

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

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

Opening Prayer

Marti Harper read 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 | |
| Morgan & Stacey Espe | 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 |
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Agenda Review

Old Business

None to report

New Business

Doug introduced Morgan Espe to the council. Morgan and his wife, Stacey, are the new chairs for Social Ministries.

As project manager, Ann Buko spoke to the council about plans for the upcoming parish photo directory. It has been 10 years since the last directory. A contract has been negotiated with Life Touch Photography for spring 2016. At no cost to STM, the company offers several incentives to both the parish and its parishioners.

The parish receives tools for advertising and scheduling, and can earn credits towards "extras" in the directory. Everyone who is photographed receives a free 8x10 photo + free directory, and the opportunity to purchase professional portraits. Appointments will begin in April, continuing through May and photos taken in June.

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

Adult Religious Education Committee – Debbie Fredette – The “Bible Timeline Series” continues on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm. “Symbolon” series continues on Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:00am.

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children – Debbie Fredette – “Everest” VBS was a huge success in both message and method. Teen support was great.

Summer Movie Night: a time for family fellowship

Preparations begin for new REACH year.

Liturgy of the Word for Children – Heidi Madden – No report

Sacramental Preparation – Debbie Fredette – Preparing for new REACH year

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 – Preparing for new REACH year

IGNITE High School Ministry – Matt Franklin –

Monday IGNITE Night Youth Group meets weekly

Monthly XLT nights on the 3rd or 4th Monday of the month

“Wake Up With the King” returns this summer on Wednesday mornings, for families of the parish to gather for morning Mass and then stay for breakfast cereal and fellowship

50 participants attended Steubenville San Diego

“Limitless” John 10:10 at USD in late July. The

weekend energized, renewed, inspired and

transformed all. Once again the success of our

ministry was seen at the “Altar Call” for those

discerning the call to religious life or the priesthood.

Women’s Ministry – Debbie Fredette – No report

Men’s Fellowship – Deacon John Fredette - The

“Second Friday of the Month” meeting has been

canceled. TMIY is off for the summer, resuming in

September with all new material. A new avenue for

Men’s Fellowship has begun called “I Thirst”.

RCIA – Kathleen Bell – No report

PO&E

Annual Gala – Chris Smith – The Pastor’s Dinner was a success, netting \$4000. The Pizza Party and Christmas Cookie Exchange are still to come. The

next Gala is April 29th, 2016; planning team meets in February.

Historian - Brandon Oswald – A great 2015 Women's Guild Year in Review has been preserved in the archives. All employees and ministries are reminded to not throw anything out before Brandon reviews.

Spirited Seniors Ministry – Jim & Marilyn Day – 2015/2016 activities begin Sept. 16th with the ice cream social. Membership drive was completed on June 30th and the group is currently planning the upcoming year's events.

Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn – The Parish Campout was a huge success, best-attended campout to date with many young families!

Women's Guild – New officers; no report

Knights of Columbus – John Murphy – John Murphy is the new Grand Knight.

Walking Ministry – Diane Pal – No report.

Treasures Rummage Sale – John & Wendy Murphy
The process of starting a planning committee has begun. Advertising has started in the parish bulletin for all to start collecting items to donate.

Finance Council

The parish's fiscal review is in progress. The new budget, which began July 1st, has increased by 20% in anticipation of our campus increasing from one building to three buildings.

Development Council

No report

Social Ministries

Blood Drive – Morgan & Stacey Espe –The last blood drive was held on the lower level in May and was a great success. Twenty-eight people gave blood. The next drive will be scheduled in October or November.

CPR/AED Classes – Philip Goscienski, M.D. – Nine parishioners were certified in CPR during the second quarter. Classes will resume in September.

Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers – George Jones – Food is served at Bro. Benno's on the first Saturday of every month. Dinner was served at the Solutions for Change Intake Shelter on the last Saturday of the July. Always plenty of servers and can only add new servers when someone drops out.

San Diego Organizing Project – Craig & Mary Castle – SDOP's representative, Joey Ager, acted as

liaison between STM's Social Justice Committee Members and the County of SD Aging and Independent Services Representatives. Committee members were advised about services available to assist the elderly and disabled individuals from care giver agencies.

Working with the City of Oceanside and north county parishes, SDOP spearheaded an Action, held at Mission San Luis Rey, which involved the mayor of Oceanside and church leaders on the affordable housing crisis.

SDOP continues to track and lobby for effective legislation relating to meaningful affordable housing reform.

Other issues and campaigns include a youth campaign, good school/access to quality education, housing opportunities, public safety, immigration reform and path to citizenship.

Angel Tree Ministry – Lisa Seufert – The first meeting for volunteers is generally near the end of September, followed by a second meeting in October. There is a great need for more volunteers, especially to help on the plaza after the masses.

Solutions for Change – Kevin Leahy – STM is a dedicated supporter of North County Solutions for Change. Dinners are served monthly for 30-40 people. Also, donations of furniture and clothing from parish members is coordinated and delivered.

Interfaith Community Services – Dick Belprez – The Faith Leaders Council led by Chairwoman, Rev. Meg Decker, are encouraging greater Council participation by the clergy.

Two significant initiatives have been formulated by the Council: 1) “Hope in Housing” is an invitation for faith centers to raise funds on the Labor Day weekend to help homeless people get moved into their new housing and 2) “All Congregations Together”, an opportunity for faith centers to volunteer for some hands-on projects to help the people served by ICS, on Oct. 10th & 11th.

Executive director, Greg Anglea, reviewed ICS progress in satisfying the Strategic Priorities for 2015-2017. A monthly or quarterly update was suggested since there is so much going on at ICS. Some of the many volunteer project needs were reviewed and documented on individual flyers by Volunteer Coordinator, Chelsea Buck. Groups interested in volunteering should contact her directly.

Liturgy

Dedicating a Church

The Liturgy Committee continues to explore and discuss the rites and rituals for dedicating a church. The Dedication of the Los Angeles Cathedral was viewed on DVD, paying particular attention to the Liturgical actions, including processions, blessings, anointing and incensing. The committee will also view “Understanding a Church Dedication”, a series of 10 short YouTube presentations published by St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church in Austin, TX that were prepared to inform their community. These presentations can be viewed at their YouTube page: [St. Vincent de Paul Church Austin, TX](#)

Marriage & Family Life

Bringing the Celebration Home: Mother’s Day flowers and Father’s Day cookies were a big success. Planning will soon begin for the next Advent activity scheduled for the end of November.

Diocesan Liaison: “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 announced that Matt Franklin now has a full time position as Youth Advocate.

Brian Leahy reports that the construction of the new church continues to go well with completion due before the end of the year. Completion of the administrative offices will take place after the church is completed.

Professionals are investigating the cost and feasibility of obtaining, disassembling and shipping the “Jesus, Divine Redeemer and Master of the Universe” mosaic from Monroe, CT to STM. If possible, the 15x30 ft. mosaic will be reassembled in the Memorial Garden of our new church. Items for the new church are nearing completion: the St. Thomas More tapestry is ready; the Corpus will soon be installed; donations for memorial items continue.

The next financial update by Bill Ipsen, Financial Resources Liaison, will take place at all the Masses the last weekend of September.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for October 28th.

Rory Griffin will lead the opening prayer.