

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
October 28, 2015

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:12pm

Opening Prayer

Rory Griffin recited 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 Chair		X
Jen Frost	Marriage and Family Life Chair	X	
Patrick & Lisa Attardo	Parish Organizations & Events Chair	X	
Ron Briseno	Development Council Chair		X

Agenda Review

Old Business

None to report

New Business

None to report

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

Adult Religious Education Committee – Debbie Fredette – The “Bible Timeline Series” - offered Thursday evenings for 24 weeks, will end November 12th. Forty-five people registered for class.

Relationship Skills Work Shop – offered Wednesday evenings for 14 weeks through January 7, 2016. Approximately 40-50 people attend.

Matthew: King and His Kingdom – offered Wednesday mornings for 24 weeks, from September 9th through March 16th. 105 people registered

Year of Mercy Talks – 90 minute talks with group discussion centered on the Year of Mercy, scheduled once a month, starting October 11th with 12 attendees. Sessions are held especially for the parents of our REACH students and offered during the Faith Formation classes from 12:30-2:00.

Religious Education for Adolescents and Children – Debbie Fredette – REACH year began September 13th with 17 sessions planned for the year. REACH OUT newsletter debuted on September 13th, updating parents during the off weeks on what their children learned in class along with resources for family use.

Liturgy of the Word for Children – Heidi Madden – Meets each week as space allows. New ministers have been added to the schedule

Sacramental Preparation – Debbie Fredette – Six Reconciliation/First Communion Parent classes are being taught by Bret & Jolene Schanzenbach. Reconciliation is planned for Sunday, December 6th at 4:00pm; First Communion is planned for the weekend of May 21st-22nd.

Confirmation - The parish has requested Sunday May 15th for Confirmation.

EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry – Matt Franklin – weekly meetings now scheduled with Matt Franklin. All-night lock in at the church was huge success with 50 students attending. Middle school weekend retreat for the spring is in the planning stages.

IGNITE High School Ministry – Matt Franklin – Youth Group meets weekly. Monthly XLT nights are held on the 3rd or 4th Monday of the month drawing approximately 150 people. Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for April 1-3, 2016 at Green Oaks Ranch.

Re-Fuel is held each Wednesday evening for his school teens to come together mid-week to discuss the week's readings, currently the book of James. The youth continue to support various ministries in the parish. Ten middle school and high school youth and two chaperones will attend a new catholic youth camp in Big Bear called Life Teen Camp Golden State in July 2016.

Women's Ministry – Debbie Fredette – No report

Men's Fellowship – Deacon John Fredette - "I Thirst" meets Saturday mornings from 6:45-8:15am with 50-60 men registered.

STM Fall Men's Retreat – October 9-11th at Green Oaks Ranch

RCIA – Kathleen Bell – Five teens, between the ages of 10 and 14, have enrolled to prepare to enter the church at the Easter Vigil.

PO&E

Annual Gala – Chris Smith – The Pizza Party and Christmas Cookie Exchange are the final events.

Historian – Brandon Oswald – Brandon is working with Lorraine to add new items to the website. He is waiting for more space to continue work on the archives.

Spirited Seniors Ministry – Jim & Marilyn Day – Trip to Viejas Casino and Outlet Mall in November and Winter Luncheon in December.

Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn – No report

Women's Guild – No report

Knights of Columbus – John Murphy – The Christmas Tree sale has begun, with a goal of selling 200 trees. Eight new members bring the current membership to over 90 men. Five

homes were built in Poway by SD Chapter of Knights for Habitat for Humanity and will be awarded to families of Wounded Warrior Project. STM Knights will host a Veterans Brunch Saturday, November 7th. Actively seeking service projects. Also working with a group to provide a 4th degree Color Corp for the dedication of the church.

Walking Ministry – Diane Pal – No report.

Treasures Rummage Sale – John & Wendy Murphy This year's sale raised \$14,000 to date, with a few large items listed on Craigslist that could bring in an additional \$800.

Finance Council

The parish is operating in normal mode.

Development Council

No report

Social Ministries

Blood Drive – Morgan & Stacey Espe –The last blood drive had 33 donors – 6 walk-ins.

CPR/AED Classes – Philip Goscienski, M.D. – Next class is in January.

Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers – George Jones – Serving line is well staffed every first Saturday of the month. No need for extra volunteers at this time. Meal served at the Solutions for Change Shelter in July was well received and appreciated.

Angel Tree Ministry – Lisa Seufert – The first round of meetings for volunteers started in October. The Angel Tree will be on the plaza November 8-9th. Gift bags for Catholic charities will be assembled on Saturday, December 5th. On the Feast of the Epiphany there will be the annual collection of baby items for Birth Choice. There is a great need for volunteers to help on the plaza at the masses and for the gift bag assembly

Parish Social Justice – Henrietta Black – Hosting quarterly meetings for interested parishioners and others - October 27th @ 7pm

San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP) – Ageing and independence presentations
Focus on Pope Francis' visit to the US

Just Faith - winter offering – “In the Spirit of Francis” – 6 wk. small group sessions

La Posada – fundraiser October 16th

Interfaith Center for Workers Justice (ICWJ) Voices for Justice Breakfast – November 17th

Liturgy

Dedication of the Church

The Liturgy Committee continues to explore and discuss the rites and rituals for dedicating a church. The members were given a draft of the Worship Aid for the Dedication for review and comments. Fr. Mike and Douglas will be assigning all Liturgical Ministers for this Mass. Mandatory training for all ministers TBD. Fr. Mike updated the current status of completion – everything is on time!

Marriage & Family Life

Bringing the Celebration Home: The making of Advent Blocks is scheduled for Sunday November 15th at 12:00pm after the 10:30 Mass. The cost is \$10.00.

Diocesan Liaison: Andrea Spencer is the new contact person. "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: Ten weddings are scheduled for 2016

Catholic Widows & Widowers: The 170 CWWNC members will be invited to the Dedication Mass. The Communal Mass at STM is scheduled for April 12th, 2016

Clergy Comments

600 RSVPs have been received for the Dedication Mass.

The adjacent five acres of land has been sold to the diocese and along with nine other acres will be designated for a diocesan cemetery.

\$125K has been collected so far for the mosaic: Jesus the Divine Redeemer and Master of the Universe. Either group or individual donations are accepted.

The first wedding in the new church is scheduled for January 2, 2016. Ten weddings are scheduled in 2016. Leah Keane is the wedding coordinator.

The parish is looking into providing childcare during the 10:30 Mass for those parents wishing to attend Mass without their children. The current Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the adjacent "conference table area" could together provide an adequate enclosed space. This would be a cooperative approach among interested parents.

Quarterly reports are received from various committees working with Social Justice, covering areas of ecology, low-income housing, etc.

Large donated items will be listed on eBay or Craigslist throughout the entire year in an attempt to make more money for the parish than by selling them cheaper at the Treasures flea market.

The parish office will be closed the week of the Dedication as staff prepares for this special event. The Dedication Mass is December 16th at 2:00-3:30pm with a reception to follow in the parking lot. Bishop McElroy and Bishop Brom will both be in attendance. There will be extra parking in the dirt lot, but with limited parking we are encouraged to carpool or park off site if necessary.

28 dead trees were removed along the bank at the back of the parking lot. Ground cover will be used to fill in the bank. Twelve olive trees have been planted in the garden area of the new church. They will be treated so as not to bear "messy" fruit.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be determined once the 2016 calendar is completed.

Fr. Mike will lead the opening prayer.