

**St. Thomas More Catholic Church**  
**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**February 3, 2016**

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

**Opening Prayer**

Fr. Mike led the opening prayer.

**Roll Call**

Pastoral Council attendance:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>A</b>
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**

Doug D'Agrosa has accepted the position of Parish Financial Resources Liaison after Bill Ipsen announced his retirement from the position after 15 years.

Holy Thursday Dinners will no longer be held after Holy Thursday Mass in order to promote adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which will now follow a 7pm Mass. Options for holding future gatherings include: another day of the week, a Sunday afternoon or the feast of St. Thomas More. The Parish Organization & Events ministry will put out a notice.

**Committee Updates**

**Evangelization and Faith Formation  
Committee**

**Adult Religious Education Committee – Debbie Fredette**

The Matthew Morning Bible Study 90 participants, 70+ consistently each week. Ends March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Relationship Skills – Completed 14 sessions with 40 participants each week.

Beloved Marriage Series – Wednesday evenings with 35 people

Symbolon Series – 40 people registered, including six Adult Confirmation Candidates. Session offered at 6:00 for choir members

Laudato Si Speaker – January 17<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Emmett Farrell - Well attended with approx. 40 people.

Offered during REACH for parents dropping kids off to 12<sup>30</sup> session

Year of Mercy Talks – 90 minute talks with group discussion centered on the Year of Mercy, scheduled once a month, starting October 11<sup>th</sup> 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**

Genesis (Pre-K) 10:30 session has 40 students.

Level 1-5 has a new format this year – more group & community orientated.

REACH (Grades 1-5) New format well received.

REACH Out Newsletter designed and going home on the off weeks with Parent Involvement. Joyful

Mysteries play done for Christmas and Sorrowful

Mysteries play being done for Lent.

**Liturgy of the Word for Children – Heidi Madden –**

All is well – adjusting to new surroundings.

**Sacramental Preparation – Debbie Fredette –**

**Eucharist** - First Communion is scheduled the weekend of May 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at all three Masses – 27 children making their sacrament.

**Confirmation** - The current class for Confirmation has 27 teens. Finishing Chosen series and will begin Theology of the Body in next few weeks. Retreat for Year 2 Confirmation class is being planned and will be held at Green Oaks Ranch in Vista on April 1-3. Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 Mass. M3 – 5:00 mass, Family Potluck Meal & Message.

**EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry – Matt**

**Franklin**– weekly meetings with approx. 50 in attendance.

**IGNITE High School Ministry – Matt Franklin –**

Monday Night Youth Group meets weekly.

Attendance is up but cost of food for kids is biggest obstacle.

Weekly Bible Study on Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm  
Post Confirmed High School – LEAD group has 12 teens in attendance

Steubenville San Diego – July 29-31.parent meeting  
Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss fundraising to help with \$258 cost. Scholarships are greatly needed. Space is available for 30 teens and 5 chaperones

Life Teen Summer Camp- June 27-July 1 – Ten participant and 2 chaperone spots have been secured at \$600 each. Fundraising is in the works; scholarships again greatly needed.

Tommy's Café is open for business after the 8:30 & 10:30 masses. Staffed by Confirmation class teens. All proceeds go towards supporting Youth Ministry events.

**Vacation Bible Camp - Debbie Fredette** – Starting to prepare for this year's program, "Cave Quest", the week of June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Family Movie Night Friday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, the Knights of Columbus will support Youth Ministry by serving a spaghetti dinner and showing a movie for all families of the parish. All proceeds go to support Youth Ministry.

**Women's Fellowship** – No report

**Men's Fellowship – Deacon John Fredette** - "I Hunger" meets Saturday mornings from 6:45am  
"I Thirst"- Men's gathering & fellowship

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

**RCIA – Kathleen Bell** – No report

## **PO&E**

**Annual Gala – Chris Smith** – The 2016 Gala is April 29<sup>th</sup>. The first committee is Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. A celebratory theme is being considered in honor of the new church.

**Historian - Brandon Oswald** – Archives are slowly building. Brandon is looking for more space. All administrative and ministry teams are reminded not to throw anything out - check with Brandon if not sure.

**Spirited Seniors Ministry – Jim & Marilyn Day** – St. Valentine's Day lunch, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. Day of Recollection with Women's Guild is in March - Pageant of our Lord in LA.

**Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn** – Ash Wednesday Soup Supper Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. No Holy Thursday Dinners will be held this year; they will be

moved to a new night and have a new event coordinator.

**Women's Guild – Kathy Gerhard** - An all-time high membership of 152 members. Fundraising for the Mortgage and Building Completion Fund with quilt sales, bake sales, raffles, fashion show and tea party; year to date net of \$20,000. The group meets monthly for lunch with guest speakers.

**Knights of Columbus - John Murphy** – Six new 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights and several new members this year. Exploring possible menu change for Lenten Dinners. Continue to support Building Fund with pancake breakfasts, etc.

**Walking Ministry – Diane Pal** – No report.

**Treasures Rummage Sale – John & Wendy Murphy**  
The next sale is October 2016

**Tommy's Café – Matt Franklin** – This new ministry benefits STM Youth Ministry by selling coffee, tea and breakfast items.

## **Finance Council**

No report

## **Development Council**

No report

## **Social Ministries**

**Blood Drive – Morgan & Stacey Espe** –The blood drives for 2016 will be held on the lower level on 6/26/16 and 10/16/16.

**CPR/AED Classes – Philip Goscienski, M.D.** – There are five classes scheduled for January and February.

**Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers – George Jones** – Continues to serve and has no special needs at this time.

**Angel Tree Ministry – Lisa Seufert** – Needs for this year include storage space for the items donated and more stewards to help at weekend Masses, and help with storage, sorting of items and assembling gift bags. An inquiry is being made as to whether the altar area (steps) can be utilized for a symbolic “gifts to the infant Jesus” during Epiphany instead of using tables in the back of the church for collecting baby items for Birth Choice.

**Parish Social Justice – Henrietta Black** – One on one meetings continue with parishioners who noted aging concerns on parish surveys. Attended the Men's Shelter lunch on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Working on business e-waste recycling.

**San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP) – Joe Ager** - Joe Ager is the new SDOP representative per Sr. Maureen

**Family Shoe Ministry - Rick & Heidi Madden** - STM parishioners donated approx. 500 pairs in Feb. 2015 and over 900 pairs in 2014. The main focus is on children's shoes, athletic shoes and adult work shoes. The ministry would like to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Family Shoe Drive for Solutions for Change in mid February of this year.

**Disability Facilitation – Ann Eriksson** – A few more volunteers are helping with transportation.

**Interfaith Community Services (ICS) – Dick Belprez** – The last general meeting was held Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> with 60 attendees. Topics included free tax preparation for low-income clients, at locations in Escondido, San Marcos and Oceanside. Homeless services activity for the year included **The 25 Cities Project**, a partnership with federal and north county service agencies to eliminate homelessness. Two homeless shelters, Haven House and The Rotational Shelter, were opened in December. These organizations are always in need of volunteers and household items. There is also a critical need for families to house foster children.

**Culture of Life - Jane Kelleher** - The COL recently delivered the Angel Tree donations to Birth Choice and participated in getting petitions signed to overturn Physician Assisted Suicide. The Walk for Life in Balboa Park will be later this month. Pennies from Heaven collection will be in the late spring. Prayer at the Planned Parenthood in Vista each Thursday morning at 10:00am continues.

## **Liturgy**

**Ash Wednesday** – Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>; Masses and Ashes at 8:15, Noon and 7:00pm

**Stations of the Cross** – Fridays at 7:00pm beginning Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>

**Reconciliation Service** – Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
Prayer cards for your intentions will be available in the Bulletin and in the church. Place them in the large basket in the Sanctuary wither before or after Mass, as many as you'd like over the course of the Sundays of Lent. Readers have received updated notes concerning approaching the Ambo, wearing the microphone, proclaiming notes and dress suggestions.

A new reader will be trained soon and added to the Parish Scheduling Pro system.

## **Marriage & Family Life**

**Bringing the Celebration Home - Jen Frost** – The Butter Lambs activity is scheduled again this Easter; looking for help with this ministry

**Diocesan Liaison – Andrea Spencer** – “Marriage Moments” & “Parenting Pointer” continue in the weekly bulletin, as do excerpts from the Bishops Letter on marriage and other diocese-supported missions. Will continue to include Moms & Kids as parishioners are used to coming here for them. Will partner with Debbie Fredette to advertise the Marriage Enrichment Classes.

**Marriage Preparation – Fr. Mike** – Between the new church and a number of college age parishioners who are now getting married, the parish is getting more and more weddings booked for 2016.

## **Clergy Comments**

The Offertory collection is a few thousand dollars below budget for the first six months of this fiscal year. With maintenance of two buildings and the monthly mortgage, the parish is relying on a growing offertory collection and other donations. Often planned giving (i.e. Towers of Faith gifts) help offset budget deficits.

STM’s goal for the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal is \$50K ARK, a co-op childcare during the 10:30 Mass, construction for the site in our parish center will begin after Easter.

Changes to the Lenten Schedule: Only one Good Friday Liturgy, “The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord”, will be held at 3pm. Also on Good Friday, Living Stations of the Cross, presented by STM Youth Ministries, will be held on the upper level of the parish center at 7pm. Stations of the cross will not be held outside in the parking lot this year.

The Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Pastor’s Column, entitled *Islamophobia*, encourages religious cooperation with the larger Muslim Community.

Bishop McElroy will present a talk with Sayyid Syeed, of the Islamic Society Of North America, at USD on Wednesday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The title of their presentation is “Deepening Inter-Religious Dialogue and Community Alliances”.

On Sunday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, Imam Yasser from the Vista Mosque and Fr. Mike will present “Getting to Know Our Neighbors: A Catholic/Muslim Dialogue”, at STM from 12:30-2:30pm.

The parish is continuing to seek improvements with the sound system in the new church. A meeting was held on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> with the owner of the company. Some changes were made and there is a profound improvement.

### **Closing Prayer**

All members participated in the closing prayer.  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.  
The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be on  
Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Marti Harper will lead the opening prayer.