

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
January 22, 2014

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Opening Prayer

Doug D'Agrosa led the opening prayer.

Roll Call

Parish Council Member 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	
Greg & 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
Masako Streling	Diocesan Pastoral Council Liaison	X	

Agenda Review

Old Business

New Business

Masako Streling was introduced as the Diocesan Pastoral Council Liaison for STM and she will attend the Pastoral Council meetings.

Doug D'Agrosa asked the council members to have an open heart and mind as changes begin for STM parish during 2014.

Jen Frost gave a Stewardship Update and, in particular, introduced the new website. Presently, stewardship is publicized through four media forms: Brochure, Pamphlet, Bulletin and Website. Though still in progress, she gave a detailed review of all the website's features. She stressed the importance of all committees to keep information updated to maintain consistency.

Committee Updates

Diocesan Pastoral Council Report

Masako Streling provided the Pastoral Council members with a memorandum from the October 19, 2013 Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting. The Diocesan Pastoral Council is an advisory body to assist Bishop Cirilo Flores. The Bishop asked each of the Council members to return to their own pastoral councils to further discuss and recommend any changes to the wording used in the following documents: 1) the Constitution of the Diocesan Pastoral Council 2) Disciples in Mission: Embracing Evangelization and 3) Diocesan Priorities: I-VIII. She is encouraged to bring church bulletins and any items our Parish Council would suggest changing and report them at the February 8th Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting. In the meantime, the parish council members were asked to review the documents and have suggestions ready at the next Pastoral Council Meeting.

Evangelization and Faith Formation

Marcus Cabrera has resigned from his position as Youth Advocate effective Wed., Jan. 22nd. Rory Griffin and Martin Zschocke have assumed the responsibilities of Youth Advocate in the interim.

RCIA

Four candidates are preparing for initiation

Adult Religious Education Committee -

“Genesis to Jesus is a 12 wk. bible study course with Addie Moneymaker started Jan 22nd/23rd (Wed. 9am & Thurs 7pm)

“Journey through Scripture is the St. Paul Center’s parish-based Bible study program designed to help ordinary Catholics grow in their knowledge of Scriptures Fr. Mike’s Bookies will be discussing “On Heaven and Earth” by Pope Francis

EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry

Meetings on regular REACH nights

IGNITE High School Ministry

Monday Night Youth Group meets weekly. Monthly XLT nights are on the 3rd & 4th Monday of the month. Weekly Holy Hour/Prayer is on Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm. Teen-led after-school study hall with Solutions for Change Thursdays

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Still looking for more facilitators

Sacramental Preparation

First Holy Communion: all Masses May 31st/June 1st

Confirmation: May 7th

Thirty teens are preparing for Confirmation. Candidates & sponsors had a retreat at STM Jan. 25th, culminating in the Covenant Ritual at the 5pm Mass.

Retreat is scheduled for September 20-22nd at Kamp Kuper. Weekly class on Sundays followed by attendance at the 10:30 Mass began Jan. 29th.

Women's Ministry

Women's Prayer Breakfast scheduled for Sat. Jan. 22nd

Men's Ministry

TMIY continues Saturdays at 6:45am

Men's Fellowship meet the 2nd Friday of the month at 7pm

Finance Council

The parish is operating at its normal mode.

STM's 2014 Annual Catholic Appeal assessment is \$48K

Development Council

No report at this time

Social Ministries

Blood Drive – May – It was suggested that maybe a STM day at the facility would be better than scheduling the mobile unit due to difficulties filling and keeping appointments, and, at times, low participation. Linda Dicus will be stepping down as chair after 10yrs.

Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers – Breakfasts continue to be served on the first Saturday of each month.

Christmas Angels – The ministry had another good year providing toys, family gifts, military family packages and baby items. There continues to be a slight decrease in the Birth Choice collection again this year. Ways to keep the momentum going through this last phase were discussed. Another idea is to seek another time of the year for the collection. A new tree may be needed for this year.

CPR – Several classes are scheduled during the next four months. Another instructor is expected by mid-summer to replace Chris Smith. The instructor team is exploring new training methods so more parishioners can acquire these life-saving skills.

Culture of Life – participated in the Life Walk to benefit Life Perspectives. Also participated in the Epiphany collection to benefit Birth Choice. Attended the second

annual Walk for Life in SD on Jan. 18th in observance of the anniversary of Roe v Wade. Committee members continue to pray at local abortion clinics weekly.

Youth Justice Ministry – Proposed name change from Youth Justice Foundation to Youth Justice Ministry. Working with Edge program to promote an earlier introduction and increased involvement. Edge/YJM Sales (\$600-\$700/mo.) plus donations have provided farm animals to several countries since October.

Solutions for Change – Monthly dinners continue to be served and coverage is good into 2014. Books and other donations are gladly accepted and moved to the California Ave. location each week. They are not accepting furniture at this time.

Interfaith Community Services – The merger of ICS and Community Resources Center has been cancelled. Monthly general membership meetings will be on the third Thursday of every month.

Engaging Spirituality – Two groups have begun their sessions

La Posada Men's Shelter– STM Social Justice Committee will continue to support, based on their needs as they arise

Interfaith Committee for Workers Justice (ICWJ) - Support and solidarity continue with Calif. Domestic workers, Pauma Casino workers, UCSD Thornton Hospital workers, grocery workers at Northgate Gonzalez and hotel workers at Hilton Mission Valley and Marriott La Jolla. Fiesta de Quinceanera, “Voices for Justice: Who Will Speak If We Don't” was Dec.4th. A big organizing event is planned in March at the Vista Northgate Gonzalez store.

San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP) – This project is a non-partisan, inter-faith, multi-cultural, non-profit community organization representing 35 congregations and 70,000 families throughout San Diego County. Focus is still on Immigration Reform – a Pathway to Citizenship

PO&E

Annual Gala – Planning begins in March, looking for fresh ideas and new twists to keep it interesting. All ideas welcome.

Golf Outing – Need for someone to take the lead on this event.

Historian – Working on a large collection of photos and slides of the Youth Ministry. Once this is done, work will resume on creating more content for the Archives Web page. The Archives does have a presence on the STM website now!!

Knights of Columbus – Oktoberfest and November pancake breakfast had a great turnout. Last week's breakfast was poorly attended. Next breakfast is Feb. 2. March begins Lenten dinners, a St. Patrick's Day dinner. March 30 is the Corporate Communion at 8:30a mass.

Senior Ministry – Over 70 active participants at the December luncheon and January play at the AVO. Feb. 14 Valentine's lunch and concert. March is a bus trip to the Getty Museum.

Walking Ministry – Diane is the lone walker... open for ideas on how to get this group going.

Women's Guild - Last quarter they had a successful bake sale, quilt sale, raffle and Chinese auction. Next quarter, includes the Feb. Fashion show, St. Patrick Day

meeting and band concert, April Day of recollection and a bake sale. In May the election of Board members for the next year and parish game day will be held.

Deanery – There is a total of 4 Deanery's now. \$3500 total was raised via raffles and dues (\$1200 from STM). Proceeds support the seminarian's basic needs i.e. toiletries, laundry, and new refrigerator.

Treasure's Flea Market – Early planning has started for October's sale.

Liturgy Committee

EVALUATION/COMMENTS

Christmas – extra 4:15 Mass on Christmas Eve was well received. Late arrivals did not mind going down stairs. Seating for 250 was full. Appreciated the A&E done by the youth, and liked having the Nativity display provided by Chris Smith. Parking is still and will continue to be an issue. Incarnation artwork well received. Comments were received about adding red poinsettias next year.

LITURGY CALENDAR:

Lent - Ash Wednesday, March 5 - 8:15 am, Noon, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm. (soup Supper)

Palm Sunday – April 13

Holy Thursday – April 17 - Mass time: 6:00 pm

Good Friday - April 18 - Morning Prayer: 8:15 a.m., Service: Noon, Stations: 3:00 p.m., Service: 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil – April 19 - 8:00 P.M. 4 candidates (no Baptisms)

Easter Sunday Masses - 6:30 A.M., 8:30 A.M., 10:30 A.M., 10:45 A.M.

First Holy Communion – May 31/June 1, 2014 all Masses (30 Candidates)

Pentecost – June 8, 2014

Confirmation – TBD – still waiting for Bishop's Calendar

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Hospitality – ADA chair set up, Emergency procedures, Confirmation Students ministry involvement

EMHC – Have a few new ministers that need training, reverence needed on Sanctuary, Purificators need to be opened up before leaving Sanctuary and serving communicants, consume Precious Blood behind Sanctuary. Training is at the Pastoral Center

Readers – all training is done at Pastoral Center: February 1/6, June 7/12, August 9/14 and November 1/6

Altar Servers – 4 Servers need training. There is NO AGE limit!! All Servers are encouraged to continue their Ministry.

Music – Twelfth Night Ecumenical Concert- 7 church Choirs performed. 500+ attended, very well received. STM may become the concert site next year as well.

Marriage & Family Life

Bringing Home the Celebration – Over 100 attended and made Advent wreaths. Candlemas will be highlighted next week, then World Marriage Day in mid February. Butter lambs planned again in conjunction with Easter Basket Blessings for Easter and a few do-at-home Lenten activities will be in the bulletin.

Diocesan Liaison – Daryl & Trish Resplandor are the new leaders. “Marriage Moments” & “Parenting Pointers” continue in the weekly bulletin along with excerpts from Bishops Letter on Marriage and other diocese-supported missions

Family Night – currently on hold

Moms & Kids – Weekly events with great participation by moms, kids, dads and grandmas! Park dates weekly, Candles for Candlemas, Chef for a Night at Chick-fil-A and Daily Mass starting in February (once a month).

Widows & Widowers – Group is so thankful for the use of STM’s lower level and kitchen for its general meeting and potluck since the North County group is so large. They will meet again at STM on July 30th and August 10th. Attendance at a 10:30 Sunday Mass is to be determined

Clergy Comments

One Border, One Body; Immigration and the Eucharist presentation is March 8th

Fr. Mike announced Marcus Cabrera’s resignation as Youth Advocate for personal reasons. The committee will be reviewing candidates once again to fill this position.

Another big concrete pour is scheduled this week for the Daily Chapel.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for April 30th.

Greg and/or Cherie Abrahms will lead the opening prayer.