

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – January 14, 2009**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Jody Cadieux, Diana Diaz, Anne Marshall, Chris Smith, Flora Fallone, Matt Rumps, Bill Ipsen, Brian Leahey and Doug D'Agrosa

NOT PRESENT: Theresa Goeltz, Paul Ibbetsen and Louise Briseno

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

OPENING PRAYER: Flora Fallone

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2008 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on the website in December, 2008.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ron: RESTAURANT FUNDRAISING:

Three restaurants are ready to help us with fundraising, California Pizza Kitchen (on Vista Village Drive), Famous Dave's BBQ and Souplantation. California Pizza Kitchen will have our fundraiser on January 28, the last Wednesday of the month. Other dates are pending for February and March. In order for STM to receive a percentage of the sales, each family is required to bring a flyer to the restaurant on the date of the event. Due to the timing, it is uncertain if there would be room for a flyer in the bulleting the weekend of January 25. Ron was going to check on this with Lorraine. It was suggested that a reader announcement for that weekend should definitely be scheduled with Henny. People could also be on the plaza with flyers. A Parish email reminder/announcement close to the date would help as well. Ron was to check out the options with Lorraine and Henny.

CANNED GOODS COLLECTIONS

St. Thomas More will be collecting food throughout the year for the North County Food Bank in San Marcos. We will be collecting at all masses and the food bank will supply the barrels and pick up the donations when the barrels are full. The food bank will also provide posters and flyers as well. We have no contractual obligation and can end the program when we want. We also have no control over who gets the food; organizations in need can call the food bank to register to be on their list. North County Solutions for Change and Brother Benno's are on their list of recipients. Deacon Tom, chairperson for Brother Benno's ministry at STM, has always reserved the month of March for a Parish collection for Brother Benno's. They really count on our support for that month. Since we are not obligated to use the cans for the food bank every month, but as we choose, it was decided to reserve March for Deacon Tom.

The organizations have to go to the food bank and pick up the food. North County Food Bank will also provide information as to how much we are collecting which can be published in the bulletin throughout the year. A pulpit announcement will kick off the program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ron: REACTION TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Bill Ipsen gave a Capital Campaign update at all masses January 10 and 11. The feedback after Masses was surprising as many weren't complaining about the dates for building being on hold, until our operational income significantly improves and we have the \$3.1M on deposit at the Diocese. There wasn't a lot of negative feedback and some said they would like an update more often, even if it is only verbally. The bulletin for January 17-18 has a Q&A for the Capital Campaign to help answer some common questions. Fr. Mike sensed people related due to the economy. It has been requested that all on the Development Council be familiar with what was said in Bill's update, in case there are any other additional questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Catholic Appeal – Flora Fallone

Flora Fallone was welcomed as the new ACA Chairperson. She was at the initial ACA meeting at the Diocese in December with Lorraine. Deacon Dan Powers is in charge of ACA at the Diocese and explained to all the parish representatives that new reports will help to make things run more smoothly than in the past. Our ACA mailing will go out in mid February. STM does not know what our assessment for 2009 will be yet. **A few days after the meeting we found out our assessment is \$34K, the same as last year.*

Capital Campaign – Bill Ipsen

See New Business

Membership – Louise Briseno *(not present due to illness – report given by Ron Briseno)*

The next New Member Reception luncheon dates are March 1, and October 4, 2009.

New Construction – Brian Leahey

- Brian is confirming with Renzo Zecchetto Architects that they will keep the City of Oceanside aware of our plans as we move forward. He is also going to confirm the expiration on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Plans and will touch base with their office and ask what we have to do to keep the CUP alive and prevent expiration.

Planned Giving – Chris Smith

- Towers of Faith – more than 33 households have STM named in their estates. No stock was donated in December, for the first time, due to the sober state of the economy and reduction in value of stocks by nearly everyone.

Publicity & PR- Anne Marshall

- Women's Guild Ladies Club Game Day. The Women's Guild has invited six different women's groups from churches in the area to participate in the event. Invitations have been sent. Ann will do an article covering the days events for the North County Times and Southern Cross. The Tower Newsletter is going out at the end of January.

Sacrificial Giving –

- Nothing to Report.

Scrip – Theresa Goeltz *(not present – report given by Ron Briseno)*

Scrip Sales in December were very good, we don't have numbers to report. Diana Diaz will sell Scrip on Tuesday and Thursday after morning Mass.

Stewardship – Chris Smith

- The Annual Stewardship Appreciation Dinner will not be held in 2009 due to the economy. However, the Parish does want to recognize all of the stewards in some way that may be more cost efficient in the November timeframe. Suggestions are welcome. The 10th Annual Golf Classic will be held on Friday May 1 and the committee is looking for new members. We offer a great adult tournament, a miniature golf tournament, evening festivities with dinner and auctions, plus childcare and dinner for children. This is the main fundraising event held at STM and all support is much appreciated!

Other Reports:

- **Vehicle Donations** – The committee welcomed Matt Rumps as the new Chairperson. Michael Yambrach is leaving the Parish due to a job change and move to Washington D.C. \$4,465.00 was collected for donated cars in 2008. Cars for Causes is the organization we use to assist with the vehicle donations, they handle everything. It takes approximately 3 – 6 months for a sale to be completed.

CHAIRPERSON: New Ideas/Brainstorming

- Catholic Auctions Online – How can we utilize this site???
- Any new ideas should be emailed to the council before the next meeting.

COUNCIL UPDATES:**Pastoral Council – Doug D’Agrosa**

- The last Pastoral Council meeting was on November 18, 2008
- Social Ministries – Discussion regarding the many requests for donations during the Christmas season Suzee Irwin will look at spreading out and tying to the season (ex. Birth Choice during May for Mother’s Day) on the 2009 calendar.
- Brainstorming on ideas for attracting more parishioners to STM has been added as a standing agenda item.
- Help is wanted for some chair positions that are currently vacant.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 4.

Finance Council – Paul Ibbetson *(not present – report given by Fr. Mike)*

- The Council met in October. Operating income is down in the first quarter of this fiscal year. This has been the pattern in the last few years due to projected expenses coming in sooner than later in the year. In addition, the downturn in the economy has adversely impacted our offertory income. The council continues to closely monitor the budget situation. Cash flow is normal, however the weekly collections are down. The “Did You Know” campaign is ahead in contributions over the same time last year, so that is a positive. The Finance Council anticipated the economic downturn in the preparation of the budget for this year, but still income is less than what was planned. Having a healthy budget will be key to our parish build-out plans.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

Fr. Mike will be continuing his duties as “Pro-tem” Administrator at St. Francis until June 30, 2009. He asks for continued prayers, support and patience as he assumes these extra responsibilities.

CLOSING PRAYER

REMAINING MEETING DATES FOR 2009: April 8, July 8 and October 14, 2009 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer for meeting on April 8 – Bill Ipsen