

**Church of St. Thomas More**  
**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**October 26, 2016**

Lisa Attardo called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Opening Prayer**

Lisa Attardo 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	
Lisa Attardo	Pastoral Council Chair	X	
Marti Harper	Secretary	X	
Rory Griffin	Faith Formation & Evangelization Chair	X	
Patrick Attardo	Parish Organizations & Events Chair		X
Morgan & Stacey Espe	Social Ministries Chair		X
Kathy Arciero	Liturgy Committee Chair		X
Jen Frost	Marriage and Family Life Chair	X	
Jody Cadieux	Finance Council Chair		X
Ron Briseno	Development Council Chair		X
Doug D'Agrosa	Parish Financial Resources Liaison		X

**Agenda Review**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

November is Stewardship Awareness Month. Lisa Attardo discussed the need for updating the parish website so it may be utilized more fully as our parish continues to grow. To facilitate the update, she suggested a training meeting for all ministry and sub-ministry leaders. The meeting will cover policy and procedures on how to request meeting & event space, and how to request stewards and sponsorships. A mandatory Leadership Training Meeting has since been scheduled for Wed., November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. All ministry leaders or a representative are requested to attend.

Kevin Leahy, our parish representative for Solutions for Change, was introduced to give an update. The Vista Way facility has closed and the intake facility has moved back to the California Ave. address. Dinners will resume in November. The organization is also losing federal funding so other grants are being sought.

The STM Dedication videos are in production and should arrive by mid November. They will be on sale for \$20 each

Pictorial Directories are due to be delivered the weekend of Dec. 10-11<sup>th</sup>. They are free to households who had their photos taken during the Lifetouch sessions, and \$10/each for those who submitted photos or didn't participate at all.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee**

**Adult Faith Formation – Debbie Fredette** – A brochure was made and distributed of all classes, to provide ease of scheduling and better PR..

A Biblical Walk Through The Mass with Dr. Sri (Summer edition)

Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom with Jeff Cavins (Wednesday morning session 9am)

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom with Jeff Cavins (Thursday evening session 7pm)

Relationship Skills Workshop Tuesdays 7pm

The Surfing Priest, Fr. Donald Calloway – 10/28 7pm

### **Religious Education for Adolescents and Children – Debbie Fredette –**

Genesis (3-5) Approx. 40 children in attendance

REACH Gr. 1-5 began 9/18 with approx. 65 children attending both sessions. REACH Out Newsletter designed and going home on the off weeks with Parent Involvement

High School Confirmation (Years 1 & 2) - Finishing up Theology of the Body sessions. M3 for Year 2 Confirmation – 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

**Sacramental Preparation – Debbie Fredette Eucharist** – Twenty-four will make their First Communion in May/June

**Confirmation** - Date TBA

**RCIA – Kathleen Bell** – RCIA has become year-round at STM

**Liturgy of the Word for Children – Heidi Madden** –All is well

**“The Ark” Nursery – Lia Keane** – The Ark is now open. 16-20 children are utilizing at 10:30 Mass

**EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry – Matt Franklin** – Kick –off on REACH Sunday 9/18 4:30-6:00pm. Weekly sessions offered with approx. 50 in attendance. Format well received by families and the group makes excellent use of the available basketball court! Includes music, games and message. EDGE Lock-in on 10/21

**IGNITE High School Ministry – Matt Franklin**

Steubenville San Diego – “Thirst” Romans 5:8 7/29-31 with 35 teens and chaperones.

IGNITE Night Youth Group meets now on Wednesdays. Kick-off 9/18 6:30-8:30pm. Attendance is up. Biggest obstacle continues to be cost of food for these events.

Bi-monthly XLT Nights meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month averaging 80 attendees. These worship nights have been drawing families, young adults & teens from as far away as Chula Vista & Murrieta!

Tommy’s Café is staffed by Confirmation class teens. Open after the 8:30 and 10:30am Masses, offering a variety of coffees and breakfast type foods. All proceeds go towards supporting Youth Ministry events.

**Thrive Young Adult Ministry – Matt Franklin** -Meet weekly on Monday nights

**Women’s Ministry – Lia Keane** – Women’s Prayer Breakfast was 9/24/16 with guest speaker Timmerie Millington.

**Men’s Ministry – Deacon John Fredette** -

iHunger – The fall kickoff was 9/10. Message & fellowship Saturday mornings at 6:45am

iThirst – A casual gathering for fellowship over a beer at a local microbrewery, or taking a day hike or going to a ball game together.

Men’s Retreat for the Everyday Man with Cy Kellett was on 10/7-10/9 with approx. 40 men in attendance.

## **PO&E**

**Annual Gala – Chris Smith** – Gala events are wrapping up with the Christmas Cookie Exchange on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. The Wine Tasting 101 event raised \$4,885.00 and the Oktoberfest raised \$8,253.00.

**Historian – Brandon Oswald** – He is processing old photos donated and scanning articles for the website.

**Spirited Seniors – Jim & Marilyn Day** – Membership is currently at 194. The first activity for this year is a visit to the Miniature Engineering Museum and pizza lunch on 11/3/16. The winter luncheon at STM will be on 12/21/16.

**Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn** – The Thanksgiving Dinner will not take place this year. No one has come forward to take over this ministry from the Rolland’s and Oshinski’s who have done it for 11 years.

**Women’s Guild – Kathy Gerhard** - Activities resumed in September with 186 attending a live entertainment event and Italian lunch. The October program featured Hawaiian and Japanese dances and lunch by Teri’s Café. November will be a panel discussion for breast cancer awareness.

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

**Knights of Columbus – John Murphy** – No report

**Treasures Rummage Sale – John & Wendy Murphy** The October 1, 2016 market raised approx. \$11,500.00. The Murphy’s are stepping down as chairpersons. This event is in need of more volunteers.

## **Finance Council**

No report

## **Development Council**

No report

## **Social Ministries**

**Blood Drive – Morgan & Stacey Espe** – The last drive was held on 10/16. The Red Cross thought the Upper Level was a much better location. Dates for the 2017 drive will be approved soon.

**CPR/AED CLASSES – Philip Goscienski, M.D.** – Over 500 have been trained and certified! Current objectives include finding persons who would like to become CPR instructors. Another series of classes will be held in Jan, Feb. and March.

**Christmas Angel Ministry – Lisa Seufert** – A volunteer meeting was held on 10/27. The trees will go up the weekend of Nov. 5-6th. A second tree will be placed at the back of the church near the Baptismal Font to provide ornaments to those who do not access the plaza. Sorting and packaging gift bags will occur on Sat. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. This ministry will again supply gifts to local charities and offer Camp Pendleton “Adopt a Family” opportunities. Baby items will be collected for Birth Choice at the Feast of the Epiphany.

**Social Justice Committee – Marcy & Richard Bernier** – Richard and Marcy Bernier have been appointed as new parish representatives. The committee meets monthly, Sept. through June.

SDOP – Aging With Grace was held 9/17 covering the spiritual, emotional, psychological and practical aspects of growing older. Speakers were Dr. Susan Write and Dr. Sharon Hamill.

ICWJ – Joyce Meehan & Maryanne Grisez attend monthly meetings. “Voices for Justice” breakfast will be on 12/7

La Posada Men’s Shelter – Cathy Blecki sits on the board. Tables on the plaza Oct. 8-9<sup>th</sup> provided information on the shelter and sold tickets to the 10/28 La Posada Fundraiser Luncheon

**Interfaith Community Services - Dick Belprez** – Alliance Healthcare Foundation – ICS received a \$1,000,000 grant based on proposed project to open a recovery center for sobriety. The Recovery & Wellness Ctr. – ICS is looking to purchase and renovate the former Vista VA bldg. that is large enough to accommodate all services and include a detox unit. Volunteers and supplies will be needed once project is approved.

New Service Ctr. – ICDS is opening a new service center at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Poway on 11/7. Volunteers, office and hygiene supplies are needed.

Offering Hope in Housing – Offers financial help with rent & utility bills. Presently only three churches are involved and donations are therefore down from the past.

Holiday Adopt a Family – ICS provides Christmas gifts to more than 300 individuals. Signups to participate in this project are between 10/14 and 11/18. Drop off gifts 12/8 and 12/9 1-6pm.

Upcoming Events – County Office of Emergency Services and Am. Red Cross are holding a workshop for faith centers interested in providing emergency shelter in times of disaster on 10/027 8:30-11:30am at LDS Church in La Mesa.

San Diego’s refugee rescue mission discussion is 11/20 4-6pm US Bank Community Room Encinitas.

## **Liturgy**

Sub-committee reports were suspended at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, as the new Liturgical Year, season by season, was discussed.

### **ORDINARY TIME - Current Year**

All Souls – candlelight processional

Christ the King – Banners using crosses and crowns made by REACH students

### **ADVENT**

Invite families and individuals to light the Advent Candle at each Mass

New banners have been fabricated by the Quilt Guild ladies

Christmas Angel program ideas

First

Anniversary of Dedication of STM – Friday, 12/16/16 celebration with refreshments after morning and evening (7pm) Mass by youth

Living

Nativity presentation

## **CHRISTMAS**

AD HOC Christmas Décor meeting on 11/3/16

Children's choir

Infant Christ placed in Crèche are the beginning of Mass

Three Kings for Epiphany

Blessing of Doors

## **ORDINARY TIME – Winter**

Preparing for Lent

Strive for simplicity

David Haas Concert, Monday Feb. 27, 2017

## **LENT**

Further explanation of the RCIA Scrutiny process

How we receive Ashes on Ash Wednesday: at the end of Mass, the people gathered will process as for Eucharist and leave church in silence

Discussion about Cantering or Proclaiming the Passion on either Palm Sunday or Good Friday, but not at both

Alleluia Banner buried

## **TRIDUUM**

### **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Invite groups to spend time with Jesus

Adoration Procession down center aisle, out bronze doors and into day chapel through double doors

Seating will be available around the edges of room, others may sit on floor if they desire

### **Friday of the Passion of the Lord**

Morning prayer, Service at 3pm, Youth Stations at 7pm

Offering designated for the Holy Land at both events

### **The Easter Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord**

Alleluia Banner brought back into church

RCIA celebration ideas

## **Marriage & Family Life**

**Bringing the Celebration Home - Jen Frost** – The Fourth Annual Advent Workshop is on Sat., Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>. This year's project is a 12 Days of Christmas Countdown that can be used to

celebrate the days between Christmas and Epiphany. This is a perfect opportunity for families and friends of all ages to bring the liturgical season into the home.

**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. Lia Keane is the wedding coordinator.

**Widow & Widowers – Carol Kope** – The general meeting and potluck is held at 2pm on the second Sunday of each month. The group meets on the fourth Sunday for a Communal Mass at various Catholic churches in North County. The extensive calendar of events can be found on the Lower Level of the Parish Center. RSVPs are required.

## **Clergy Comments**

Fr. Mike commented on the Grand Orchid Award presented to STM from the San Diego Architectural Foundation. Fr. Mike and several representatives from the parish attended the ceremony. Local newspaper coverage and an article in the next issue of The Southern Cross will provide great PR for our parish.

On Sat. 10/29, the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem made a pilgrimage to STM. They help support Christian sites in the Holy Land.

STM hosted a “Meet and Greet” with Bishop McElroy and 19 priests who, for various reasons, have left the active ministry, at the rectory on Friday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>.

A prayer service will be held on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to celebrate the close of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

## **Closing Prayer**

All members participated in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.