

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
July 31, 2013

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

Opening Prayer

Fr. Mike 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	
Ron Briseno (& Jane Gladden)	Development Council Chair	X	

Agenda Review

Old Business

New Business

Chris Smith has asked all Chairpersons to maintain updated committee contact information and submit any changes to her as soon as possible so that interested volunteers can be referred to the correct contact person.

Fr. Mike discussed having an Author’s Day, with our parish authors, on the plaza one weekend after the Masses.

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

RCIA - No report

Adult Religious Education Committee - “Untold Blessings” a five part series by Fr. Barron paired with a pot luck & facilitated by Deacon Tom & Pat Goeltz, began June 9th with 35+ participants.

Fr. Mike's Bookies – "I Thought the Sun Was God" by parishioner, Masako Streling. Kurt Schwend will facilitate discussion on Aug. 29th.

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children - VBS – Kingdom Rock was a big success.

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

Liturgy of the Word for Children - Everything is good, but continually looking for facilitators. Facilitating is simple with printed readings available each month along with a series of questions "Breaking Open the Word" to engage the children.

EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry - summer sessions of EDGE Lite – fun time to gather and enjoy outdoor games and activities

IGNITE High School Ministry - Monday Night Youth Group meets weekly. Casual summer schedule includes fire pit out back, faith talks and smores

Steubenville San Diego: "Chosen" July 26-28 (based on John 4:19) – 64 teens, 15 young adults and 8 adults participated. It was a very inspirational and energizing weekend for all.

Fall Confirmation Retreat in September at Kamp Kuper, Fallbrook

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

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 - No report

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

TMIY will start up again in the fall.

Men's Retreat will be in October

PO&E

Annual Gala – June 7th, raised \$50K, excluding any additional funds from the Pastor's Excursion and the homemade cookies for the Aegis Concerts.

Historian - Brandon Oswald continues working on the STM website. He is preserving a large photograph collection that was donated.

Senior Ministry – Resuming in September with an Ice Cream Social. Annual membership is \$10, open to all 50 and older. Membership drive completed with 5 new members.

Social Activities – No activities this quarter

Women's Guild and Deanery – will resume in the fall

Treasures Flea Market – (Oct. 5th) The second committee meeting is August 1st. Main committee is now forming sub-committees. The goal is to surpass \$12K.

Knights of Columbus – Andy Frost is the new grand Knight. They are planning events for the upcoming year.

Walking Ministry – no report

Family Night – Moved to Marriage & Family Life Committee

Finance Council

No report

Development Council

Jane Gladden attended the meeting, assisting Ron Briseno with the quarterly report.

Annual Catholic Appeal – STM exceeded goal of \$48K by a few hundred dollars

Membership – the next New Member Reception is on October 27th. Welcome committee has asked for more help with forwarding information from prospective new members to the proper contact person for a follow-up call and invitation to the new member reception

Scrip –Continuing to introduce new selling strategies to encourage new-users, i.e. scrip at Treasures Flea Market, REACH weekends, online ordering, etc.

Vehicle Donation – Six more vehicles have been donated. Brian Leahey is taking over program using his dealer’s license to take vehicles to auction.

Planned Giving – Very successful

PR – STM’s build out has been getting some mention in the Southern Cross as well as being highlighted in our own Tower Newsletter

Dining Fundraisers – Chili’s in August. In addition, Nucci’s has committed to the 3rd week of every month

Plans are being discussed for either a golf tournament to be held in October.

Social Ministries

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

Culture of Life - *Pennies From Heaven* collection for Birth Choice in September

Jane Kelleher will attend kick-off brunch for upcoming *Life Walk*

COLFS (Culture of Life Family Services) baby bottle drive was well received

Blood Drive - scheduled drive for mid May was canceled. No fall drive is scheduled yet. There are concerns regarding the size of the drive – Red Cross wants to be assured at least 20 pints.

Brother Benno’s Kitchen Servers - Continue to serve one meal per month.

CRP/AED Classes - Classes will resume in September and are scheduled approximately 1 per month through June.

Social Justice Committee:

Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice

Support for the striking workers at UC Hospitals

Solidarity with CA Domestic workers, Pauma Casino workers, grocery workers at Northgate

Gonzalez and hotel workers at Hilton Mission Valley and Marriott La Jolla

SEIU event

San Diego Organizing Project SDOP

Partnership with St. Francis Parish and other parishes and faith communities to support immigration reform

Continued visits to Congressman Issa’s office

Monthly meetings alternating between STM, St. Francis and now Mission San Luis Rey

Vigil was held at Mission San Luis Rey July 3rd

Just Faith’s Engaging Spirituality

Groups have begun and are very active in immigration reform campaign

La Posada Men’s Shelter – Cathy Black is on the board of Caring Residents of Carlsbad. Cathy, Sr. Maureen and Joe Dillon attended an invitational coffee on June 6th

Get on the Bus – very successful event for Mother’s Day

Nuns on the Bus – Sr. Maureen, Joyce Meehan and Evi Quinn made a trip to the border to support the nuns that were traveling cross-country on their “Journey for Justice” advocating immigration reform and justice for all people.

Future plans include the further support of our parish, community and other needs based on Catholic Social teachings in conjunction with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops,

Catholic Charities, ICWJ, SDOP, Just Faith/Engaging Spirituality and other local and national organizations

Connect with youth and young adults of our parish in building a partnership to deal with outreach issues

North County Solutions for Change:

Kevin & Lyn Leahy gave pulpit announcement July 27-28th addressing needs for dinner sign-ups, and also book, clothing and furniture donations; good response from parishioners

Liturgy

Hospitality – Phase I Confirmation Students are fulfilling their commitment and have the option of either exploring other Liturgical Ministries or returning to Hospitality

Music – All choirs/teams resuming scheduled rehearsals starting in Sept.

Kathy Arciero explained that a Paschal Choir is a group of parishioners willing to sing at funeral Masses – a beautiful example of hospitality and love at a difficult time.

A second bell choir, composed of the youth of the parish, is now forming.

Flower Donation Policy – During Ordinary Time, parishioners may donate flowers to honor, remember or celebrate a loved one, birthday anniversary or other special event. \$75.00 will provide the arrangement including tax and delivery. Flower donations are made through the Reception Desk and must be paid when securing your date at least two weeks in advance.

Liturgical Minister Training - The Diocese will now train all ministers. However, if a member has served at another parish in the Diocese of San Diego, he/she need only obtain STM specific training.

Marriage & Family Life

Diocesan Liaison - “Marriage Moments” & “Parenting Pointers” continue to be staples in the weekly bulletin. Also included, are excerpts from Bishops Letter on Marriage and other diocese –supported missions.

Bringing the Celebration Home – 50 people made Pentecost cupcakes. Probable Advent activity planned for late November.

Family Night – There is a need for ongoing chair. Next event scheduled for August 16th

Marriage Preparation – Wedding requests are increasing. Couples meet with Fr. Mike, Deacon John or Deacon Tom for marriage preparation as well as attending the required marriage preparation sessions through the diocese.

Marriage Encounter – There is a need for on ongoing chair.

Clergy Comments

The parish is seeing more weddings. STM will consider church rentals for non-parishioners to generate more revenue.

Towers of Faith continues to be successful

In his Pastor’s Column, Fr. Mike’s will share his excitement and optimism about the new environment of spirit and energy being created by Pope Francis through his words and actions.

Mission Appeal the weekend of Aug. 3-4th

Plans are in progress to post stewardship opportunities in the weekly bulletin

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the Lord's Prayer.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for October 30th.
Marti Harper will lead the opening prayer.