

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
April 29, 2015

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:08pm

Opening Prayer

Marti Harper read the opening prayer submitted by Lisa Attardo.

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

Old Business

None to report

New Business

Fr. Mike led a discussion regarding the Holy Thursday dinners. Due to the lateness of the evening on Holy Thursday and also because the parish should be encouraging Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on that evening, it would be good to have the dinner on another day, maybe on a Sunday in June near the Feast of St. Thomas More. The community dinners are a wonderful community builder, and although the dinners are presently well-attended, they would even have better attendance on another day in the year. Another day would also allow adequate time for a festive meal and fellowship. The Council agreed to move the dinners to a different time of year. Henny Jocelyn, who has chaired the dinners' committee for years, is choosing to step down.

Another chairperson needs to be found.

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

Adult Religious Education Committee – Debbie Fredette – Bible Timeline Series continues with 75-80 people in attendance and will also be offered on Thursday evenings starting June 4th.

Parish Mission was Monday March 2nd –Wednesday, March 4th with Fr. Franklin Fong, OFM from the Franciscan School of Theology.

Women's Faith & Fellowship meets weekly on Monday evenings

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children – Debbie Fredette – REACH program will conclude the year on May 17th

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

Sacramental Preparation – Debbie Fredette – Eucharist – 46 students will be making their First Holy Communion at Masses the weekend of May 30-31st.

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

EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry – Rory Griffin – The middle school program has been transformed to the EDGE program on REACH nights. Theology of the Body is being taught this semester. High school & Young Adults put on a Living Stations of the Cross for REACH & the parish.

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" – A smaller group of 55 (teens & chaperones) will be attending the San Diego conference July 24-26th.

Women's Ministry – Erin Barela – Approximately fifty women attended the Women's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 21st. The speaker was Dr. Cindy Peterson.

Men's Ministry – Deacon John Fredette - Men's fellowship continues to meet on the 2nd Friday of each month 7-8:30pm. TMIY completed its 3rd year. The Men's Fall Retreat will be in October.

RCIA – Kathleen Bell – We had 12 (9 adults & 3 teens) catechumens and candidates join the church at the Easter Vigil.

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

“Reaching for the Stars” will be on Friday, May 1st.

Historian – Brandon Oswald – Brandon is currently focusing his work on items for the website.

Spirited Seniors Ministry – Jim & Marilyn Day –

June’s Summer Social will be at STM June 18th and is the final event before the summer break.

Membership is now at 196. The Day’s have temporarily resigned due to health reasons but will resume their leadership role in the fall. Judy Buoniconti will fill the role through June 30th.

Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn – Ash

Wednesday Soup Supper and Holy Thursday dinners were very successful. The Parish Camp Out is June 12-14th; Fr. Mike will celebrate Mass. The new chairperson is Michael Haubert

Women’s Guild – Ann Buko – The final event of the year was the Mad Hatter Tea Party. The new officers were elected; Kathy Gerhard will be the new president. The group raised approximately \$20,000 this year.

Knights of Columbus – Andy Frost – New officers will be elected July 1st. The Lenten dinner season was very successful. The Hot Dog fundraisers have also been successful and easy.

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 committee is currently working on the budget for the new fiscal year beginning July 1st.

Development Council

No report

Social Ministries

Limited report available

Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers – George Jones -
Continues to function well. Will serve dinner at
Solutions for Change in July.

Liturgy

Altar Servers/Sacristans – We will lose three Sacristans this summer. New albs are needed for servers; Rebecca will repair what she can. Deacon John mentioned posture and behavior during Mass for Altar servers and Sacristans

Art & Environment – Kathy Arciero & Team have assisted with Easter décor, Holy Communion Banners and Confirmation Art

EMHC – Brenda Estigoy has trained three new ministers

Faith Formation – Debbie Fredette announced plans for VBS and continuing Bible Study. Fundraiser fashion show for STM Youth Activities is May 9th.

Hospitality – Joyce Meehan will be training new Team Leaders. Mention was made about the bank bags be secured properly

Music Ministry – Glory Hartegan, Tom Golgan, Theresa Harris and Kathy Santy commented on seasonal music and the recent concert.

Dedicating a Church

The Liturgy Committee, guided by Fr. Mike, discussed the Rite of Dedication. All participated as each part of the Mass was discussed. Fr. Mike will inform our new Bishop of the committee's deliberations and suggestions. In addition, all are invited to view two dedication videos in July.

Marriage & Family Life

Bringing the Celebration Home: World Marriage Day insert with interviews from kids on why their parents got married received great feedback. Butter Lamb Workshop on Holy Saturday had lower attendance. 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!

Clergy Comments

Fr. Mike gave a brief report stating that the build out of the new church and administrative buildings continues to make good progress. He is excited and optimistic that Bishop Robert McElroy will serve the San Diego Diocese well.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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

Rory Griffin will lead the opening prayer.