

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
February 4, 2015

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

Opening Prayer

Jennifer Frost led 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	Development Council Chair	X	
Masako Streling	Diocesan Pastoral Council Liaison		X

Agenda Review

Doug D'Agrosa opened the meeting with remarks on what this New Year holds for our parish community. The completion of our church brings excitement, yet expanding roles and new commitments for the parish and its parishioners.

Old Business

None to report

New Business

None to report

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

Adult Religious Education Committee – Debbie Fredette – Second session of Bible timeline Series began on January 7th and will run for 7 sessions. Session 3 will start on March 11th.

Parish Mission is Monday March 2nd –Wednesday, March 4th with Fr. Franklin Fong, OFM from the Franciscan School of Theology. He will be presiding at all the masses on the weekend of February 28th & 29th to introduce himself to the parish and then presenting the Lenten Retreat on Monday-Wednesday at 9:00am & 7:00pm

Women's Faith & Fellowship began a weekly get together on Monday evening, February 2nd studying the Mary Series: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Virgin. This program will be held for the next 3 weeks from 7:30-9:00pm.

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children – Debbie Fredette – 10:30 session (PRE-K) Genesis has 27 students; Level 1-5 has a new format this year - more group & community orientated; HS Phase 1 has 30 students, Phase 2 has 40 students; Phase 3 is for the post-confirmed or those not yet called to Confirmation

Liturgy of the Word for Children – Heidi Madden –All is well

Sacramental Preparation – Debbie Fredette – Eucharist - Parents attend 3 meetings, with Bret & Jolene Schanzenbach as catechists, in preparing the children for this sacrament

Confirmation - 47 candidates including 6 young adults are preparing for Confirmation on May 23, 2015 @ 5:00pm, with Fr. Mike presiding Chosen Program on REACH Sundays
M3 – 5:00pm *Mass, Family Potluck Meal & Message*

EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry – Rory Griffin - Theology of the Body for Middle School program based on the teachings of Pope St. John Paul II

IGNITE High School Ministry – Matt Franklin

Monday Night Youth Group meets weekly. Weekly Guys & Girls group on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm Plans for a spring retreat
Steubenville West: “Limitless” – considering Arizona conference with smaller group of 55 (teens & chaperones)

LEAD Young Adult Ministry – Matt Franklin This program is transitioning to CORE; moving from HS teens to more of a young adult ministry to serve the teens

Women's Ministry – Erin Barela – Women's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 9:30-11:00am. The speaker is Dr. Cindy Peterson. Approximately 50 participants are expected.

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

TMIY – “That Man is You” begins the 2nd semester of its 3rd year with meetings Sat. mornings at 6:45am; well attended and recruiting more men

RCIA – Kathleen Bell – Currently have 12 (9 adults & 3 teens) catechumens and candidates scheduled for this Easter Vigil. The rite of Sending will be held on Sun day, February 22nd at the 8:30 Mass They are dismissed each week from the 8:30am Mass, meet at the plaza after Mass to meet parishioners and share in the mission that is taking place on the plaza, and their catechetical session continues until 11:30 with sponsors included.

Vacation Bible Camp – Debbie Fredette After a year hiatus VBS returns the week of June 22nd. The theme is “Everest”. This has been a summer highlight for many community children. In the past, there have been over 250 participants.

PO&E

Annual Gala – Chris Smith – The 2015 Gala will be on Friday, May 1st. The first planning meeting has been held; invitations will be mailed February 20th.

Historian – Brandon Oswald – Brandon will be personally looking for archival-worthy items when the storage room is cleaned out February 9th.

Spirited Seniors Ministry – Jim & Marilyn Day –Valentine's Day Luncheon, March Day of Recollection, April IMAX Theater - space shuttle Endeavor

Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn – Ash Wednesday soup supper February 18th and Holy Thursday dinner sign-ups. Parish Camp Out is June 12-14th; new chairperson is Michael Haubert

Women’s Guild – Ann Buko – Fashion Show is Saturday, February 7th – biggest fundraiser all year. March Day of Recollection with the Spirited Seniors

Knights of Columbus – Andy Frost – St. Patrick’s Day dinner in March; Lenten dinners

Walking Ministry – Diane Pal – Once a week; very small group

Finance Council

The parish is operating in its usual financial mode for this time of year. The new fiscal year begins July 1st and the parish hopes to stay on target with the new fiscal responsibilities of the build out.

Development Council

Building Update – The building of the new sanctuary and offices continues, but no specific date is set for its completion at this time, maybe late summer.

Scrip – supposedly good sales in December – no numbers are available at this time

Annual Catholic Appeal – the diocesan assessment for STM is \$48K, same as last year

Vehicle Donation Program – \$12,465 this year; over \$52K overall (6yrs)

Restaurant Fundraiser – In addition to the weekly fundraiser, the council is planning four yearly events, more family oriented. Bowling will be scheduled in March; others include Boomers and K1 Sports. Future fundraiser with Rubio’s may include several of the North County stores to improve participation by creating easier access.

Social Ministries

CRP/AED Classes - Phil Goscienski, M.D.

During the past three months, 29 people have been certified, bringing the total to more than 460 since the program’s inception. The goal is 500 by the time the new sanctuary is dedicated.

Blood Drive - Morgan & Stacey Espe Morgan & Stacey have taken over as chairs.

Though the Red Cross is easy to work with most of the time, the feeling is that our drive may be too small for them to bother with.

Social Justice:

Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice – Henrietta Black – Monthly meetings held Sept.-

June La Posada membership drive Jan. 24-25 San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)

is gathering information from the parish survey regarding plans for possible workshops.

DAPA Education meeting at San Luis Rey on Feb. 4th Aging and Independence has a March meeting

Just Faith/Engaging Spirituality – both groups are involved in “Faith Encounters the Ecological Crisis, a Just Faith module. This module may be offered again in January.

Human Trafficking - Sr. Jean wrote and will be writing articles for the church bulletin educating us on human trafficking issues and updates. A PBS series “A Path Appears” shows Jan. 26th, Feb. 5th and Feb. 9th

Interfaith Community Services – Dick Belprez

Attends General Membership meetings every two months

Visited St. Francis church to observe operation of food truck that brings lunch to needy seniors Participated in ICS holiday adopt-a-family program by adopting a needy veteran

Provided ICS contacts for parishioners seeking services

Will attend “groundbreaking” of newly-purchased Veteran and Family Resource Center on Feb 11th.

Brother Benno’s Kitchen Servers – George Jones Continues to function well with plenty of servers; recently added two couples to the group

Culture of Life – Jane Kelleher – A successful Birth Choice drive collected baby items on the weekend of the Feast of the Epiphany.

Christmas Angels – Lisa & Kevin Seufert did a wonderful job as new chairs. Once again, local charities and many Camp Pendleton families enjoyed Christmas gifts from our generous parishioners. However, there is a definite need for more volunteers.

Liturgy

No report

Marriage & Family Life

Bringing the Celebration Home: World Marriage Day insert 2/24 weekend with interviews from kids on why their parents got married Butter

Lamb Workshop on Holy Saturday Mother’s Day flowers 5/10

Father’s Day cookies 6/21

Diocesan Liaison: Andrea Spencer is the new lead for this ministry starting in March.

“Marriage Moments” & “Parenting Pointers” continue in the weekly bulletin. The bulletin also includes excerpts from the Bishops Letter on Marriage and other diocese-supported missions.

Family Services: Services available upon request

Marriage Preparation: Approx. 6-8-weddings per year, but requests increasing. Couples are referred to the diocese for prep classes. Weddings are now being scheduled in the new church!

Stewardship Update

Memorial Items: Double-checking all memorial donations so the donors are properly recognized in the memorial garden when that time comes. In the last month, several large items have been adopted: Bronze church doors @ \$100K, oak tree grove of 10 trees @ \$25K, STM tapestry @ \$75K, plus several other items. Publishing these items is a big help.

Clergy Comments

Fr. Mike commented on what a wonderful 40th Anniversary celebration of his ordination he had at both the STM Mass & reception, and with his extended family. He is very thankful to all those who attended as well as all those who helped with the Mass & reception.

Donations have been made for the bronze doors, crucifix and tapestry for the new church

Fr. Mike gave a brief report of the Finance Council as above

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for April 29th.

Patrick and/or Lisa Attardo will lead the opening prayer.