

**Saint Thomas More Catholic Church**  
**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**

**July 26, 2017**

**Call to Order**

Lisa Attardo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Opening Prayer**

Rory Griffin 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	
Kirk Stechschulte	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
Ron Briseno	Finance Council Chair		X
Jody Cadieux	Development Council Chair	X	
Doug D'Agrosa	Parish Financial Resources Liaison		X
<b>Guests</b>			
Don & Jan Le May	Reps for the Brother Benno's Ministry	X	

**Old Business** – none

**New Business**

Erin Barela is stepping down from her position as Marriage & Family Life Chair

**Committee Updates**

**Faith Formation & Evangelization – Rory Griffin**

VBS was a wonderful success.

RCIA is continuing year round.

About 30 youth attend Stuebenville in Orange county.

New Young adult group has formed and is doing a Bible study this summer with an 8 week overview of salvation history. This is halfway completed and 15 -20 are attending.

Fr. Mike proposed that some of the young adult group would like to mentor the high school youth program.

RCIA has 9 adults preparing for the rite of entry into the Church on August 19<sup>th</sup>. They will be attending the 10:30 mass this year instead of the 5:00PM Saturday Mass.

There is no youth advocate now and this will need to be thought about for next year.

**a. Adult Faith Formation – Debbie Fredette**

- No Report

**b. Bible Study – Patt Goeltz**

- The Wednesday morning Bible Study of the Book of Revelation begins September 13.
- The /Thursday evening Bible study of the Acts of the Apostles begins September 14.
- Debbie and I will do pulpit announcements in August. Hoping for a good turn out!

**c. Family Faith Formation – Debbie Fredette**

- No Report

**d. Sacramental Preparation – Debbie Fredette**

- No Report

**e. RCIA – Kathleen Bell**

- No Report

**f. Liturgy of the Word for Children**

Heidi Madden is returning to St. Mary's so this committee is looking for a person to head it up.

**g. Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs – Regina Aulisio**

No Report

**h. Moms & Kids Ministry – Emily Beckman**

- Weekly preschool co-op is on hiatus for the summer and will re-start in September.
- We have a monthly book club that usually meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month and hosted in members' homes
- Mondays with Mary is a monthly evening Rosary, hosted in members' homes
- Bi-monthly park playdates are on hiatus until September
- Miscellaneous liturgical events, playdates, and other activities are posted on our private Facebook group by individual members

**i. Women's Ministry – Lia Keane**

- No Report

**j. Men's Fellowship – Dcn. John Fredette**

Summer gatherings of iHunger & iThirst to plan upcoming events

**k. EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry**

- No Report

**l. IGNITE High School Youth Ministries**

- No Report

**m. Thrive Young Adult Ministry**

- No Report

**n. Vocations**

- No Report.

## **Parish Organizations & Events – Patrick Attardo**

An invitation to Brandon Oswald was extended on which he will get back to us in which he will speak to the group.

### **a. Annual Gala – Chris Smith**

Cinco de Gala went well with 250 people attending. Wheel of Fortune and Champagne Diamond Attendance and profits were down this year due to multiple events and “asks” at STM.

The Pastor’s dinners are being well received at the Rectory. Two down and one to go. Cost is \$150/person with a \$75/person profit at 20 people per dinner for an intimate setting.

Cheeseburger in Paradise with Deacon John and Debbie was a big hit. Cost was \$110/person with a \$50-60 profit projected. There were 3 of these dinners. \$44,000 was given to the parish from these events.

Ongoing events to be held are the Wine Tasting 101 in October and The Christmas Cookie Exchange. Depending how well these events do we may be able to issue another check to STM in Dec. We need to leave enough money in the account for start-up cash for 2018 events.

### **b. Historian/Archives – Brandon Oswald**

No recent activity due to not being home. Hoping to spend some time in Aug. at STM. SPACE is an issue. His shelf is completely full.

### **c. Knights of Columbus – Mike Sterling**

New Officers were installed in July with Mike Sterling as the Grand Knight.

The next Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for Sept.

The Grand Knight had a meeting with Fr. Mike regarding what he felt the Knights can do for STM.

There were several projects discussed that the Knights could take on, but ultimately it will be up to the membership to decide on what projects they can adopt.

### **d. Social Activities – Henny Jocelyn**

Nothing to report.

### **e. Spirited Seniors – Jim and Marilyn Day**

May was a Free bus trip to Viejas Casino with 41 people attending. June was a catered Luau themed dinner at STM with 97 attending. July and August is the annual membership drive and planning for the upcoming year. Sept. is a free Ice Cream Social on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **f. Treasures Rummage Sale –**

The Murphy’s are chairing the upcoming Rummage Sale in Oct. Nothing new to report.

### **g. Walking Ministry – Diane Pal**

No Report

### **h. Women’s Guild – Trish Feeley**

Patricia “Trish” Feeley is the new president.

The Women’s Guild presented Fr. Mike with a check for \$22,500 for the Building/Mortgage Completion fund in June 2017.

July and Aug. are OFF months.

Sept. is there next meeting with the Singing group “Standing Room Only”

## **Finance Council – Ron Briseno**

This was a little difficult year because this was the first year with both buildings but all in all we are doing well. Now we have a gauge for coming years. Working on a template to use in reporting the finances to the Parish.

## **Development Council – Jody Cadieux**

Highlights from the meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> were given.

The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) now stands at \$61,500. Our Parish Assessment is \$50,000.

Any overage of the assessment is returned to the Parish.

The Fall new member luncheon is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Lena Rumps is now helping Jane Gladden heading up public relations and submitted an article for the spring/summer Tower on the Marian Shrine which also appeared in The Southern Cross.

Scrip sales has about \$1100 coming back to the parish. There was Scrip fraud but the Scrip company did not charge us for it and they are covered by insurance for this.

Vehicle donation has about \$2700 coming back to the parish so far this year.

Planned giving received \$10,000 and has another distribution pending estimated to be \$30,000-\$35,000.

We are always looking for Welcome Ministers.

## **Social Ministries – Morgan & Stacey Espe**

- a. **Blood Drive (Morgan and Stacey Espe):** The Blood drive on June 25<sup>th</sup> was successful and we will have another one on October 15, 2017.
- b. **CPR\AED Classes (Philip Goscienski M.D.):** This quarter the CPR Program completed training and certification of 32 members of the parish. Classes will resume in September.
- c. **Culture of Life Activities (Jane Kelleher):** The Culture of Life group continues to pray the Rosary at Planned Parenthood in Vista weekly. We pray each Thursday from 10-11 AM. We recently had a Baby Bottle Drive to benefit COLFS (Culture of Life Family Services). They are a faith based medical clinic in Escondido coming up in November, we will participate in the Side by Side Walk, formerly Life Walk. This is an organization that deals with post abortion healing for anyone who has been affected in any way. We will also be attending the annual fundraising banquet for Birth Choice, our local Pregnancy Resource Center.
- d. **Brother Benno's (Don and Jan Le May):** Don and Jan have taken over this ministry. Continue to serve and have no special needs at this time.
- e. **Angel Tree Ministry (Lisa Seufert):** As Christmas Angel Chair, I would like to say that the time is fast approaching when we begin our activity in collecting gifts for the children and families from Catholic Charities, Solutions for Change and Camp Pendleton. Planning meetings will be held in late September and mid October with the ornament adorned trees going up the first weekend of November. Gifts need to be returned to the church by the first week of December in order to get them to the appropriate groups in time for Christmas. \* I will be looking for an assistant "Angel" this

year as I have travel plans for the first 2 weeks of December. If you could please spread the word that would be greatly appreciated!

**f. Social Justice Committee (Henri Black):**

The St. Thomas More Parish Social Justice Committee meets monthly, September through June, to discuss and plan events relating to the committee's mission statement:

- Provide awareness and education of Catholic social justice teaching
- Participate in creating a society with more just laws and social structures
- Work with other faith groups on justice issues within social, economic, and political structures

Our involvement this quarter includes:

- San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)
- La Posada Men's Shelter, Carlsbad
- Syrian Family Support
- Aging with Grace, Part II

Our focus has been on:

- **SDOP – Sr. Maureen**

**April: Faith Not Fear Summit:** a gathering of over 700 people from the diocese supporting the rights of all families in our community. Our Pastor and members of our parish attended. Sr. Maureen participated in leading the event.

**May: Sr. Maureen attended the 2017 PICO National Federation Directors Meeting in Baltimore.** Representatives from PICO National and local affiliates met to set National and local goals for the coming year. (PICO is a national network of faith based community organizations working to create innovative solutions to problems facing urban, suburban and rural communities. SDOP is our local affiliate.)

**June and ongoing: In order to protect and support individuals without citizenship papers threatened by an increase in deportation raids, we are developing Rapid Response Teams and Accompaniment Teams** in North County in conjunction with other faith organizations. 25 to 30 of our parishioners have expressed interest in joining one of these teams.

Immigration Awareness – Issues of the Immigrant and how to help; San Luis Rey, July 11, 2017

We will continue to focus on this issue

- **La Posada Men's Shelter, Carlsbad**

- Member Cathy Blecki sits on the La Posada Board.
- Open House – Saturday, May 30, 8:30-11:30 a.m. attended by our committee members

- **Syrian Family Support**

Ongoing Involvement with Lisa and Pat Attardo in collecting financial support and various articles of need for the Almustafa Family

- **"Aging with Grace, Part II**

Plans continue for the second event of the successful September 2016 "Aging with Grace" Conference. The date has been set for Saturday, November 11, 2017. Dr.

Sharon Hamill from California State University, San Marcos Institute for Palliative Care and Father Mike will be our presenters.

Once again, it is to be noted that ICWJ has disbanded and we are no longer involved. As always, our future plans include the further support of our parish, community and other needs based on Catholic Social teachings in conjunction with the U.S.

Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Catholic Charities, ICWJ, SDOP, Just Faith and other local and national organizations.

**g. Syrian Refugee Family Ministry (Lisa and Patrick Attardo): This is a new Ministry!**

The Almustafa family, while grieving, are doing their best to move forward. The STM Syrian Family Fund has been able to pay for a private tutor that is working with the father, Husam, 2 - 3 days per week and his English is improving. There is an accounting firm that has agreed to hire him as soon as he can be proficient in his English, which we are hoping is 2 months away. The 2 older daughters are attending their first year of college, also working on their English as well as general studies. The mother, Douha, has had the most difficult time coping with the loss of their son. She feels she will be ready soon to shop with some of our women from the quilting group and resume her sewing. The STM fund continues to provide \$500 per month in support for food, gas for their van, toiletries, etc. with Scrip Gift Cards that they choose each month. We also pay for their cable and internet each month and are currently looking into paying off their travel loan. This month, they do not have any new requests. They are overwhelmed with everyone's generosity!

**h. Interfaith Community Services (Marcy Bernier):** no report

**i. Mental Health Ministry Network (Tim Keane):** no report

**j. Solutions for Change (Kevin Leahy):** no report

**k. Disability Facilitation (Ann Eriksson):** no report

**l. San Diego Organizing project (Joe Ager):** no report

## **Liturgy Committee – No updates**

## **Marriage & Family Life – No updates**

## **Clergy Comments – Rev. Michael Ratajczak**

- It is good to have a fresh set of eyes looking at things in terms of Brother Benno's. Fr. Mike asks our new reps, Don and Jan LeMay, to find where additional help may be needed. Connection with Catholic Charities will be a new project that will be important as well.
- In the spirit of Pope Francis "Theology of Encounter and Outreach' and with the blessing of Bishop McElroy we will be starting 3 support/outreach ministries:
  - Gay/Lesbian support group, facilitated by Emil Wick
  - Parents of Gay/Lesbian children support group, headed by Lena and Matt Rumps
  - Support group for family members who are transitioning, headed by Geri Herold

- Fr. Mike recommends a book by James Martin – “Building A Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter Into A Relationship Of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity”

**Closing Prayer** – Glory Be, Saint Thomas More – Pray for Us, Saints Joachim and Anne - Pray for Us.