

**Church of St. Thomas More**  
**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**February 1, 2017**

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

**Opening Prayer**

Kathy Arciero 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**

Leadership Training has been completed for all ministry and sub-ministry leaders, to facilitate the parish website update.

**New Business**

No new business

**Committee Updates**

**Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee**

**Bible Study – Pat Goeltz** - Acts of the Apostles Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> – March 21, 9-11am on Wednesday mornings. Gospel of Matthew Sept.8<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm. Symbolon, Part II will begin March 8<sup>th</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>. Starting Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> we will begin a study of the Book of Revelation on Wednesday mornings. Debbie will present the Acts of the Apostles Thursday evenings beginning Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**RCIA – Kathleen Bell** – currently there are 11-12 preparing for Sacraments of Initiation on April 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a new group of 3-6 people interested in beginning the process.

**Liturgy of the Word for Children – Heidi Madden** –Thirty to forty children participate every weekend. Always looking for dedicated adults to continue this important ministry.

**Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs – Regina Aulisio** - This ministry worked closely with the Social Justice Ministry to host “The Sultan and The Saint” premier on January 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a very successful event with 500 people in attendance. We received publicity in the San Diego Union and Sr. Maureen Brown was given an award by UPF productions for her work with Social Justice and Promoting peace and Understanding among different faiths. More information should be available in April on future projects with the Muslim Community.

**Women’s Ministry – Lia Keane** – Evening of Fun, Faith and Fellowship Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

**iHunger** – Saturday morning meetings continue. The group completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> series of Symbolon, watched the series on the “mass” and will start the New Year with a program on prayer. Approx. 25 men participate each week. On the first Saturday of every month, about 15 men meet off-site for breakfast and fellowship.

**iThirst** – A few gatherings were held early in the quarter at Belching Beaver with about 12 in attendance.

**Moms & Kids Ministry – Lia Haubert** – Continues to organize through a Facebook page. Activities include bimonthly park play dates, a monthly book club, a weekly preschool co-op, and meal trains for families with newborns. The group has provided meals at Solutions for Change. Starting this month a monthly rosary group is being held as well as Mystery Saint get-together for the children. The online activities also include weekly discussion topics and prayer requests.

## **PO&E**

**Annual Gala – Chris Smith** – The Cookie Exchange netted \$1,315. The Gala surpassed its goal of \$6000 and gave STM \$61,000 in calendar year 2016. They are \$1000 over the goal and now have \$3179.79 in start up funds for the 2017 Gala. The 2017 Gala will be on May 5<sup>th</sup>, with an upscale Cinco de Mayo theme. The Gala team’s planning meetings start February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Historian – Brandon Oswald** – He is currently working on archiving records from the Interior Design Team from 2004-2016. He is in need of space as the archives are growing. He would like to see the archives and library be combined one day. Brandon would like to speak at the next Pastoral Council meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Spirited Seniors – Jim & Marilyn Day** – November: visit to the Miniature Engineering Museum, December: Winter Luncheon for 88 members, February: St.Valentine’s Day Luncheon, March: Day of Recollection, April: bus trip to Balboa Park, Imax Theater and lunch in Little Italy.

**Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn** – This year’s campout is scheduled for June 9-11. We will have soup supper this year for Ash Wednesday. Clean up help would be appreciated.

**Women’s Guild – Kathy Gerhard** - The October program featured Hawaiian and Japanese dancers and lunch by Teri’s Café. November will be a panel discussion and speakers for breast cancer awareness. In December an American Advent was celebrated with the group sharing childhood memories. The Christmas raffle was a success adding to the net profit of \$12,200, which the Guild has donated to the Mortgage & Building Fund.

**Knights of Columbus – John Murphy** – The Knights have requested that a new process be followed by all groups of the parish seeking help with their events. Once a group contacts the

Knights with a number of volunteers needed, the Knights will move forward ONLY if they can provide the requested number of volunteers. Otherwise the group will be notified that the Knights cannot support their event. They ask that at least 4 weeks advance notice (more would be appreciated) be given to accommodate requests.

**Treasures Rummage Sale – John & Wendy Murphy.**- The Murphy's are stepping down as chairpersons.

## **Finance Council**

No report

## **Development Council**

DVDs of the Dedication Mass are available for purchase for \$20

Parish Directories arrived Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. There were 460 participants out of 1200 households.

Additional directories are available for \$10.

Annual Catholic Appeal – A replacement is needed for ACA. The assessment for STM in 2016 was \$50,000 and \$59,000 in pledges were received, with the overage going back to the parish. The 2017 assessment is again \$50,000.

The next New Member Luncheon is April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Stewardship Awareness Month resulted in online giving increases as well as a number of new ministry signups.

Forty attended the Estate Planning Seminar. Participants were given a good explanation of all the information and options available.

## **Social Ministries**

**Blood Drive – Morgan & Stacey Espe** – A blood drive was held on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> for one of our parishioners who is fighting leukemia. There were 36 donors. Dates for the 2017 blood drive are forthcoming.

**CPR/AED CLASSES – Philip Goscienski, M.D.** – Lecture on January 29<sup>th</sup>: *What to do in a medical emergency if you don't know CPR.* Eight CPR classes scheduled for Feb. and March.

**Angel Tree Ministry – Lisa Seufert** – The ministry had another very successful year. Donations provided 250 gift bags to children through Catholic Charities, 83 Camp Pendleton families and a few families from our own parish in need. Scrip gift cards were collected and distributed to families at Solutions for Change as well as to Fraternity/Michelle's House. As always, more volunteers would be helpful.

**Culture of Life – Jane Kelleher** – The parish Culture of Life group continues to pray the Rosary at the Planned Parenthood in Vista each Thursday morning. The Life Walk to benefit Life Perspectives, a post abortion healing organization was held in November. Gifts were delivered to Birth Choice from the Christmas Angel collection. The group also attended the San Diego Walk for Life sponsored by the Office of Social Ministry at the Diocese.

**Social Justice Committee – Henrietta Black** – The committee meets monthly, Sept. through June.

SDOP – STM hosted non-partisan phone banking GOTV efforts for the November election. Dr. Maureen will be attending an SDOP "Regional World Meeting of Popular Movement" Feb. 16-19<sup>th</sup>.

ICWJ – "Voices for Justice" breakfast was attended by the committee & Fr. Mike on 12/7.

Participation in the National Day of Action in November  
La Posada Men's Shelter – Cathy Blecki reported on the Winter Shelter, its full capacity and a wish list to help these men during tough times. She will write an article for the STM bulletin.  
Committee attended the October 28<sup>th</sup> La Posada Fundraiser Luncheon with Fr. Mike.  
Ecology Awareness – Members attended an event at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Vista on January 28<sup>th</sup> to learn about local actions.  
Plans are under way for the second event of the successful “Aging With Grace” Conference this spring. Dr. Sharon Hamill from CSUSM Institute for Palliative Care, and her assistant, Lisa Lipsey will speak.  
**Interfaith Community Services – Marcy & Richard Bernier** – Marcy & Richard Bernier are the newly appointed parish representatives

## **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 Tree 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

### **ORDINARY TIME – Winter**

Preparing for Lent

Strive for simplicity

### **LENT**

Stations of the Cross will be in the Church on Fridays after K of C Fish Dinner

Further explanation of the RCIA Scrutinies

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

Prayers of Faithful – we will have incense lit as prayers are read at all Masses

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** – World Marriage Day: celebrating years of marriage and major milestones at our parish. Jen Frost will be stepping down from this position after 7 years.

**Diocesan Liaison – Andrea Spencer** – Deacon Skiano retired, and the content normally sent out each month is gone. Therefore, content in the bulletin is shorter, but will continue.

**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.

## **Clergy Comments**

Fr. Mike commented on STM being the best parish in the diocese for the Annual Catholic Appeal  
The Marian Shrine is being installed this month. The statue of Jesus on the Road to Emmaus has been installed in the Daily Mass Chapel.

Negotiation continues on the final payment of the new church building with our contractor. We will need \$900,000 to finish the construction of the Parish Offices.

Discussion is taking place on how to display the Stations of the Cross in the new church. The living Stations & Nativity have been well received and will continue.

Fr. Mike encourages all to read and reflect on the letters from the bishops regarding current events.

## **Closing Prayer**

All members participated in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 3rd.