

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
October 30, 2013

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

Opening Prayer

Marti Harper 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 Council Chair	X	
Cherie 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

Agenda Review

Old Business

New Business

Jen Frost has accepted an invitation to help with Stewardship Updates on the STM website with Lorraine Doering and Chris Smith. She will continue to attend the Pastoral Council meetings as Stewardship Representative. She will also continue to oversee Marriage & Family Life until a new chairperson is found. Subcommittee chairs are also being sought.

The next New Member Luncheon is scheduled for June 22, 2014 and the second one for October 26, 2014

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

RCIA

Four new candidates were welcomed into the RCIA process last Saturday

Adult Religious Education Committee

Addie Moneymaker is facilitating a new approach to Bible Study for 12 weeks beginning in January. They will be studying the component “Genesis to Jesus”. Fr. Mike’s Bookies – Current reading is “On Heaven and Earth” by Pope Francis. Going through another transition on meeting and discussions

“Untold Blessings” completes its final part Nov. 17th.

The closing event for the Year of Faith will be Nov. 24th at 4pm. Douglas is coordinating a prayer experience around the events of the year and our music ministries.

“Journey through Scripture” – the St. Paul Center’s parish-based Bible Study program to help Catholics grow in their knowledge of the Scriptures

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children

REACH year began in September

New approach to the Genesis Program with teens involved and three families in leadership is off to good start.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

LOWC: Everything is good – continually looking for facilitators.

Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation will be on December 15th at the time of our Parish Communal Service.

30 teens are preparing for Confirmation in the spring.

EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry

Ministry began again in September and continues to gain momentum. This semester the topic is “Church. Meetings are on regular REACH nights.

IGNITE High School Ministry

Monday Night Youth Group meets weekly.

Attendance is approximately 40-45

Monthly XLT nights are on the 3rd & 4th Monday of the month, averaging 80 people from around the deanery.

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

New Bible Studies program – seasonal

Confirmation Retreat was Sept.20-22nd at Kamp Kuper.

Candidates and their sponsors will have a retreat here at STM on January 25th, culminating in the Covenant Ritual at the 5pm Mass

Teens have started an after school study hall program with Solutions for Change – tutoring on Thursdays and soon expanding to Wednesdays. Spring Retreat May 2-4th at Kamp Kuper is open to all high school students

High school faith formation catechesis has become overwhelmingly young adult-run with 8 new young adults catechists.

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 began with 75 registered men and approximately 35 attend regularly every Saturday. The Men's Fall Retreat was October 11-13th with 35-40 men attending.

Vocations

A couple of men have visited Monasteries for retreats and discernment while 12 young women expressing interest in religious life are now in contact with Sr. Maureen

PO&E

Annual Gala – The Pastor's Excursion Dinner was Sept. 29th raising \$2500. The final event of this year's Gala is the Mystery Day Trip on Nov. 9th

Golf Outing – Brought back by popular demand and not meant to be a fundraiser, 48 golfers played in the rain to raise \$1200 in one day!

Historian - Brandon Oswald is processing records, which have grown from 1 box to 10 boxes. He would still like to start a small archives/history committee.

Senior Ministry – October bus trip to Camp Pendleton; Luncheon Dec. 17th. Currently there are 159 members (30 new).

Social Activities – No current activities. Plans are being discussed for Sr. Maureen's Jubilee in March, soup supper Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday dinners (these dinners may be moved to another night so as not to conflict with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament) Seeking calendar date for Parish Campout

Women's Guild – Quilt and Bake Sale completed

Deanery – Group meets monthly at parishes throughout the diocese. They raise funds to support young seminarians – last year raising \$2000.

Treasures Flea Market – A very successful sale on Oct. 5th surpassed the goal of \$12K

Knights of Columbus – Assisted with building of VBS shed; Tootsie Roll drive raised almost \$1000 for local chapter of ARC; October fest raised \$300 for La Posada. A new goal has been set to increase K of C membership and expand its role within our parish.

Walking Ministry – Very few participants - bulletin and Mass announcements will be made the first of the year to try to revive this group

Finance Council

The parish is running at a normal level and presently working with the new budget. Utility costs have increased – separate metering is used for the construction.

Development Council

No report

Social Ministries

Culture of Life – Pennies from Heaven collection totaled \$900 to benefit Birth Choice; Annual Life Walk for life Perspectives Oct. 26th; epiphany collection if January

Blood Drive – Nov. 3rd with over 30 sign-ups

CRP/AED Classes - Ten classes offered per year. Fifteen (9 parishioners) certified in past 2 months. Oct. 26th class adds 8 for a parishioner total of 450!

Christmas Angels – Eight returning volunteers and one new attended the first meetings. More volunteers are needed especially to cover table/tree at the Masses. Appeals will be made through e-mail, website and the youth advocate to recruit more help. The tree will go up Sat. Nov. 16th.

Solutions for Change – Rick & Heidi Madden are managing the Family Shoe Ministry set for Feb 16th to collect shoes of all sizes for Solutions.

Representatives from STM attended fundraiser dinner with Laura Bush on Oct. 12th. Dinners are still served monthly at intake facility.

Youth Justice Foundation – (Moved from Core 2 teens to Edge group) Continued monthly fair-trade coffee and chocolate sales plus Heifer International donations, starting Oct. 19-20th. Future dates: Nov. 16-17th, Dec. 14-15th, Jan. 11-12th and Feb. 8-9th

Parish Social Justice Committee:

Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice (ICWJ) - Support and solidarity for Calif. domestic workers and support of Border Justice Advocacy
San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP) – Focus continues on Immigration Reform/Pathway to Citizenship - participated in “Day of Action” 5000 person march near Balboa Park; obtaining signatories for a letter to Congressman Issa. STM is now a member of the Vista Chamber of Commerce; actively planning press conference for Nov. 1st, involving business, community, clergy and faith leaders; plans to support healthcare for low-income population in early 2014
Just Faith – Two groups starting
La Posada Men’s Shelter – Cathy Blecki sits on board. Open House Oct. 9th at new facility with double capacity; Annual dinner and Auction Oct. 12th

Liturgy

Fr. Karl began presiding at Monday Morning Mass as of Oct. 7th. Diocese Rosary for Peace was Oct. 12th after the 5 pm Mass. Conclusion of the Year of Faith concert Nov. 24th

Help is needed for upcoming events. A calendar was presented to show opportunities for parishioners to help with upcoming event set-ups/break-downs.

Advent & Christmas – A 4:15 Mass will be added on Christmas Eve on the lower level for overflow since additional seating under a tent will not be possible during construction. The Nativity Set will be moved to the corner near the Mary Shrine. Pulpit announcements will be made seeking help with A&E set-ups.

Hospitality – Youth have been a great help and they seem to enjoy this ministry.

LMHC – More ministers are needed.

Music – New bells have been purchased.

Readers – Two new readers were trained last month.

Sacristan – Need Altar Linen Committee members

Marriage & Family Life

Diocesan Liaison - Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers continue in the weekly bulletin

Bringing the Celebration Home - Completed “Exaltation of the Holy Cross” for the home. Advent activity will be making home Advent wreaths Nov. 16th at 4pm on the lower level

Family Night - Seeking ongoing chair; next dates: Feb. 28th, June 20th and Aug. 22nd

Marriage Preparation – varies each quarter (6-8 weddings per yr. but requests increasing)

Widows & Widowers – Group expressed their appreciation for the use of STM facilities for their general meeting and potluck. The 160-member group often has as many as 65 participants at a gathering. Dates for 2014 are on the calendar.

Clergy Comments

Fr. Mike again discussed the added 4:15 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Parking may be an issue since overflow parking is no longer available.

Masako Streling is now a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. As the liaison, she will attend the STM Pastoral Council meetings.

Fr. Karl is not the Associate Pastor but rather his title is Senior Priest.

Congressman Issa is on the leadership team with Fr. Mike for Solutions for Change.

Construction: Final approval has been received from the diocese. Donations to the Mortgage Fund have increased from 40% to 50%.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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

Doug D'Agrosa will lead the opening prayer.