

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
July 21, 2016

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

Opening Prayer

Doug D'Agrosa led 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

Doug D'Agrosa will obtain information on the requirements to become a Red Cross Emergency Evacuation Site.

Mario Cugini will be attending "A Faith-based Active Shooter Preparedness Workshop" for the parish.

New Business

Lisa Attardo will be the new Pastoral Council Chair as Doug D'Agrosa assumes his new role as Parish Financial Resources Liaison. Patrick Attardo will continue to chair Parish Organization & Events. Paul Ibbetson is retiring as the Finance Council Chair after many years. Ron Briseno will be the new Finance Council Chair leaving his position as Development Council Chair. Jody Cadieux will be the new Development Council Chair.

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

No report

PO&E

Annual Gala – Chris Smith – Gala events are ongoing. The Pastor’s dinner is Sunday July 24th with 51 attending. The Oktoberfest 10/23 is sold out with 92 participants and the Christmas Cookie exchange 12/17 has 63 signed up. \$52,000 has been tallied to date with a goal of \$60,000.

Historian – Brandon Oswald – No activity this quarter. Brandon may have to step down from this position.

Spirited Seniors – Jim & Marilyn Day – Currently having the annual membership drive. The year ended with the summer social in June, a Mexican dinner at STM. This year, with more local activities and less travel, they had a larger attendance. Activities resume in September with an ice cream social.

Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn – The Parish Campout had biggest group ever with many young families. Fr. Mike celebrated Mass. The Family Dinner, which replaces Holy Thursday dinners, had 75 participants. The event should become bigger as it becomes better known. A chairperson is needed.

Women’s Guild – Kathy Gerhard - Currently on summer break, resuming in September. This year they presented the Church with a check for \$27,000, \$5000 going towards the Mosaic.

Walking Ministry – Diane Pal – No report

Knights of Columbus – John Murphy – July pancake breakfast was very successful. A Veteran’s Brunch is being planned for 11/13. STM will host KoC State Deputies meeting 9/21. October is membership drive month. Working with Tommy’s Café to sell hotdog sales or brunches on REACH weekends. They are also planning on the Christmas Tree Sale again in December.

Treasures Rummage Sale – John & Wendy Murphy The next sale is October 2016. 75 member volunteers needed for this event. Donations start 7/30/16. Set up begins Thurs. 9/29/at 8am to 5pm, Fri. 9/30 8am to 8pm. and sale day Sat. 5am to 2pm.

Finance Council

No report

Development Council

No report

Social Ministries

Blood Drive – Morgan & Stacey Espe – Thirty-one units of blood (the most in STM history) were collected at the drive on 6/26. The Red Cross thought the upper level was a better location. The next drive will be on 10/16.

CPR/AED CLASSES – Philip Goscienski, M.D. – The STM program will resume in September with new training protocols developed by the American Red Cross. Further information and class schedules will be available in an August bulletin.

San Diego Organizing Project – Joey Ager – Joey Ager is our SDOP representative.

Angel Tree Ministry – Lisa Seufert – Meetings will begin in September and the tree will go up in November.

Family Shoe Ministry – Rick & Heidi Madden – The shoe drive was held last month and the

shoes were donated to Solutions for Change.

Social Justice Committee – Henri Black –

SDOP: The Just Faith group has ongoing meetings regarding ecology issues. Many attending the SD County Board of Supervisors' budget meeting questioned the more than 40% reserve fund and asked that community needs be addressed with the funds. An Aging and Independence event is being planned at STM on 9/17. Parishioner Sharon Hamill and her assistant at Cal State San Marcos are in charge of securing presenters and working on the day's agenda

ICWJ: Organizing and mobilizing around issues representing worker justice, as needed. Members Joyce Meehan & Maryanne Grisez attends the monthly meetings.

La Posada Men's Shelter: Member Cathy Blecki sits on the La Posada Board.

Mental Health Ministry Network – Tim Keane – STM sponsored a National Alliance on Mental Illness class called Family-to-Family which is a 12 week course taught by a NAMI trained educator. The ministry is planning on bringing other courses to STM this fall, such as Mental Health First Aid and Question, Persuade, Refer, both of which help to assist those experiencing mental issues.

Interfaith Community Services - Dick Belprez – On Saturday, Sept. 24th the 10th annual forum for healthy minds will be held at Cal State San Marcos, as a free event.

Liturgy

Altar Servers/Sacristans: Fr. Mike announced that Rebecca Eyer has been appointed Mass Coordinator for all Masses. She will insure that all minister positions are covered at all Masses as well as assume other duties as needed. She is planning an Altar Server renewal day. She has been sitting with the Servers during Mass and this seems to help with their confidence and reverence. There will be two Sacristans at all Masses.

Art & Environment: An AD HOC committee will be formed to discuss Christmas décor for the church. Four ladies from the Quilters group are creating Advent Banners. We are anticipating September 8th, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as the date we will dedicate our Marian Shrine.

EMHC: The need for a refresher course was discussed, now that we have more experience in our new church. After Mass, the sacred vessels are cleansed in the Ministry Sacristy, where Rebecca has instituted new protocols to insure that this is done with reverence.

Faith Formation: Kathleen Bell reported the RCIA program is now meeting year round, every 2 weeks in summer. Currently there are 7 in the class.

Hospitality: Joyce Meehan reports there are 14 new ministers, but there is a need for Team Leaders. There will be an invitation to the parish in October to join the ministry with training scheduled outside of Mass.

Readers: There are technical problems with the mic/sound system. Fr. Mike has contracted an outside company to review and repair the system as needed.

Music: The choir year has ended and all are on vacation except the Cantors and Pianist. Hand bell choir and Praise Team are looking for new members.

Douglas Lynn: Highlights from the NPM Conference in Houston, TX were shared with the committee.

Fr. Mike: Parishioners are encouraged to read the bulletin for updates on our new church. Fr. Mike will outline ongoing issues and give as much information as possible at this time.

Marriage & Family Life

Bringing the Celebration Home - Jen Frost – Mother’s Day flowers and Father’s Day cookies are still organized by this ministry, but the Little Flowers group (part of Moms & Kids) will be passing them out each year so they can earn a service badge.

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 currently have 10 scheduled.

Widow & Widowers – Carol Kope – On Sunday August 14th, the group will gather at STM for a General Meeting and Potluck at 2pm on the lower level of the Parish Center. On the fourth Sunday of each month, they meet for a Communal Mass at various Catholic churches in North County. A calendar of events including theatre, bowling, bocce ball, dining out, hiking and more can be found on the lower level bulletin board.

Clergy Comments

Fr. Mike commented again on the changes within the Finance Council and the increase in weddings being scheduled.

The upper level is and will be utilized more, now that we are in the new church.

Orchids & Onions: STM has submitted its new House of Worship as an entry for an orchid award, part of the SD Architectural Foundation. Parishioners are encouraged to use the STM website to post positive comments on the new church in hopes of being recognized.

The new Rectory is working out really well.

The Pastor’s Column in the July 24th bulletin will ask the parish community for patience with the ongoing fixes in the new church.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 26th.

Morgan and/or Stacy Espe will lead the opening prayer.