

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
April 24, 2013

Doug D’Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Opening Prayer

All recited 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	
Flora Fallone (for Ron Briseno)	Development Council Chair	X	
Brian Leahey	Director of Construction	X	

Agenda Review

Old Business

New Business

Brian Leahey, Director of Construction, presented an update on the new construction. The architect’s conceptual and structural drawings have been completed. Grading bids are in progress and plan checks continue with the City of Oceanside. A meeting with the Diocese took place on April 25th for final approval of the construction budget.

If meeting the budget becomes difficult as the project progresses and costs change, the Parish Offices Building can be limited to the foundation and steel construction now and be completed at a later time. Some cost effective measures include relocating a wider, mandatory fire lane to another part of the property to keep costs down and utilizing existing “rack “ audio equipment if at all possible.

The sample speaker hanging at Mass now gives us an idea of the clarity of the new sound system. The one in the new sanctuary will be approximately 4 feet longer, including built-in amplifiers, along with a woofer. Microphones can then be upgraded.

The construction web cams can be viewed on the STM website to follow the construction progress.

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

RCIA

At the Easter Vigil, six people were baptized & five people completed their initiation. We currently have four adults interested in beginning the process for next year.

Adult Religious Education Committee

Re-running The Word on Fire series “Catholicism” (a ten part movie series)

Little Rock – began again Feb. 6th, studying the women of the Old Testament

“Untold Blessings” a five part series by Fr. Barron will be paired with a pot luck & facilitated by Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz, beginning June 9th at Noon through the summer & fall

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children

REACH program will conclude the year on Pentecost May 19th

Our Youth Justice Foundation was featured in the Southern Cross

REACH families doubled our usual Lenten Rice Bowl contribution this year spurred on by a little friendly competition. We raised \$1432 for Catholic Relief Services to help feed hungry families, bring water to the thirsty and empower the vulnerable.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

LOWC: Everything is good – continually looking for facilitators.

Sacramental Preparation

First Holy Communion has 25 of our young parishioners and will be celebrated at Masses this weekend on April 27, 28.

47 Candidates are preparing for Confirmation on May 19, 2013 10:30 Mass with Bishop Brom.

EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry

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

IGNITE High School Ministry

Monday Night Youth Group meets weekly. Attendance is hovering around the 30's

Weekly Holy Hour/Prayer hour on Wednesdays from 5:30- 6:30pm

New Bible Studies program – seasonal

Preparing for Steubenville San Diego: “Chosen” July 26-28 (based on John 4:19). We are planning to bring about 70 people this year.

LEAD Young Adult Ministry

LEAD (Leadership Evangelization and Discipleship) is in transition and we are examining this program – Marcus is looking to change the focus of this ministry

Women's Ministry

Fellowship meetings continue on the 1st Friday of the month from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the lower level.

Men's Ministry

Fellowship meetings continue on the 2nd Friday of the month from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the lower level.

TMIY wrapped up the 1st year program. We are looking forward to starting up again in the fall.

Looking forward to the Men's Fall Retreat in October

Vacation Bible School

"Kingdom Rock" planned for week of July 14th

PO&E

Annual Gala – June 7th, 4-9pm – Renaissance theme again but new ideas include Wheel of Fortune, Mystery Day with Fr. Mike, Gala Donation Tree and two dinners for 10 people each at the rectory. Goal is \$60K

Historian - Brandon Oswald is still working on the STM website. Considering starting a History Group to meet monthly

Senior Ministry –Day of Recollection March 19th; Pageant of Our Lord production in Rolling Hills on April 24th; planning June event

Social Activities – Ash Wednesday Soup Supper had smaller crowds; Holy Thursday dinners had less host families; parish Campout is May 3-5th

Women's Guild and Deanery – Game Day & Bake Sale in April

Treasures Flea Market – (Oct.) Volunteer requests go out in May. The first committee meeting is in June.

Knights of Columbus – Current membership drive. Best year yet for Lenten Friday Fish Dinners (160-19- each night); planning a Friday Night Dinner instead of two Sunday Pancake Breakfasts due to no room on calendar

Walking Ministry – Every Tues. morning 8-9am and Thurs. evenings; only three members currently

Family Night – Second Family Night was April 19th – smaller group of 50 (90% families with kids) Informal setting with Praise Choir and guest speaker, Marcus

Finance Council

The new accounting system (same as the diocese) is active but in the transition phase; should be completely in sync by the 2nd year.

Budget is a deficit but much less than in previous years, even with varying factors (weekly offertory donations are up; holiday giving is down; expenses are increasing) we will balance our budget, as well as make up the \$28K deficit from several years ago.

Development Council – Flora Fallone attended the meeting, filling in for Ron Briseno

Annual Catholic Appeal – STM will receive a check for \$609.82 (80% of the overage from last year's 2012 \$48K assessment; 2013 assessment is again \$48K – parish will receive **%100** of any overage this year, though currently \$10K short

Capital Campaign/Mortgage Offering – Capital Campaign Phase 2.1 is completed and we were \$68K over the \$500,000 goal! We now move into the Mortgage Offering Phase.

Membership – New Member Reception was held on March 17th

Scrip – Fourth Quarter sales were great - \$85,560 with almost \$44K in Dec. alone. Looking into selling scrip at Treasures Flea Market, online ordering and using reloadable scrip cards, etc.

Vehicle Donation – Eight more vehicles have been donated and “sold” since Oct. Total to date is \$31,860.18; Brian Leahey will now be the person to whom we give our donations, instead of “Cars for Causes”. Brian will use his dealer’s license to take vehicles to auction, and give us all the proceeds. He will not be charging us any fees.

Planned Giving – We currently have 51 active Towers of Faith; Chris’ pulpit appeal and explanation the last weekend of Jan. has generated inquiries

Stewardship – January was Stewardship Awareness Month; Fr. Mike’s “love letter” regarding the Mortgage Offering went out the 2nd week of January; assuming parishioners will continue their same pattern of giving. The Town Hall meeting was a very successful, informative evening

Dining Fundraisers - \$16K raised since December 2009. Starting in March, there will be two dining nights a month

Social Ministries

Work is being done on the STM website to develop a software program for all stewardship opportunities listing all positions and the type of commitment involved with each

Kitchen Manager: Rebecca Eyers is the new kitchen manager. One or two trained persons are required per event

Culture of Life:

Baby Food drive to benefit Birth choice in spring 2013

COLFS (Culture of Life Family Services) baby bottle drive is scheduled for May 4-5th

Blood Drive is scheduled for May 19th

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.

CRP/AED Classes:

Classes are scheduled approximately 6-8 times a year. More than 425 persons have been trained since the program began in March 2001.

Interfaith Community Services:

ICS is now holding the general meeting for representatives every other month

A bid was submitted to operate the Family Self Sufficiency program and ICS was selected for this grant-funded program

They are spearheading a regional plan to end homelessness. They are partnering with other North County agencies and are seeking volunteers

Developing a car donation program that will be extended to faith communities that don’t have their own programs; proceeds will be shared 50/50 with the faith communities

Social Justice Committee:

Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice

La Costa Resort negotiations sit-in, Walmart justice, Hotel Workers support, Domestic Workers support, Pauma Casino right to unionize

Holy Thursday fort washing and Passover ritual in support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral

San Diego Organizing Project SDOP

Partnership with St. Francis Parish to support immigration reform; seek meeting with

Congressman Issa and learn his views on immigration reform.
Presentation of the Campaign for Citizenship from PICO's National Network
Fall 2012 Get out the Vote campaign was very successful, locally and nationally (joint effort with St. Francis parish),

Just Faith

Presentations on La Posada men's shelter, El Salvador and Burundi, Africa

North County Solutions for Change:

With the STM Bereavement Committee, a Sunday dinner was provided for the clients

Liturgy

Lent– Monday-morning prayer was not a prayer activity this Lent due to low participation. It does not need to be clergy-led. We will see if the Laity would like to lead these prayers on Mondays during Advent and Lent.

A variety of people have been leading the Stations of the Cross during Lent. Do we need a variety of versions of the Stations of the Cross or are we okay with the version we presently use?

Holy Week – We need more people to spend time during the Exposition of the Eucharist after the Holy Thursday Mass (see Fr. Mike's clergy notes).

All Catholics are encouraged to attend the Easter Vigil. This beautiful service consists of four parts; Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Baptism and Liturgy of the Eucharist

Hospitality - appreciate the time our Confirmation candidates have given to the Ministry

Bereavement - 2 new members have been trained

EMHC - a few new Ministers need to be trained

Music - Bell choir attended a workshop in Temecula (April 20) Adoration - still under discussion

Holy Communion – April 27-28th

Confirmation – Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, at the 10:30 am Mass

Pentecost – May 19th (wear RED!)

Feast of St. Thomas More – June 22nd

Marriage & Family Life

Lent & Easter activities were well received

Mother's Day – (May 11-12th) Flowers distributed after each Mass

Pentecost – (May 19th) – Pentecost cupcakes activity

Father's Day – (June 16th) – Baking cookies with Rebecca after Mass

“Hot Summer Nights” – (July 1-31st) – 30 days of the marriage sacrament; 15 days of date night ideas & 15 articles on marriage

Clergy Comments

So that more people may spend time in the presence of the exposed Eucharist after the Holy Thursday Mass, consideration is being made to move Holy Thursday dinners to another date and Mass to 7pm instead of 6pm.

The parish will be experiencing more weddings – the children of long time parishioners are now getting married. In the future, STM will consider church rentals for non-parishioners to generate more revenue.

Fr. Mike is optimistic about the Mortgage Offering since \$90-100K has been collected in the first three months of this phase.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for July 31st.

Fr. Mike will lead the opening prayer.