

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – January 15, 2008**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Jody Cadieux, Bill Ipsen, Chris Smith, Anne Marshall, Katrina Waggoner, Doug D'Agrosa and Jim Carey (member emeritus)

NOT PRESENT: Diana Diaz, Louise Briseno, Henny Jocelyn, Brian Leahey, Paul Ibbetson and Michael Yambrach.

CALL TO ORDER: By Ron Briseno at 7:05 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Jody Cadieux

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2007 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on the website in November 2007.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ron: Welcome to new member Katrina Waggoner who will be overseeing the Annual Catholic Appeal. Thank you to Diana Diaz for her work in overseeing the ACA in the last several years. Welcome to Jim Carey who is visiting for several weeks from Ohio. Jim is a founding member of the parish and of the Development Council.

Fr. Mike:

1. Operating Budget Update – The Operating Budget was behind approximately \$27K in November and December. The “Did You Know” envelopes helped significantly, collecting almost \$19K for December. Month to date collection for January is about \$11K. With the projected fundraising of approximately \$40K from the golf tournament we will be on target. The Annual Catholic Appeal rebate is on its way (\$17K) and the Christmas collection was \$4K higher than last year.

Anne:

2. XK San Diego is a Multi-Christian Based Web Newspaper. The website is <http://www.xksandiego.com>. Anne has posted 2 stories so far on the site, one story was about Vicki Molina and the party she had for 312 underprivileged children during the Christmas season. The other story posted was about the STM Game Day, hosted by the Women’s Guild. There is another story forthcoming about Margaret Blair. Anne is getting a good response from the web editor. Many of the other parishes of the Diocese are on the website also. Anyone can subscribe for free. There has been a good response throughout the county about the website. We will add this link on the STM website under LINKS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Catholic Appeal – Katrina Waggoner and Diana Diaz / written report submitted – read by Ron Briseno
Katrina Waggoner is now going to oversee the Annual Catholic Appeal; Diana Diaz will stay on during the transition and will remain on the Development Council as a Member at Large.

Update as of January 15, 2008

Total ACA pledges to date for 2007 = \$48,365.24

Total Payments as of 1/11/2008=\$47,217.82

Outstanding Balance as of 1/11/2008=\$1,147.42

STM Assessment for 2007=\$30,000

Expected rebate check=\$17,217.82

Rebate check were expected to be mailed on January 15, 2008

STM Assessment for 2008=\$34,000

Capital Campaign – Bill Ipsen

Bill will be speaking at all Masses the weekend of 1/19-1/20/2008 to give an update on the Capital Campaign. It has been over a year since the last update. There will also be a bulletin insert with all the facts and figures and very important items to convey timelines, etc. Bill will give the update prior to Mass, then the liturgy will be celebrated. Fr. Mike will not give a homily. Please channel any non positive feedback to Bill, Fr. Mike, Chris, etc. Chris will email the final version of the bulletin insert to all prior to Saturday so that our leadership will be familiar with update and able to answer questions after Masses. We will also have TV monitors with a slideshow presentation of our new Church footprint in the upper level after all Masses. The lower level will have the big screen video presentation during the Knights of Columbus breakfast on Sunday Morning

Membership – Louise Briseno / written report submitted – read by Ron Briseno

Next New Member Luncheon has been scheduled for February 17, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. There are 38 families so far and the invitations will be sent out on Friday, January 18. Italian food will be served. Ron has requested any council members who have not attended a New Member Luncheon before to please attend if you can, it will give the new families an opportunity to meet our Parish Leadership.

New Construction – Brian Leahey presented by Fr. Mike (see Pastor's Report)

- There will be a New Construction Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

Planned Giving – Chris Smith

- Towers of Faith second annual dinner was held in December and was very successful. Word is spreading and we have three new members that have come forward since that dinner. An updated brochure will be produced this spring.

Publicity & PR- Gloria Larson

- Anne will take pictures at the New Member luncheon on February 17.
- The Tower Newsletter will be published at the end of January. There will be articles about the North County solutions for Change and the Parish Build-out. There will also be a One Year Memorial for Fr. Ken and a list of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the parish for the past year. There will also be an article about the One Year Anniversary of the Monday Night Mass.

Sacrificial Giving – Paul Ibbetson

- Paul was not present.

Scrip – Henny Jocelyn / written report submitted – read by Ron Briseno

- In the month of October we sold \$5,600 in Scrip
- Numbers for November and December weren't available, but Scrip sales were very high.

Stewardship – Chris Smith

- Stewardship Appreciation Dinner was held October 12, 2007 and kicked off Stewardship Renewal Month. The final costs were about \$10 per person for dinner.
- Chris is currently working on renewing 3 year pledges for our Capital Campaign.
- Chris is also busy about placing people in the various ministries of interest. Chairpersons continue to be notified of new people that signed up for various ministries during Stewardship month.
- In the last 11 month, we have been registering about 4 ½ new households per month. 85% of those households also have pledges or contributions to the Capital Campaign.

Other Reports:

- Ron Briseno has requested when the next meeting reminder goes out that there is a request for everyone to bring ideas and brainstorm with respect to increasing our parishioner base. How can we DO THIS? Ideas are welcome as the number of families registered has not increased overall in the last few years.
- Ron is also passing onto the Scrip Committee some information about The Giving Cart.com. This is a website where you sign on with a user name and password that can be generic for St. Thomas More. You would then do your online shopping through this website and a percentage of the purchase would come to STM. It could be a good source of incremental revenue.

COUNCIL UPDATES:

Pastoral Council – Doug D’Agrosa

- The last Pastoral Council meeting was on November 27.
- Does STM want to promote Contemplative Outreach? Mary Williams will arrange a meeting with the Coordinators of the North County Contemplative Outreach and our parishioners to see if anyone is interested.
- There are 43 people who are going in February to New Orleans to continue to assist our sister parish, St. Peter Claver, in the rebuilding of some homes.
- The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 26.

Finance Council – Paul Ibbetson

- Paul was not present at the meeting
- A recommendation is going to the Finance Council from the Development Council to send postcards out to households within the STM boundaries. The postcards will have a listing of Easter masses and an invitation to come celebrate at STM.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

Father Mike – Is St. Thomas More growing? Presently we are remaining steady at about 1,000 households. This is due to two efforts in the last four years, to see “who is with us”. A letter has been sent from the pastor to people who have not been present to the community in the last several years. We ask if they are with us or if they are choosing not to participate, or if they have moved to other parishes. If there is no response from them, they are eliminated from our census. Doing so, gives us a realistic number of households who are with us and are involved and committed to the parish.

The Parish Build-out is moving forward. Presently we have the permission of the Bishop to hire an architect, a liturgical consultant, draw up the construction documents, and obtain the necessary permits to begin construction. This process will take from 18 to 24 months. It is very important now for everyone to remain faithful to their pledges to the Capital Campaign.

Fr. Mike’s trip to New Orleans – St. Peter Claver is in an historical district of the city and families come from across the city to attend mass. The church has been remodeled and the school is back in full swing with about 300 children attending. The parish is looking to expand the school facilities. There are a lot of families still not in their homes. Participation in Masses ranged in participation from about 400 to almost 800 people in attendance. It would be nice to see a vacation/educational trip to New Orleans, with those who participate spending time at St. Peter Claver.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: April 15, 2008 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer- Anne Marshall