

**Church of St. Thomas More**  
**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**August 27, 2014**

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

**Opening Prayer**

Kathy Arciero led the opening prayer.

**Roll Call**

Pastoral Council attendance:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>A</b>
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
Masako Streling	Diocesan Pastoral Council Liaison	X	

**Agenda Review**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**November is Stewardship Awareness Month.** A monthly stewardship column will be included in the bulletin listing stewardship opportunities. A monthly handout called Ministry Insight will highlight several parish ministries and provide contact information. The Stewardship Appreciation Reception is November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2-4pm.

The next New Member Reception is March 1, 2015. All council members were asked to work with their ministry leads/chairpersons to collect and submit a list of their stewards by October 1<sup>st</sup>

**Diocesan Pastoral Council Update**

No report this quarter. An October council meeting is uncertain due to Bishop Flores' current health issues.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee**

**Adult Religious Education Committee – Debbie Fredette** - “Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Virgin” an eight five-part series featuring Dr. Edward Sri offered Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings was well attended. The DVD Bible Timeline series, facilitated by Jeff Cavins, will start Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> on Wednesday mornings from 9-11am.

A new series called “Symbolon” will begin Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, once a month on Sunday afternoons, for the parents of children preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist.

**Religious Education for Adolescents and Children – Debbie Fredette** - R.E.A.C.H. begins this month. Most of the summer was spent on developing new curriculum for Grades 1-5. High School Faith Formation is using the Chosen series for 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> graders preparing for Confirmation and T3 Bible Timeline series for the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders and our young adults. Over 300 children and young adults will be enrolled this year!

**Liturgy of the Word for Children – Cathy Meyer** LOWC: Everything is good – continually looking for facilitators.

**Sacramental Preparation – Debbie Fredette** - New Confirmation Prep Program this year - Chosen: You did not choose me, but I chose you!”

**EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry – Rory Griffin** - Theology of the Body for Middle School program was very well received and brought three new families into our parish as a result.

**IGNITE High School Ministry – Matt Franklin** Matt Franklin was hired in May as the new Youth Minister.

Monday Night Youth Group meets weekly.

Monthly XLT nights on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month have been averaging 125 people including all ages and from as far as Chula Vista, Mission Viejo & Murrieta!

Steubenville San Diego at USD took place in late July with 90 participants; 76 teens and 14 adults Fall Confirmation Retreat in September at Kamp Kuper in Fallbrook.

**NEW:** “Wake Up With the King” on Wednesday mornings during the summer brought families of the parish together for morning Mass followed by breakfast cereal and fellowship

**NEW:** Girls and Guys Groups on Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30pm. Matt & his wife, Amy, lead separate girls and boys groups in bible study or age appropriate books discussing teen issues and how to be a good disciple of Christ.

**LEAD Young Adult Ministry – Matt Franklin** LEAD (Leadership Evangelization and Discipleship) Matt is looking to change the focus of this ministry.

**Women’s Ministry – Erin Barela** - Women’s Day Retreat is scheduled for November 8th

**Men’s Ministry – Deacon John Fredette** - Men's fellowship continues to meet on the 2nd Friday of each month 7-8:30pm.

Men’s Prayer Breakfast was on August 9<sup>th</sup> with 60 in attendance.

TMIY – “That Man is You” begins its 3<sup>rd</sup> year with meetings Sat. mornings at 6:45am  
STM Men’s Fall Retreat will be in October

**RCIA – Kathleen Bell** - Three teens are preparing to receive all of their sacraments. The Rite of Welcome is on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

An RCIA Youth Group held 4 sessions where kids got together and enjoyed fellowship with others from the parish to feel more welcomed when they begin REACH in September.

Several couples, who as a result of meeting with Deacon John Fredette through the baptism

process and joining Moms & Kids, have made a decision to complete their sacrament of confirmation, while their husbands complete RCIA with our parish

## **PO&E**

**Annual Gala – Chris Smith** - \$56,000 was raised with two events still pending. A survey will go out this month for future Gala, scheduled for Friday, May 1, 2015.

**Golf Outing** – seeking leadership

**Historian - Brandon Oswald** – Archives now fill 20 boxes and we have run out of storage space. Brandon continues to work on the website. **Reminder:** Do not throw anything away as we transition into the new building without Brandon seeing it first.

**Senior Ministry – Jim & Marilyn Day** –The new year begins with an ice cream social September 4<sup>th</sup>. The membership drive is nearly complete with 170 members.

**Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn** –Parish Camp Out had a very high turnout. New chairperson will be announced soon. Planning has started for Fr. Mike’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 2/1/15.

**Women’s Guild – Ann Buko** –The guild celebrated 25 years in June. At the new officers’ installation ceremony in June, Fr. Mike was presented with a check for \$20,000 from this year’s fund raising.

**Deanery – Geri Wilmot** – No report

**Treasures Flea Market – John & Wendy Murphy** -The first planning meeting was held for the October 4<sup>th</sup> market with several new committee members this year.

**Knights of Columbus – Andy Frost** – The induction of new officers was held in August. There are several new members.

**Walking Ministry – Diane Pal** – “Still Walking”; call first since locations change.

## **Finance Council**

The parish is operating in its usual financial mode for this time of year

## **Development Council**

**Building Update** – Bill Ipsen will be giving a financial update at all the Masses on the weekend of Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

**Scrip** - a “soft” rollout of the online scrip program will begin soon.

**Annual Catholic Appeal** – the diocesan assessment for STM is \$48K; \$57K has been pledged! The parish will get back any amount over the \$48K.

## **Social Ministries**

**CRP/AED Classes – Phil Goscienski, M.D.**

Seven classes have been scheduled for September and October. Classes will also be offered on weekday afternoons (1-4) and evenings (6:30-9) to attract more parishioners to the program. Everyone on the mailing list has been informed of the **PulsePoint** app for smart phones. This will provide an incentive for more people to become certified or to renew their lapsed certification.

**Social Justice:**

**Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice** - Worker Solidarity Campaigns, as called upon. Collection of needed items for the refugee mothers and children from Central America

## **Interfaith Community Services – Dick Belprez**

August's general meeting featured strategic vision planning. Participants met in groups to discuss 1) Why I'm involved with Interfaith? 2) What does Interfaith do well? 3) What are the greatest needs I see within North County? Input will be used to develop a vision and master plan.

**Engaging Spirituality** - Faith Encounters the Ecological Crisis – small groups are forming and will meet in homes weekly during the September 15 – November time frame. This topic was one of the top three concerns from the STM parish survey.

**Culture of Life – Jane Kelleher** – Baby Bottle drive for Birth Choice was held this past weekend. At the end of September, we will be promoting the annual Life Walk that benefits Life Perspectives, a group that deals with post abortion healing and recovery.

**Christmas Angels** – New chairs, Lisa & Kevin Seufert are preparing for start of the season.

## **Liturgy**

### **Music Ministry - Douglas Lynn**

Commences its 2014-2015 season this week, with choirs and ensembles back at Mass on September 6-7<sup>th</sup>. Two hand bell quartets (four ringers, three octaves of bells) will be starting this fall. Discussion in progress on the return of a Children's Choir for Christmas & Easter.

**Ministry training** – Several people took the diocesan Liturgical Minister Formation Workshop in August, and these new Eucharistic Ministers and readers will be joining their ministries in a few weeks. Kathy Arciero is attending the summer Faith Formation gatherings for teens and parents involved in the various stages of Confirmation/High School formation. Some of the youth have chosen to participate in liturgical opportunities.

**Diocesan Rosary for Peace** – Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Marriage & Family Life**

**Bringing the Celebration Home:** Holy Family activity planned for Advent kickoff (around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November). Advent candles will be available for purchase to fit last year's wreath.

**Diocesan Liaison:** Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers continue in the weekly bulletin. The bulletin also includes portions from the Bishops Letter on Marriage and other diocese-supported missions. There is an official spot for Marriage Encounter as well.

**Marriage Preparation:** 6-8-weddings per year. Couples are referred to the diocese for prep classes. First wedding scheduled in new church for August 2015!

**Moms & Kids:** 35+ moms with several new members joining. Preschool is held on Friday mornings, and book club and nighttime events offer fellowship opportunities for the women. This ministry will be moving to Faith Formation.

## **Clergy Comments**

Fr. Mike has moved from the existing rectory and is now renting a home within Ocean Hills Country Club. The old unit is being prepped for the market.

Bishop Flores continues to recuperate from his stroke and, now, is in treatment for his newly diagnosed prostate cancer.

Bill Ipsen will be giving a financial update at all the Masses on the weekend of Sept. 6-7<sup>th</sup>. Parishioners will be encouraged to make a three-year pledge towards the Mortgage/Building Completion Fund.

The building loan with the Knights of Columbus is a 20yr. fixed rate (5.34%) loan on \$6.6 million. Starting Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> the monthly payment will be \$44,000.

The parish is considering the possibility of selling the adjacent 5 acres of land.

Solutions for Change Dinner/Auction is Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> @ \$325/person. Dr. Ben Carson will be the guest speaker.

Faith Encounters the Ecological Crisis – Weekly in-home sessions on ecology Sept 15th-Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>

Chairs will be set up in the back of the sanctuary for “first responder” parishioners who can help in medical emergencies at Mass

The San Diego Organizing Project has voting (census only) information for each parish to use to encourage its parishioners to vote.

The Bishops will endorse YES on 47 – mental health initiative

Fr. Mike will be on pilgrimage October 6<sup>th</sup> to October 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Closing Prayer**

All members participated in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Jen Frost will lead the opening prayer.