campout is June 6-8th. John Fredette’s Ordination dinner is May 26th and a reception May 29th after Mass.
- **Women’s Guild and Deanery** – Game Day in April had 84 participants and netted \$1900. The guest speaker on May 14th will be Lucille Ball’s costume designer. June 9th is the annual installation and presentation of a check to Fr. Mike for the Building Fund.
- **Treasures Flea Market** – The market will be on October 6th. The committee is looking for four more members.

Finance Council

There will probably be a \$10K deficit again at the end of this fiscal year. Increases in the offertory collection, proceeds from the Gala and the “Did You Know” campaign and designated estate money from “Towers of Faith” all help to balance our operations budget and curb deficits as much as possible. The council is working hard to project and prepare for increasing costs with the new church and parish offices. The council sees the need to establish a reserve fund to maintain the bigger campus.

Development Council

No report at this time

Social Ministries – Dick & Charlene Belprez will be stepping down from the Social Ministries chair in August.

- **Bereavement** – Linda Dicus & Mary Trotta had successful 8 week grief seminar series at the Methodist Church during February & March
- **Blood Drive** – May 26th

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- **Brother Benno's Collection** – successful food drive was held on March 10/11
- **Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers** – recently served their 3 millionth meal!
- **CPR** – new CPR instructor, Lance Shaw, has joined the group
- **Culture of Life** – Excellent response to petition signing for two initiatives for November ballot
- **Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice** – Mission statement revised on 2/29/12. ICWJ agreed to support United Domestic Workers while in bargaining negotiations. Participated and demonstrated solidarity with the Justice for Janitor's Contract Campaign on April 5th.
- **Just Faith** – 15 members will complete the 32 week program in May
- **Project Linus** – next coffee scheduled for May 3rd. Approx. 42 blankets donated by STM & Oceana Knitters will be distributed to SD Project Linus. STM has sponsored project for 14 yrs.
- **North County Solutions for Change** -Kevin & Lyn Leahy are the new chairpersons
- **San Diego Organizing Project** – leadership training was held at STM for SDOP leaders from 7 No. County churches in March
- **Social Justice Committee** –online immigration survey went out to all parishioners April28/29. Sr. Maureen attended immigration workshop, **Eucharist without Borders**, in Arizona. Voter registration packets were made available on the plaza. **Get on the Bus** preparations continue with approx.. \$1600 collected toward the cost of buses, drivers, etc. Henri Black has accepted the chair position for the Parish Social Justice Committee, replacing Sr. Maureen, who will remain a member.
- **St. Bonaventure Mission** – Clothing drive scheduled for Nov. 10/11. The Belprez' will tour the mission on May 4th.

Liturgy

- **Liturgical planning:** review of Lent & Easter. Lighting for different liturgies was discussed especially as to how it can be utilized in the new church. Positive comments were received about the new translation of the Roman Missal – note was made about use of larger worship aids that include text
- **Ministry**
- **LMHC** – Brenda Estigoy & Beverly Kowallek are organizing meeting/training potluck on June 30th @ STM
- **Hospitality** – There is a desperate need for recruitment. An extra hospitality member would be helpful on the plaza at each Mass to look for people who may have questions about the parish
- **Altar Linens** – need help to replace member

- **Art & Environment** – efforts being made to clear clutter behind the Sanctuary platform
- **Ministers of the Word** – chairperson needed. Two new readers start in June
- **Liturgy & Music** - Director, Douglas Lynn, will be on sabbatical in early June. Kathy Arciero will coordinate the Liturgy Page in the weekly bulletin

Marriage & Family Life

- **Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers** continue in the weekly bulletin.
- **Monthly highlights**

June - Father's Day cookies	May - Mother's Day flowers
Planning Focus with diocese	July – Natural Family
Evenings for the Engaged/Engaged Encounter	August –

Emerging Issues

A discussion on preparing for the increased number of incoming parishioners will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Clergy Comments

The Interior Design Team is currently hiring artists for the various pieces in the new church. An idea for sharing the team's excitement over these artists' designs is to provide links to their individual websites on the STM website. Also a "Night with the Artists" gathering could be held for parishioners and the general community alike.

Construction of the new buildings will take place sometime this year. The recent Tower Newsletter provided a detailed timeline concerning steps towards construction and of the many actions taken by the design team.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for August 22nd.

Dick and/or Charlene Belprez will lead the opening prayer.