

Church of St. Thomas More
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
May 3, 2017

Lisa Attardo called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Opening Prayer

Marti Harper led the opening prayer.

Roll Call

Pastoral Council attendance:

| Name | Role | P | A |
|------------------------|--|----------|----------|
| 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 | |
| Erin Barela | 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

Historian, Brandon Oswald, was not able to attend the Pastoral Council meeting but would like to speak on a future date.

New Business

Lisa Attardo gave an update on the Syrian family that STM is sponsoring. The Almustafa family will visit STM on Sunday, May 7th at the 10:30 Mass along with Imam Taha Hassane and his family. They are taking this opportunity to meet & thank our parish family for its ongoing support.

Erin Barela is the new Marriage & Family Life chair.

Marti Harper will be stepping down from her position as Secretary.

Committee Updates

Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee

Basic Catechist Course – Patt Goeltz & Brett Schanzenbach – 24-week course for catechists continues twice a month. 16 catechists are registered and attend two Sunday afternoons a month

Bible Study – Pat Goeltz – Part 2 of Symbolon concludes May 31st. After a summer break, study of the bible will resume on Sept. 20th with the Book of Revelation. The 10 session series will meet at 9-11am on Wednesday mornings, with breaks for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

REACH – Debbie Fredette –

Genesis (Pre-K) – 34 students with 5 catechists and 7 teen assistants

Reach Session (Levels 1-5) – 12:30-2:00 has 50 students with 7 catechists; 4:30-6:00 has 51 students with 6 catechists

We have 7 special needs children each assigned a one on one adult aide (these are in addition to the catechists)

EDGE 4:30-6:00 has 60 students led by Matt Franklin, Youth Advocate, a core team of two catechists, plus parent volunteers and confirmation preparation students.

High School – 6:30-8:30: Year 1 has 36 students co-taught by two couples with an additional mentor couple for small group discussion. Year 2 has 27 students (preparation for Confirmation 2017) taught by Deacon John. The recent Confirmation Retreat was held on Feb. 3-5 at Green Oak Ranch. A post confirmed group meets with by Matt Franklin.

Young Adult Confirmation – 7 adults are preparing to receive Confirmation. Rory & Stacey Griffin leads these classes. A one-day Adult Confirmation Retreat was held on Sat., May 6th.

RCIA – Kathleen Bell – Classes for Mystagogy continue for 8 newly initiated adults. Inquiries continue to come in for the next class. Current meetings are held on Saturdays from 3:00-4:30 and Sunday mornings, twice a month, from 8:30-10:00am for study, mass and dismissal.

ARK Nursery – Lia Keane – Day care provided for children 0-5 years at all 10:30 Sunday masses and also at many parish events. Currently staffed by 8 CPR trained adults (2 per shift) and 5-7 Confirmation teens. Averaging 18-22 children. Full capacity is 27.

VBS – “Maker Fun Factory” is scheduled for June 19-23. A banner is up at the corner of Cannon and Melrose; registration and mailings are in full swing. Currently there are 70 signed up – room for 220.

Sacramental Preparation – Debbie Fredette – Eucharist: Twenty-five children are scheduled to receive First Communion on June 18th. 54 parents have attended 3 meetings for preparing their children with Bret & Joleen Schanzenbach as catechists with guest couple speakers from the parish.

Confirmation: Twenty-seven teens and 7 adults will be confirmed on Sunday, June 4th at the 10:30am Mass celebrated by Bishop McElroy. Final M3 event is May 13th. Attendance at these mass & potluck events continues to grow – at times attended by more than 100. Family meetings for all Year 1 & 2 families will be held throughout the summer. Three teens who were confirmed or are being confirmed this year, plus three adults, attended the Eucharistic Ministry training – a total of 6 for the parish.

Liturgy of the Word for Children – Heidi Madden – Two new catechist couples have been added to help the 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 7th. Assisting other ministries in supporting our sponsored Syrian family.

Women’s Ministry – Lia Keane – A Friday evening wine and appetizer event with speaker/author Dr. Cyndi Peterson was attend by over 60 women.

Men's Ministry – Deacon John Fredette - Men's fellowship will break for the summer. Attendance has been consistently at 20 each week. Study programs offered were the 8-week "Oremus" study on prayer and a 10-week study is planned for the fall by Fr. Larry Richards.

Moms & Kids Ministry – Lia Haubert – 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 recently started a monthly rosary night as well as a "Guess the Saint" event. They also held a Holy Thursday foot-washing event. The online activities also include weekly discussion topics and prayer requests.

Youth Ministry – Matt Franklin –

EDGE (Middle School)– "Living Stations of the Cross" was performed on Palm Sunday and Good Friday for the parish. Attendance was 350+. Facilitators were Bret & Joleen Schanzenbach, Rory & Stacey Griffin and Tim & Lia Keane.

IGNITE (High School)– 15-20 students attend the Wed. night Youth Group. April's XLT, "Mass in Slow Motion" with Fr. Mike, had about 80 attendees.

THRIVE (Young Adult) – Food & fellowship at the home of Matt Franklin with 12 regularly attending.

Tommy's Café - Donuts, bagels, cinnamon rolls coffees and juices are sold earning \$125-\$150 each weekend.

A recycling program has been started in an effort to help our planet. Kyle Schanzenbach takes a load every couple of weeks. Approx. \$200 has been earned since the start. Little or low cost events will be planned through the summer utilizing the beach, church and Parishioner homes. Thirty students will attend the Steubenville Conference July 7-9th. Two XLT nights are also being planned.

PO&E

Annual Gala – Chris Smith – The 2017 Gala, Cinco de Gala, was held on May 5th. El Torito furnished Mexican food on the plaza. Raffle, Silent & Live Auction and Wheel of Fortune opportunities were again available along with the Diamond & Champagne event. After Gala events include three Pastor's Dinners and Wine Tasting 101. And a new auction item this year was "Cheeseburgers in Paradise" with Deacon John.

Historian - Brandon Oswald – Space is the major concern - he has run out of room for archival boxes.

Spirited Seniors – Jim & Marilyn Day – St. Valentine's Day had 90 attendees. March was a Day of Recollection with the Women's Guild. May is a free bus trip to Viejas Casino on the 25th.

Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn – Michael Haubert is taking signups for the STM Annual Campout. This year's campout is scheduled for June 9-11.

Women's Guild – Kathy Gerhard - February hosted a book exchange & Bingo. March was a presentation from The Flower Fields of Carlsbad. April was the Annual Fashion Show at Shadowridge Golf Club. Total amount of money raised from Jan. to April is \$7,273 - \$5,243 from the Fashion Show alone.

Knights of Columbus - John Murphy – Plans are being made to add permanent wiring on the plaza for the lighting of the trees. January's pancake breakfast was a great success. Lenten dinners were a huge success, hosting as many as 225 guests one night. This was the first year that dinners were served upstairs. All religious clergy from STM were invited to St. Michael's in Poway for the annual dinner in their honor.

Treasures Rummage Sale – John & Wendy Murphy The Murphy's are chairing the sale one last time but new volunteers are needed for next year.

Finance Council

No report

Development Council

Annual Catholic Appeal – \$45,819 of the \$50K assessment has been pledged. Any overage goes back to the parish.

The New Member Luncheon was on April 2nd with 55 households invited.

The Southern Cross will be advertising STM's VBS

The Tower will be published in June highlighting the Marian Shrine.

Scrip presented the parish with a check for \$10K - it is being designated towards two mosaic panels.

Eleven vehicles were donated to the parish in 2016. Two vehicles have been donated so far in 2017.

Social Ministries

Blood Drive – Morgan & Stacey Espe – Two blood drives have been scheduled this year – Sunday, June 25th and Sunday, October 15th.

CPR/AED CLASSES – Philip Goscienski, M.D. – Eighteen parishioners have been trained and certified in the first quarter. Classes will resume in June.

Angel Tree Ministry – Lisa Seufert – Lisa will need a volunteer to help this ministry in its final weeks of gift collection & distribution in December due to her planned overseas travel.

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 Baby Bottle Drive will be in late June to benefit Culture of Life Family Services, a Catholic based family medical center.

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

SDOP – “Regional World Meeting of Popular Movement” in Stockton, CA Feb. 16-19 attended by Sr. Maureen. The “Faith Not Fear Summit” was April 19th.

Interfaith Awareness – the committee will be working with Regina Aulisio, Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in planning a picnic with our Muslim neighbors.

La Posada Men's Shelter – Friends of La Posada 2017 Friendship Drive currently under way.

Open House Sat. May 30th, 8:30-11:30am. Annual Benefit Luncheon is Sept. 22nd.

Ecology Awareness – Tem forming and local issue awareness at January 28th. Bishop McElroy hopes to have an ecology team in every parish starting in the fall of 2017.

Plans continue for the second event of the successful “Aging With Grace” Conference with Dr. Sharon Hamill from CSUSM.

Get on the Bus – Offering support for the May 6-7 collection and sorting of articles.

Solutions for Change – Kevin Leahy – The parish continues to serve meals on the 4th Sunday of the month. Parish groups have been leading this effort feeding 30-40 residents, many of who are children.

Interfaith Community Services – Marcy & Richard Bernier – The Interfaith Center for Worker Justice closed its doors in February.

Liturgy

Kathy Arciero reported that our Parish experienced a beautiful Holy Week. Kathy is stepping down from the Art & Environment portion of this ministry, but will continue to represent Liturgy.

Marriage & Family Life

Erin Barela will be the new chair Marriage & Family

Bringing the Celebration Home – Erin Barela – The butter lamb workshop has the largest turnout thus far – over 50 participants. Most stayed & came to the church for the Easter Food blessing. Flowers have been ordered for Mother’s Day and Rebecca will be making cookies again this year for Father’s Day.

Diocesan Liaison – Andrea Spencer – Deacon Skiano retired, and the content normally sent out each month is gone. Andrea is working with Debbie Fredette to see what can be done to replace the content.

Marriage Preparation – Fr. Mike – Number of weddings is increasing. Lia Keane is the wedding coordinator.

Widow & Widowers – Carol Kope –. A very successful communal Mass was held on April 23rd, which was followed by lunch at Nucci’s. The general meeting and potluck is held at 2pm on the second Sunday of each month.

Clergy Comments

Fr. Mike gave an update on Fr. Karl who is having some health issues at this time.

Negotiations continue with our contractor regarding final payment for the church.

The Parish is running on a tight budget to meet the monthly operational expenses and mortgage payments.

The special mortgage collection has helped.

The Southern Cross will print an article about STM’s sponsorship of a refugee family. Presently, we are the only Parish in the diocese to do so. Hopefully the article will encourage other parishes to follow our lead.

RCIA already has eleven individuals in the 2018 process.

Tim Keane is starting the pre-diaconate program this year.

On April 19th, Bishop McElroy hosted a “Faith not Fear Summit” sponsored by the SDOP. Fr. Mike, Sr. Maureen, Imam Taha Hassane, other SD county faith leaders and 20 parishioners were among the 700 attendees.

Seventeen men intend to enter the diocesan St. Francis Center for priestly formation this year – the largest group in 30 years.

Closing Prayer

All members participated in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, July 26th at 7pm.