

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
January 23, 2013

Rory Griffin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Opening Prayer

Lisa & Patrick Attardo 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
Cherie & Greg Abrahms	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

The next New Member Reception is March 17th after the 10:30 am Mass.

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

Adult Religious Education Committee – Wayne Zych

- Re-running The Word on Fire series “Catholicism” (a ten part movie series)
- Little Rock – begins again Feb. 6th.

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children – Kathleen Bell

- 10:30 session (PRE-K) has 27 students with 4 catechists and 2 teen assistants
- 2:30 session (1-5) has 45 students with 4 catechists and

- 5:00 session (1-5) has 58 students with 6 catechists + 2 special education students with 1 catechist
- 5:00 session (middle school) EDGE has 56 students with 1 lead catechist, a core team of 5 catechists, plus parent volunteers, LEAD & confirmandi students.
- High school: Phase 1, has 30 students
- High school: Phase 2, has 40 students (preparation for Confirmation in 2013)
- High school: Phase 3, (post confirmed or not yet called to Confirmation)

Liturgy of the Word for Children – Cathy Meyer

LOWC: Everything is good – continually looking for facilitators.

Sacramental Preparation – Kathleen Bell

- First Communion: 26 students will receive their First Communion the weekend of April 27/28.
- Confirmation: 40 teens will be Confirmed on May 19th at 10:30 Mass with Bishop Brom.
- The Candidates/Sponsors Retreat was held at STM on January 19, culminating in the Covenant Ritual at the 5:00 Mass.
- They will begin weekly Mass/Class for the Candidates on January 27. This year they will attend class at 9:00am and then attend the 10:30 Mass.

EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry – Rory Griffin

- We have transformed the middle school program to the EDGE program on REACH nights and we meet on off REACH night for EDGE-Lite lead by Marcus.

IGNITE High School Ministry – Marcus Cabrera

- Monday Night Youth Group meets weekly. Attendance is hovering around 30 with highs into the 60's.
- Weekly Holy Hour/Prayer hour on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30pm
- New Bible Studies Program on Thursdays 4:00-5:30pm (Starting with the Book of Tobit)
- New College Night Out On Wednesdays at 7:00pm to keep our college aged teens engaged in their faith
- Planning on a Spring Retreat open to all high school students will be March 1-3rd at Oakbridge Young Life Camp. This is a multi- Parish retreat. We will bring approximately 20 people plus chaperones.
- Preparing for Steubenville San Diego: "Chosen" July 26-28 (based on John 4:19). We took 90 people (Teens & Chaperons) last year and we are planning to bring 100 this year!

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

- No report

Men’s Ministry – John Fredette

- Men's fellowship continues to meet on the 2nd Friday of 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.
- TMIY – “That Man is You” meets Sat. mornings at 6:45am

Vacation Bible School

- “Kingdom Rock” planned for week of July 14th

RCIA – Kathleen Bell

- Candidates & Catechumens are dismissed each week from the 8:30 Mass; come to the plaza after Mass to meet parishioners and share in the mission that is taking place on the plaza; their catechetical session then continues until approx. 11:30 with sponsors
- A team of catechists rotate the teaching
- Process progressing beautifully under Jim and Marilyn Day

PO&E

- **Annual Gala** – June 7th, 4-9pm; Pastor’s Excursion Sept. 29th, 1:30-6pm
- **Historian** - Brandon Oswald is still working on an archive web presence. A new STM History Committee will begin this year
- **Senior Ministry** – Valentine’s Day Lunch & Bingo on Feb. 14th; Day of Recollection March 19th; Pageant of Our Lord production in Rolling Hills on March 23rd
- **Social Activities** – Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Holy Thursday dinners being planned
- **Women’s Guild and Deanery** – Chinese Auction in January was successful; Fashion Show is Feb. 16th; Day of Recollection March 19th in partnership with Spirited Seniors
- **Treasures Flea Market** – No activity
- **Knights of Columbus** – Pancake Breakfast Jan. 20th raised over \$500; Fish dinners planned for Lent
- **Walking Ministry** – Every Tues. morning 8-9am and Thurs. evenings; only two members currently

Finance Council

See last report on parish website, under Finance Council

Development Council

See last report on parish website, under Development Council

Social Ministries

Culture of Life:

- Life Walk to benefit Life Perspectives in October and raised over \$2000.00 in pledges.
- Epiphany collection to benefit Birth Choice
- Walk for Life in San Diego on Jan 19th in remembrance of the 40th anniversary of Roe v Wade
- Baby Food drive to benefit Birth choice in spring 2013.

Disability Facilitation:

- Need for volunteer drivers for Masses at St. Thomas More

Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers:

- Continue to serve one meal per month.
- Meal planned for Solutions For Change Shelter in Vista on July 28, 2013.
- Frank Doherty from our parish is recognized for his extraordinary volunteer work at Brother Benno's

CRP/AED Classes:

- The first class is on Saturday, February 16th (Adult CPR/AED) and there will be an Infant/Child CPR class on Saturday, March 16th. Classes begin at 9 a.m. and take about 3 hours. The fee is \$37 per class.
- In 2012 we added two instructors, Lance Shaw and Tom Colgan.

More's Workers:

- Dick Belprez has been the lay representative to Interfaith Community Services (ICS) for the past 3 years. . With the reduced activity of More's Workers there hasn't been a lot of interaction between ICS and STM.
- Dick Belprez has been an active volunteer in the ICS Minor Home Repair program for about five years. They get a couple of requests each month.
- Dick is willing to continue attending the ICS meetings, but suggests that someone else consider taking on that role.

Social Justice:

Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice:

- October 17th meeting discussed State Assembly bills
- December meeting discussed Voices for Justice
- Jan 2013 meeting discussed HEI Hotel Worker's

San Diego Organizing Project SDOP:

- Fall 2012 Get out the Vote campaign was very successful, locally and nationally (joint effort with St. Francis parish),
- PICO feels empowered following the 2012 election.
- Immigration Reform STM hosted the first North County planning meeting on the topic Jan. 22, 2013.
- Gun Violence Protection: Fr. Mike will focus on this issue for an upcoming Pastor's column and an insert in the bulletin put out by PICO

Liturgy

- **Advent** – Attendance at the 12/16 Reconciliation Service increased this year. Date was later in Advent than usual. Need stations set up to provide more privacy for penitents. Perhaps information in the worship aid will prevent lines from forming
Advent wreath – wreath will be retired after 10:30 Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent and not displayed during Christmas.

Nativity Manger and animals were installed the 4th week of Advent. Good help from parishioners after 10:30 Mass to set rest of figures and other A&E décor

- **Christmas** - 4PM Christmas Eve Mass – Besides the 200 rented chairs, about 100 extra were brought outside from the lower level .
Seat reservation for 4PM mass needs to be discouraged - announcements will be made at 15 minute intervals to remind those who are holding seats that they need to be filled.
Q: Can Communion be taken outside? A: Everyone who is able needs to come to the Altar.
Location of Nativity and blessing by Fr. Mike was well received. Many families took photos
Mass Settings need to be joyful for Christmas. Choir is adding more choices and will eventually have at least 7 to choose from.
Art work needs to be level – was distracting
Prefer that the Altar cloth be hung side-to-side rather than front to back.
Bells were missed at Christmas!
- **Apostle's Creed:**
Instead of the Nicene Creed, STM will use the Apostles' Creed this year during Lent and Easter
- **Announcements at Mass:**
Announcements are part of the liturgy, but the staff will make every effort to streamline the number and edit appropriately for Reader #3
- **Ministry reports/comments:**
Kathleen Bell – expressed need for alternate Baptismal font for Easter to accommodate taller individuals (over 6 ft.) Kathy will bring the A&E Team together to come up with some options.
Joyce Meehan – Phase I Confirmation students will have more formal training and expects there to be 3-4 per Mass.
- **Ministry training – February 2, 2013**
Expect attendance to be smaller this year as the Diocese is scheduling training for the first time in several years. Attendance requires enrollment and payment. For Ministers of the Word it is a 2-part training and enrollment will be limited.

Marriage & Family Life

- Epiphany – (Jan. 5-6th) – bulletin stuffer listing activities; Magi gift box with gold coins & treats for children.
- Feast of the Presentation of the Lord/Candlemas – (Feb 2-3rd) “Blessed Candle” activities and background on feast
- World Marriage Day –(Feb. 14th) –flowers for longest/shortest, etc. married couples
- St. Valentine's Day – (Feb. 14th) cookie-decorating activity
- St. Patrick's Day – (March 17th) shamrock activity

Clergy Comments

Fr. Mike mentioned that the transition from Capital Campaign to Mortgage Offering is going smoothly and parishioners are responding favorably.

Bishop Flores hosted a Stewardship and luncheon meeting at the Pastoral Center on Wednesday, January 23, encouraging Parishes to engage in stewardship and development at the local level in every Parish. January has been Christian Stewardship Month here at STM. Fr. Mike's homily, and the lay witness talk by Kevin and Kristin McCusker were well received. Next Sunday, Brian Leahey, Director of Construction, and Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development, will give updates before all Masses.

The Town Hall Meeting to inform parishioners about the interior elements of the Church is scheduled for this Friday, January 25 at 6:30PM

The San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP) of which STM is a member is beginning to meet around the issue of immigration reform in preparation for the proposed legislation from Congress that should be made known soon.

Fr. Mike and Sr. Maureen attended a SDOP sponsored meeting regarding gun violence and discussion regarding possible gun control legislation. Fr. Mike said that he would share his own personal views in a future Pastor's Column

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 13.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for April 24th.

Rory Griffin will lead the opening prayer.