

**Church of St. Thomas More**  
**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**April 27, 2016**

Doug D'Agrosa called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

**Opening Prayer**

Marti Harper 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**

The position of Pastoral Council Chair has not yet been filled.  
 The Holy Thursday Dinners will be moved to another time of the year, probably on a Sunday afternoon around the feast of St. Thomas More (6/22).  
 The parish will look into being a Red Cross Emergency Evacuation Site. Information on what this involves will be gathered for the next Pastoral Council Meeting. Doug D'Agrosa will take the lead on this.

**Committee Updates**

**Evangelization and Faith Formation  
 Committee**

**Adult Religious Education Committee – Debbie  
 Fredette** – Upcoming sessions: Morning & evening

sessions for “A Biblical Walk Through The Mass” with Dr. Sri

**Family Faith Formation – Debbie Fredette**

Genesis (3-5) 10:30 session has 40 students.

REACH (Grades 1-5) Approx. 65 children attending each session with the new format well received.

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

REACH did a Living Rosary for Palm Sunday.

EDGE (Grades 6-8) Weekly sessions are offered and attended by approx. 50 kids. Living Stations of the

Cross on Good Friday was very well received!

High School Confirmation (Years 1-2) Finishing

Theology of the Body sessions. M3 for Year 2

Confirmation has a monthly potluck get-together for families and sponsors of Confirmation candidates –

includes mass, meal and message.

Post Confirmed High School- 12 teens in attendance regularly

Vacation Bible School – Preparing for “Cave Quest”

VBS on June 20-24

Hot dog sales after mass on REACH Sundays to support Youth to Steubenville

Mother/Son Game Night Fundraiser May 13th

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

All is well. As always, looking for additional facilitators

**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 – 26 children making their sacrament.

**Confirmation** - Confirmation is scheduled for

Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 Mass. Thirty-two teens & young adults are in their final preparation for receiving the sacrament.

**EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry – Matt**

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

attendance. Looking into opportunities for summer schedule.

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

Monday Night Youth Group meets weekly.

Attendance is up including many new faces from

High School Faith Formation & Confirmation classes.

Biggest obstacle is still the cost of food at these events.

Monthly XLT nights on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month have been averaging 80 people from around our

deanery & beyond, drawing families, young adults & teens from as far away as Chula Vista & Murrieta!

REFUEL - weekly Bible Study on Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm – going through Book of Acts.

Post Confirmed High School – LEAD group has 12 teens in attendance

Steubenville San Diego – July 29-31 with space available for 30 teens and 5 chaperones

Life Teen Summer Camp- June 27-July 1 – Ten participant and 2 chaperone spots have been secured.

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.

Family Movie Night Fundraiser - April 23rd - Star Wars: The Force Awakens

**Women's Ministry – Lia Keane** – Women's Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker Timmerie Millington from Immaculate Heart Radio.

**Men's Fellowship – Deacon John Fredette** - "I Hunger" wrapped up until the fall. Men will continue to meet for breakfast on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month through summer. "I Thirst" is a men's casual gathering & fellowship over a beer at a local microbrewery, or taking a day hike or going to a ball game together.

**RCIA – Kathleen Bell** – Easter Vigil, March 26<sup>th</sup>, witnessed the first use of the Baptismal Font in our new church and the baptism of 6 new Catholics. Fifteen celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist as well. The 2016 group completes the period of Mystagogy on Pentecost with a special ceremony at the 5:00 Mass and a dinner celebration to follow, thanks to the Knights of Columbus. There are 5 new catechumens and candidates attending regularly in the 2017 group.

**ARK – Lia Keane** – Nursery Open House is set for June 5<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers were CPR certified on 4/25. Hopefully it will open right after the Open House (waiting on doors & signage).

## **PO&E**

**Annual Gala – Chris Smith** – The 2016 Gala is SOLD OUT for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Four additional events – wine tasting, October Fest, Christmas cookie exchange and Pastor's dinner.

**Historian – Brandon Oswald** – Processing items as they come in; will be working with Lorraine to update box lists for the Website.

**Spirited Seniors Ministry – Jim & Marilyn Day** – March bus trip to see Pageant of our Lord with 46 attendees 46. Coaster trip planned to Old Town in May.

**Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn** – Campout is filling up. Same location but different camping sites due to need for larger area.

**Women’s Guild – Kathy Gerhard** - February Fashion Show, March Luncheon, April Tea Party and semi-annual bake sale raised \$9982.00. Membership is now at 156.

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

**Knights of Columbus - John Murphy** – Normal activities include Lenten dinners (with new menu items), pancake breakfasts, dinners for Solutions for Change. Additionally, helped paint the new rectory, sponsored and cooked Family Night dinner as well as the RCIA dinner

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

## **Finance Council**

The parish finances are in its normal mode. Another year with the new budget will give a better idea of how to create a better budget. Gifts given through the Towers of Faith have been very helpful.

## **Development Council**

The next monthly restaurant fundraiser is at a new venue, Ignite, in Carlsbad, on May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. STM’s goal for the Annual Catholic Appeal is \$50K. Scrip sales are down, possibly due to the flow of parishioners out the main church doors rather than towards the plaza. It will take some time for parishioners to adjust to the new situation of the plaza.

## **Social Ministries**

No report

## **Liturgy**

**Discussion of Liturgical celebrations, rites & rituals**

**Dedication:** Rite of Anointing, incensing and dressing the Altar was very moving. Fr. Mike announced that the video is being edited and will be available

**Christmas:** Not enough color; liked where crèche was placed

**Lent:** Liked incense at Prayers of the Faithful; thought it added another level of spirituality

**Palm Sunday:** discussion of whether the Passion could be presented in another form rather than cantered; will look into other forms. Will keep the cantered form for Holy Friday service.

**Holy Thursday:** Discussed coordination issues in regards to the Procession to the Altar of Repose; seating in Day Chapel

**Holy Saturday:** Liturgy of the Hours – need more coordination (seating issues)

**Easter Vigil/Season:** Need a team for the Baptismal Font to remove cover, fill basin and then drain and recover after the Vigil Mass. Need more training/coordination of Readers. Candlewax issues. Sprinkling Rite procession through the assembly discussed. Need more color in the décor. Discussed Mass time change due to traffic and parking issues between the Masses on Easter Sunday

**Altar Servers:** Tasking for Mass duties will be addressed

**EMHC:** Refresher course for those who were unable to attend courses last November will be scheduled. Minister stations for Choir area will be defined.

**Hospitality:** Collection path will be redefined. Looking for more adults to participate/volunteer for all Masses. Training will be given outside of Mass.

**Readers:** Becoming more comfortable in our new church while sound issues are tweaked.

**Douglas:** Shared design drawing for new Canter stand, custom made by parishioner, Bob Jacobson. It will have similar design and material elements as the Presider Chair.

**Fr. Mike:** Dress Code for Lay Ministers: we ask that Liturgical Ministers dress worthily, within their own circumstance and to the best of their ability, in a way that shows respect for the liturgy we celebrate, for the people we serve, and for the God we worship. Denim is no longer restricted for Liturgical Ministers. All questions are to be directed to Douglas and/or Fr. Mike.

## **Marriage & Family Life**

**Bringing the Celebration Home - Jen Frost** – Mother’s Day flowers have been ordered, and Father’s Day cookies are planned again this year. 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** – Number of weddings is increasing. We presently have 10 scheduled for the rest of the year.

**Widow & Widowers – Carol Kope** – On Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Catholic Widow & Widowers of No. Co. attended the 10:30 Mass for their monthly Communal Mass. An estimated 35 participants were offered a brief tour of the church prior to Mass. Their general meeting & Potluck are scheduled at STM on August 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 5:00pm. The weekly bulletin ran an ad posting the April 24<sup>th</sup> Communal Mass followed by lunch at Nucci's. Also listed were the group's general meeting times and current calendar of events.

### **Clergy Comments**

Fr. Mike stated that Imam Yasser was most appreciative of the warm welcome and support shown him and his community members at their recent visit to STM on April 24<sup>th</sup>. A possible picnic is another event being considered at the end of Ramadan (7/10). The Bishop is also encouraging ongoing Catholic/Muslim dialogue.

**New Rectory:** Fr. Mike is moving to a rental house on the 5 acres adjacent to the parish that was sold to the diocese and designated as the new Diocesan Cemetery. The Knights of Columbus are in the process of painting the interior of the house.

### **Closing Prayer**

All members participated in the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm. The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Morgan and/or Stacy Espe will lead the opening prayer.