

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES – January 17, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Diana Diaz, Bill Ipsen, Louise Briseno, Brian Leahey, Paul Ibbetson, Chris Smith and Doug D'Agrosa.

**NOT PRESENT:** Janice Treat, Henny Jocelyn, Gloria Larson and Michael Yambrach.

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Ron Briseno at 7:01 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Fr. Mike

**INTRODUCTION:** Louise was introduced to Council as the new committee chair of "Membership".

**APPROVAL OF October 17, 2006 MEETING MINUTES:** Approved as posted on website in December 2006. Reviewed "Approval of Minutes" procedure with Council. Minutes will be drafted and submitted to Council within two week for approval or corrections. Council has one week to reply any changes, if no changes have been received the minutes will be considered approved and posted on the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. – N/A

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Chris:**
1. Parish Information Table: It was recommended that the Parish Information table be covered by members of all three Councils. This will give new or current parishioners interaction with our Parish leadership and vice versa. This is especially important as we move forward with our campus build out plans. After some discussion it was agreed upon by the Council. Chris will work with Douglas Lynn on creating a schedule and brief procedural training session for all councils to cover the Parish Information table as our Greeters. Doug and Paul will email their councils regarding this update.
  2. Stewardship Time and Talent presentation by Fr. Dan Mahon at Mission San Luis Rey on Friday Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm. It was recommended that if anyone on DC was available to attend to please advise Chris as soon as possible.

- Fr. Mike:**
1. **There will be a substantial** tuition increase at St. Francis of Assisi Grade School for the next school. A number of St. Thomas More families have children enrolled in school there. Last year Fr. Mike spoke to all Councils about St. Francis' request to subsidize the tuition of registered STM families who have children in school there. At the time it was decided that STM was not in a position to do so. It is a family's personal choice to choose Catholic education, and we are not responsible to financially help in that choice. Now because of the anticipated large tuition increase for families who are not members of St. Francis, there is the concern that families will have to choose between being a registered member of STM or leaving and becoming a registered member of SFA in order to receive the lower, in-parish tuition rate.

Therefore Fr. Mike has decided to address this with a "Pastoral Prerogative" and will meet with any registered family to discuss possible assistance if the family wishes to remain at STM and continue to have their children attend SFA Grade School. Each family will have different needs and Fr. Mike will personally and privately meet and make arrangements that will meet the needs of the individual family. No subsidies will be given, but adjustments can be made in the family's "sacrificial giving" at STM which will help alleviate the anticipated large increase in tuition.

Diana Diaz mentioned that families should ask the Principal for "Financial Aide" because they have a pocket of financial aide available.

Fr. Mike asked that we spread the word that he will meet with any family who would like to remain a member of STM rather than switching to SFA solely due to the increase in tuition.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Annual Catholic Appeal – Diana Diaz**

- On Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 2006 Fr. Mike, Natalie Province and Diana attended a meeting at the Diocesan Office regarding a ACA meeting on new procedures for 2007. Assessment is up \$4,000.00 this year to total \$30,000.00 for 2007.
- Update stays the same as October, we have not received our second rebate / final refund check for 2006, which should be \$16,700.00, and we have yet to receive our new envelopes for 2007.
- It was decided to wait until mid-February to mail out 2007 ACA envelopes to Parishioners.

### **Capital Campaign – Bill Ipsen**

- 725 active pledges in the Capital Campaign with 950 active families.
- \$6,1M accumulative in pledges to date.
- Collected \$2.6M so far. About 40%. We have about \$3.1M remaining to collect.
- \$47K in over payments other than pledges.
- We've paid \$143K towards the current loan with the Diocese with \$520K to be paid. We currently make payments of \$11K per month.
- Campaign is running smoothly.

### **Membership – Louise Briseno**

- Louise met with Debbie Ipsen (previous committee chair) to review current committee.
- Next New Member Luncheon will occur in April, 2007

### **New Construction – Brian Leahey**

- Since the last meeting Fr. Mike and Brian have engaged an architect to produce elevations and design a footprint for the new sanctuary.
- A meeting was held on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 with the architect to see what he proposes. The architect is suggesting garden space around the church, open spaces, a lot of light, and making the building energy efficient, in terms of the heating and cooling of the building.
- When the elevations and footprint are completed in January, 2007, the plan will be submitted to the Planning Department of the City of Oceanside for a Substantial Conformance Review of our CUP.
- If the Substantial Conformance Review of our CUP is not approved, it would be very costly to the Parish to go through the approval process again. With new conformance rules and regulations, the costs would be extremely high.
- Once the plans are approved by the city, the footprint of the Church will be "marked out" so that parishioners will have a visual of the site.
- Renzo Zecchetto, who created our Parish Master Plan and designed the Parish Center, is the architect who was retained to create the elevations and footprint necessary for the Substantial Conformance Review of our CUP.
- Upon approval of the Substantial Conformance Review of our CUP, Fr. Mike would like to show the electronic file of the footprint and elevations of the Church to all the members of our Councils and to the Interior Design Team and the New Construction Committee.

### **Planned Giving - Open Pending a Chair**

#### **Publicity & PR- Gloria Larson / written report submitted – Read by Chris Smith**

- The Newsletters went out a few days before Christmas.
- We've already recovered our cost of mailing and printing. We've profited over \$300 to date.
- We switched to glossy paper, instead of white linen, and realized a cost saving in the process.
- Receiving positive comments on the Tower newsletter!
- Our newsletter mailing list includes many past parishioners, non registered donors and other "friends of STM" The N.C. Times was present at the Adult Faith Formation presentation of "Meet Your Muslim Neighbor" Potluck. It was presented by Imam Taha Hassane and attendance was over 200 individuals.

### **Sacrificial Giving – Paul Ibbetson**

- No updated due to efforts into the Financial Report.
- They will get refocused on sacrificial giving numbers for next meeting.

### **Planned Giving – Open Pending a Chair**

### **Stewardship – Chris Smith**

- Stewardship Ministry Fair and awareness month, October 2006, was well received. “Living Water” theme was effective. Our stewardship participation is 75%, so we will strive for new and diverse approach in 2007 to keep the excitement and participation in stewardship alive in the Parish. Appreciation event and Ministry Fair are scheduled for October. Updated inserts, instead of full booklet, will be mailed out this year.
- Parish Directory had 457 pictures of Parishioners taken. We have 225 extra copies that will be going on sale the weekend of 1/26 for \$15.00. The directories have been well received.
- Golf Committee is in full “Swing” and Golf Classic is scheduled for Friday, June 22, 2007. First and second mailings have gone out to former participants and new contacts. As we receive new information, packets will be mailed. Tournament will be held at Castle Creek Country Club in Escondido with a 10 a.m. start time. Evening dinner/dance, raffle, auctions and festivities will open at STM at 4 p.m.

### **Scrip – Henny Jocelyn: written report submitted – Read by Ron Briseno**

- Great Nov. & Dec. months as we sold \$43,424.00 in scrip sales for a profit of \$2,500.
- Quarterly check from Albertson’s & Ralph’s totaled \$1,580.14 in profit.
- Committee has made its 5<sup>th</sup> payment of \$5,000 towards the \$100,000 stained glass window pledge.

Other: - Cars for Cause – Chris reported (for Michael Yambrach)

- We’ve raised \$4,500 from auto donations. No current inventory. Bulletin blurbs to resume in 2007!

### **COUNCIL UPDATES:**

#### **Pastoral Council – Doug D’Agrosa**

- Two current openings on council - PO&E and Liturgy
- Update on Welcoming committee – 6 couples currently on committee. They will meet with new parishioners one on one either at Parish or new Parishioners’ home.

A complete “WELCOME TO THE PARISH” package will be reviewed and given to the parishioners. Intent is for new members to see that hospitality is a way of life at STM and also that we take registration seriously and that we hope they will as well and that they will become actively involved in the life of the Parish.

The “WELCOME TO THE PARISH” package will contain new member application, information on parish, financial forms and other miscellaneous items.

#### **Finance Council – Paul Ibbetson**

- At the end of December for the first six months parish will finish in the Black.
- Remainder of the year looks good.
- Diocesan Tax is going up about 3% for 2007

#### **Development Chair – Ron Briseno**

- Updated Council about “Development Seminar” Fr. Mike, Chris and I attended at the Diocese. End result we (STM) is doing everything we possibly can be doing to keep the parish updated and informed as well as raising funds for Operations and our Building Campaign.
- Development Council 2007 form was given to council to review and bring back completed for our next meeting
- Currently have two opening – Planned Giving and Secretary. Diana recommended Jody Cadieux for Secretary. Chris will follow up on this suggestion.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** Father Mike – No new comments.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**NEXT MEETING:** April 24, 2006 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer- Chris Smith