

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
August 22, 2012

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm

Opening Prayer

Charlene Belprez led the opening prayer.

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

New Business

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

- **Adult Religious Education Committee – Wayne Zych**

May 22nd: Human Trafficking - What It Is and What We Can Do - Sisters Jean and Sheila from SDS Hope House

July 3rd: The Search to Believe in China - Rev. Eugene Geinzer, SJ discussed the condition of Christianity in China today.

Fr. Mike's Bookies – Facebook discussions

Little Rock – Planning to resume in September.

- **Religious Education for Adolescents and Children – Kathleen Bell**

VBS – Sky was a huge success! 260 people were ministered to including Crew Members, Crew Leaders & Station Leaders.

Preparing for the new RE.A.CH year.

- **Liturgy of the Word for Children – Cathy Meyer**

LOWC: Everything is good – continually looking for facilitators.

- **Sacramental Preparation – Kathleen Bell**

First Communion: 36 young people received their First Communion the weekend of June 2/3.

Confirmation: 20 teens were Confirmed on May 20th at 10:30 Mass with Bishop Cirilo Flores.

Preparing for the new R.E.A.C.H. year

Marcus Cabrera has begun interviewing the Confirmation candidates.

- **EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry – Rory Griffin**

Summer sessions of EDGE Lite – fun time to gather and enjoy outdoor games and activities.

We are looking into opportunities to have events over the summer.

We will begin the fall session with the REACH program.

- **IGNITE High School Ministry – Marcus Cabrera**

We hired our new youth Advocate!

Weekly Monday Youth group meetings. Attendance is up & growing! Average numbers are well into the 50's with highs in the 70's.

We've gone into our more casual summer schedule with a fire pit out back, faith talks and smores.

Highlight of the summer, as usual, was taking ninety participants (our largest group ever!), to Steubenville

San Diego “THE EIGHTH DAY” at University of San Diego in late July. 80 teens, 10 young adults (new program called 18:23) & 10 adults. We had a strong presence that was felt throughout the conference. The weekend energized, renewed, inspired and transformed all of us. The success of our ministry was seen at the “Altar Call” for those discerning the call to religious life or the priesthood.

Lock-in Sunday night, August 5th followed by Mass on the Beach in Dana Point on Monday, August 8th.

Looking ahead to Fall Confirmation Retreat in September at Kamp Kuper in Fallbrook, CA.

- **LEAD Young Adult Ministry – Marcus Cabrera**

LEAD (Leadership Evangelization and Discipleship) youth team is meeting on Thursdays – we are developing a strong youth leadership team to help lead their peers and younger teens to Christ. Marcus is developing a strong core team

- **Women’s Ministry – Joleen Schanzanbach**

May 19th: Women's Prayer Breakfast “Father’s Love”. Tammy Evevard returned as a special guest speaker.

- **Men’s Ministry – John Fredette**

Men's fellowship continues to meet on the 2nd Friday of each month. Attendance has been consistent ... around 15 men each month

We have scheduled the 2nd annual Men's retreat for October 12, 13 & 14 at Camp Cedar Glen in Julian. We have not selected a theme or a speaker yet.

We are in the initial phase of a new program called "that man is you". We are building a core team of 8 men and promotion will begin in the summer. The actual program will begin in September and we will meet each Saturday morning. This program will not replace the monthly Friday night Men's fellowship.

- **Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs - Regina Aulisio**

Planning the 2012 Children of Abraham event.

- **Evangelization – vacant**

No report.

- **RCIA – Kathleen Bell**

RCIA is keeping a low profile at this time. Inquiry has continued through the summer with one inquirer.

Several potential inquirers have been identified and the team is looking at a new approach in its upcoming meeting

PO&E

Seeking a group to organize a possible “Family Night” or similar social event – potluck, worship music, adoration, etc.

Publicity/Public Relations – Jane Gladden has recently stepped in as chair. She would like to spotlight the different ministries in the fall edition of The Tower

Historian - Brandon Oswald is trying to form a “history group” of 3-5 people to help process old records and other “history” type activities. A new Archives main page for the website has been created and along with a timeline page

has been submitted for review before being placed on website

- **Knights of Columbus**
September & October breakfasts
October - Tootsie Roll Drive
November – St. Bonaventure Clothing Drive
- **Senior Ministry –**
Ice Cream Social planned for Sept. 18th, 6:30-8:30pm. Board resumes meeting the first week of September to plan the 2012-2013 calendar
- **Social Activities Campout**
was a success with 10 families in attendance
- **Walking Ministry –**
Three regular walkers meeting every Tuesday morning 8-9am
- **Women’s Guild and Deanery**
Sept. – Tap dancers
Oct. – local history program, bake sale & quilt sale
Nov. – Bingo
Dec. – study of St. Francis of Assisi & Christmas Raffle
- **Treasures Flea Market –**
The plant sale (50 nurseries!) will start Friday, 3:30-7:00pm at full price only. Storage container is located on back lot for pre sale items. Donation packets will go out this week.

Social Ministries

- **Brother Benno’s Kitchen Servers:**
The Brother Benno’s Kitchen Servers have performed their usual faithful and reliable once a month service and continue to represent the Church of St. Thomas More in the best light possible
At the Center, many have told our group that we are the best group to serve and we feel very much appreciated by them.
We prepared and served a dinner at the North County Solutions for Change shelter in Vista in July. This is the sixth year we have done so.
- **CPR Program:**
The CPR program has been quiet during the summer, except for the bi-monthly tune-ups.

We will kick off the fall program with a CPR-PR weekend on September 8/9 to include a Mass announcement and bulletin flyer. There will be two classes per month in September and October and one in November.

The parish has two new CPR instructors: Tom Colgan and Lance Shaw.

- **Culture of Life:**

The Culture of Life committee has been fairly quiet the past couple of months, but our annual Pennies from Heaven collection to benefit Birth Choice is the weekend of Aug 18-19 at all Masses. Jane Kelleher will be attending an important COL coordinators meeting at the Pastoral Center Aug 23rd where she will receive the annual ProLife packet which she will pass on to Fr Mike. Also Jane will be attending the Kick Off brunch for the Life Walk which takes place Oct 27th at Mission Bay. Each year our parish participates in this event and we will be promoting it later in Sept. Our committee consists of 9 very committed members who are active in the various activities of the Pro Life movement.

- **Disability Facilitation:**

Three to four volunteers continue to transport parishioners to Mass and other community functions.

A Braille Institute workshop may be scheduled at STM in the spring

- **Fraternity House & Michaelle House:**

Diantha has been unsuccessful in setting up a meeting with Fraternity House staff. There is agreement with STM staff that we should sever our ministry relationship with Fraternity House.

- **Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice (ICWJ):**

Committee continued support of contract negotiations for the Janitors. Recent contract agreement gives the Janitors, individual and family healthcare and wage increases over the four- year contract.

ICWJ sent a letter supporting Rite Aid clerks and pharmacists in upcoming contract negotiations
May participate in Sept 22nd march for Sherman Heights Wal-Mart workers
Material will be distributed to area clergy for early September pulpit topics.

- **JustFaith:**

No new JustFaith groups will be formed during 2012-2013.

The focus for 2012-2013 for JustFaith will be two-fold:

Supporting the JustFaith graduates in deepening what they have learned in this initial experience. We will meet approximately every 6 weeks for a meeting that will focus on the principles and teachings of JustFaith.

Encouraging other Parishioners to attend these same meetings on an alternate schedule. Every other meeting will have a focus that also helps parishioners to get "a taste" of Justfaith and perhaps join a new group the following year.

- **More's Workers:**

Renovated a house located at 708 West California St, Vista, CA from 14 to 18 May 2012 for North County Solutions for Change

Over three days, **six** workers repaired cracks and painted the entire interior, including walls, windows, base boards and ceilings. All cracks were either filled or taped and plastered prior to painting. We pried the dried paint from the double hung windows so each window in the bedroom and the living room can open. We replaced the gas valve in the kitchen. The cost of materials for this project was \$192.48. This expense was paid for by a More's Workers \$100 Gift Card and NCSC paid the balance.

Currently there are no planned future projects

Activity for More's Workers continues at a very low demand level. Availability of

skilled volunteers is usually a problem when a project does present itself.

- **North County Solutions for Change:**

Met with the Solutions for Change Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Antonea Peterson, and discussed ways that STM can assist the program. She requested that we continue with the monthly dinners on the 4th Sunday of each Month, and also with the book and clothing donations. Dr. George Jones headed up the Sunday Dinner in July with the help of the Brother Benno's team.

August 26 - Dinner will be covered by the wonderful folks who volunteered in the past, Carol Kope, Patricia Libreros, and Pat Sweet.

September Dinner will be Knights of Columbus.

Books and other donations (primarily clothing and school supplies) are taken to the Los Angeles Street location three times a month.

- **Prayer Request Line:**

There are about 50 people who respond to prayer requests on the prayer line. The number of requests varies, but it has reached 20 in one day.

- **Project Linus:**

Things have been quiet during the summer. Blanket makers are preparing items for the next meeting in late fall.

- **SDOP (San Diego Organizing Project):**

Kevin Malone has returned to the position of Executive Director of SDOP. He has already begun making contact for future planning with the congregations in North County.

We are re-establishing the North County Clergy Caucus and will host a lunch meeting in October at St. Thomas More. The main focus this year will be "Getting out the Vote" in the areas in which our various congregations are located. The emphasis is on understanding that politicians know if their constituents are

voters. If not, they often do not pay attention to the needs of their people, especially the poor.

- **Social Justice Committee:**

Compilation of results of Immigration Survey is in progress. Results to be presented to STM Parish Community Participation in the JustFaith graduate potluck and breakfast to plan events and involvement for this year
Continued commitment and involvement with the Interfaith Committee for Workers Justice and with identified San Diego County justice issues
Continued commitment and involvement with the San Diego Organizing Project and with identified North County issues:
St. Francis and the towing issue
Building a relationship with the San Diego County Sheriff Department in Vista
Speaking at the recent Oceanside City Council meeting supporting the passage of the “Mission Cove” affordable housing project
2012 Civic Engagement Kick-Off Rally - to engage previous infrequent and non-voters in the November election.
Participation in vigils for our beloved sisters

- **St. Bonaventure Mission:**

Dick & Charlene traveled to the St. Bonaventure Mission in New Mexico and met with the Mission director, Chris Halter, on May 4th. We were informed that the Mission can no longer cover a portion of the cost for transporting clothing from Oceanside to New Mexico.
It was decided that the least expensive approach is to rent a round trip truck in California that would be driven by a K of C volunteer.
Frank Thompson has agreed again to donate \$1,000 toward the clothing drive expenses and the Knights will donate up to another \$1,000.

The Mission has been informed that this is likely the last clothing drive that will be conducted by STM Knights.

Liturgy

The Liturgy Committee has decided to end the monthly Eucharistic Exposition after the first Friday of September. Fr. Mike will offer a Pastor's Column explaining the decision. Daily adoration in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will continue Monday-Friday from 7:30 – 7:30pm. The committee is looking for a person who will be responsible for overseeing all preparations for Mass (Mass Captain), assisting the specific ministry leaders.

There continues to be a shortage of liturgical ministers, especially Hospitality Ministers and Eucharistic Ministers.

Altar Flowers – During Ordinary Time, parishioners may donate flowers to celebrate a special occasion, remember a loved one or special intention. Two weeks notice is required for ordering, publishing and for prayers to be written. A donation of \$75.00 includes flowers and delivery.

Marriage & Family Life

General M&FL Events -"Marriage Moments" & "Parenting Pointers" continue to be staples in the weekly bulletin. Bulletin also includes excerpts from Bishops Letter on Marriage.

FEBRUARY: World Marriage Day Complete

MAY: Mother's Day - Complete

JUNE: Father's Day - Complete

JULY: Natural Family Planning Focus - Complete

SEPTEMBER: Retrouvaille Focus

OCTOBER: Marriage Encounter

NOVEMBER: Family Group Focus

ACTTS--Adult Catholics in their Twenties and

Thirties who Socialize - Lorraine using both email blast and Facebook account to pass out North County Young Adult messages to our STM community.

Events include weekly bible study as well as social events with the Young Adults Ministry through the Diocese.

Marriage Preparation - NO CHANGES FROM LAST QUARTER: Varies each quarter (approx. 6-8 weddings per year). Couples are referred to the diocese for prep classes.

Family Services - Focus of September (in bulletin's M&FL section) will highlight Retrouvaille/annulment process.

Marriage Encounter - NO CHANGES FROM LAST QUARTER

Finance Council

Working on the new budget now. Balanced the budget last year. Three Towers of Faith estate donations will help pay the \$30K deficit carried over from three years ago.

Construction on the new church will begin the first weekend in November. The next Capital Campaign Update will coincide with that weekend.

Development Council

No report at this time

Emerging Issues

Clergy Comments

Construction on the new church will begin the first weekend in November. The next Capital Campaign Update will coincide with that weekend.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for November 14th.

Jen Frost will lead the opening prayer.