

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

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Jody Cadieux, Diana Diaz, Chris Smith, Anne Marshall, Katrina Waggoner, Doug D'Agrosa

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

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

OPENING PRAYER: Anne Marshall

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2008 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on the website in February 2008.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chris: Golf Tournament Update: Currently 284 committed signups for dinner, 29 of 34 tables reserved. The committee is no longer advertising dinner only. Golfers are encouraged to sign up ASAP, there are currently 45 golfers signed up; the goal is 100. Twelve miniature golfers are currently signed up, the goal is 72. All payments are due June 1st. There are a lot of Auction items so far including use of a charter jet, two different around the world trips, lots of dinners, theme park admissions, and theatre passes. There are close to \$4K in sponsors to date.

Katrina: The Giving Cart is another opportunity to potentially bring in revenue to the Building Fund. The company is less than 1 year old. It works very much like the SCRIP Program, and is managed by a 3rd party. The company takes 20% of the amount off the top, 80% would come back to us unless the Diocese is involved, then the split is different. It is possible that an individual may have a tax deduction. The Giving Cart also states that they have control over how the funds are distributed. Distributions are made on a quarterly basis, if the amount is less than \$10 the monies will be held over until the following quarter. Katrina has emailed a parish in Colorado who is using The Giving Cart to see whether they are happy and if it has been successful for them to this point. She will be following up with a phone call to them. Promotional materials can be easily downloaded and inserted into the bulletin. We would also promote at the SCRIP table perhaps do an announcement explaining the program. Some retailers may not be as advantageous online, SCRIP purchase may give us more back. Katrina will be in contact with the Giving Cart to request at least 3 references. St. Thomas More will need to register online first to be a participant in order to receive funds...what are we agreeing to in order to be a participant and to receive funds? Katrina will report all findings to questions as soon as information is available to Fr. Mike and Ron. Once a final decision has been reached by Fr. Mike, Ron and Katrina, the plan is to move forward ASAP. Katrina will give a full report of findings for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ron: Parish Membership – How do we get more families to join us at St. Thomas More? The Welcome Ministry is doing a great job, but what else can be done to increase parish membership? A suggestion was made to put up banners that say
“SPIRITUALITY – TRADITION – COMMUNITY”
Masses: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
COME GROW WITH US!

Jody will check with Natalie for our contact and costs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Catholic Appeal – Katrina Waggoner

Update as of April 15, 2008

Total ACA pledges to date for 2008 = \$36,119.32 (267 Families)

STM Assessment for 2008 = \$34,000

A second mailing went out on 4/15/2008

Capital Campaign – Bill Ipsen read by Chris Smith

754 Pledges

78% Parishioners

885 Donors

92% Parishioners

\$5,872,318 as of 4/15/2008 (Includes other assets)

3 Year Pledges are expiring – 33 of 149 still need to send in their response in writing, however they are continuing to contribute at their original rate.

We are continuing to get pledges from new parishioners.

Membership – Louise Briseno presented by Ron Briseno

The February 17 New Member Reception went very well. This was the first reception where hot food was served for the luncheon. The attendance was good and all are happy to officially be on board at STM!

New Construction – Brian Leahey presented by Fr. Mike

- The Architectural Interview Committee conducted 4 major interviews lasting 2-3 hours each. Follow-up questions were emailed. The committee met on April 10 and selected 2 candidates. Fr. Mike will be making the final choice. Once the choice has been made the architect will have to agree with some fees that the diocese has specified. When all of this is complete an announcement will be made.

- The Liturgical Consultant has been selected and we are waiting for the contract to be signed and then approved by the Diocese. An announcement will be made once this has been completed.

Planned Giving – Chris Smith

- The main emphasis currently is reworking the Towers of Faith Brochure, which is scheduled to be out by the end of summer. Information pertaining to real estate has been added to the bulletin, information about Annuities has been removed.

Publicity & PR- Anne Marshall

- Anne is having difficulty getting newspapers to print our information, she has sent items to both the Southern Cross and North County Times. XK San Diego is out of business.
- The next newsletter is scheduled to go out in July. It will contain articles about our build out progress, including our Architect and Liturgical Consultant, the Easter Food Blessing and More's Workers.

Sacrificial Giving – Paul Ibbetson

- Paul was not present.

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

- December Sales \$32,793.00
- January Sales \$22,106.50
- February Sales \$18,654.00
- March Sales \$12,681.00

Stewardship – Chris Smith

- Help is needed currently with Chair Setup every other Saturday for ½ hour to 45 minutes.
- New Stewardship Booklet will be published this fall for our Ministry Awareness month.

Other Reports:

COUNCIL UPDATES:

Pastoral Council – Doug D’Agrosa

- The last Pastoral Council meeting was on February 26.
- There are 4 candidates in the RCIA program and will celebrate the Easter Sacraments in 2009.
- Fr. Mike’s Bookies – about 20 per session attended on April 2nd.
- The Middle School Youth Group Retreat is coming up May 9-10, there are 15 openings. There is a musician from Washington coming in for the weekend. There are kids attending the retreat from St. Francis, Sierra Madre, St. John, as well as St. Thomas More.
- 29 Children are preparing to celebrate First Eucharist on May 31 and June 1.
- 28 teens will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on May 11.
- The Mendiola’s are looking for help for dinners for North County Solutions for Change. There are 5 openings. A request for help will be in the bulletin the next 2 weeks. There is a need for April.
- Registration is underway for Steubenville San Diego, which will take place July 25-27
- There has been a request from the Social Ministries team that requests for donations be spread throughout the year, instead of so much during the Christmas season. Donation participation may increase as a result.
- The potluck to talk about the Trip to New Orleans is scheduled for April 22.
- Mother’s Day flowers in May and Father’s Day cookies in June are planned.

Finance Council – Paul Ibbetson/ report by Fr. Mike

- Paul was not present at the meeting
- Budget preparation is in process. Fr. Mike has asked for 3 separate budgets: a “Go For It” Budget, a Flat Budget and a Budget with a 5-10% Decrease. They will be submitted to Don Eppich on May 1, and a Budget meeting will occur in May.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

Bishop Brom is committed to building PAX Christi High School in North County. A potential site is in the works. Currently STM has pledged \$1 million to the Secondary Education Initiative. Interest earned from the money we have on deposit with the Diocese is going toward fulfilling the pledge.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: August 19, 2008 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer- Chris Smith