

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – June 24, 2009**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Chris Smith, Diana Diaz, Anne Marshall, Flora Fallone, and Bill Ipsen

NOT PRESENT: Ron Briseno, Paul Ibbetsen, Louise Briseno, Jody Cadieux, Doug D'Agrosa,
Brian Leahey, Theresa Goeltz, and Matt Rumps

CALL TO ORDER: By Chris Smith at 7:05 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Bill Ipsen

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 14, 2009 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on the website in January 2009.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chris: **RESTAURANT FUNDRAISING:**

Need to get this program up and running which requires a person to go to restaurants and speak with managers to see if they would consider being part of this fundraiser program for St. Thomas More Church. We need to get on their calendar for a fundraiser flyer date. (Panda Express, Nucci's, Pick-up-Stix, Chic-Filet, Soup Plantation, etc.)

Fr. Mike: **CANNED GOODS COLLECTIONS:**

St. Thomas More will be collecting food throughout the year for the North County Food Bank in San Marcos. For a couple months, bins were accidentally delivered to a different church, and this is in the process of being corrected.

Chris: **GOLF CLASSIC UPDATE:**

Holding the event at Fallbrook was seen favorable by a number of participants and the committee (entire golf course was utilized by only St. Thomas More golfers, food was really good, and easy parking) and profitable (the price was right). Course signage for golfers could be clearer and will be easily corrected, if we book at Fallbrook next year. Miniature golf at Boomers in Vista was also successful for second year of this expansion of the Golf Classic. Dinner and evening festivities found 340 guests enjoying themselves in our upper level at STM.

The golf committee presented St. Thomas More Church with a \$54,000.00 check from this fundraiser and has enough money left for start up costs for the Eleventh Annual Golf Classic on Friday, April 30, 1010! Over the past 10 years, St. Thomas More Church has received \$396,000.00 from this wonderful fundraiser.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Catholic Appeal – Flora Fallone

Given the economy, we have a wonderful response from 317 families this year. To date we have pledges of \$43,187.15 which will cover St. Thomas More's assigned portion of \$34,000 to the Diocese. We have collected \$19,833.00, with a balance of \$23,354.15 to still be collected. The balance of \$9,187.15 will be St. Thomas More's to keep if all ACA pledges are fulfilled by the end of the year.

Capital Campaign – Bill Ipsen

Since collections have gone down on a weekly basis, we need new ideas to keep parishioners enthused about our upcoming Capital Campaign renewal in January 2010.

To date, we have 779 pledges, which represents 77% of our registered parishioners. From January 1, 2008 to May 30, 2009, we collected \$840,000.00 in Building Fund money. Presently, we have just over \$3 million on deposit. Father Mike will be meeting with Bishop Brom to discuss the \$6.2 million loan.

Membership – Louise Briseno *(not present – report given by Chris Smith)*

The next Membership Reception is October 18, 2009. Our new parishioners are always excited about these and come to feel more included in our Faith Community as a result of attending.

New Construction – Brian Leahey *(not present – report given by Father Mike)*

We are only a couple months away from having the Liturgical Plan for the Church, created by the Interior Design Team and Robert Habiger our Liturgical Consultant, complete for approval. Renzo Zecchetto, our architect, is ready to create the detailed schematic plan and draw up the construction documents. He's currently on hold. Slow and steady will win the race.

Planned Giving – Chris Smith

There has not been a lot of activity due to the downturn in the economy, stock values, etc. We are encouraging gifting of designated banking accounts, such as saving accounts and CD's. There will be a Towers of Faith reception held at the Rectory on December 6, 2009.

Publicity & PR – Anne Marshall

Chris announced that Anne Marshall is now listed as Publicity contact in our STM Tower Newsletter.

Anne would like to start publicizing upcoming STM events in the North County Times. Father Mike suggested also publicizing a couple of events (i.e. Vacation Bible School) per month in the on-line 'Local Faith and Value' section of the North County Times.

Sacrificial Giving -

We're in need . . . nothing to report.

Scrip – Theresa Goeltz *(not present – no report)*

Stewardship – Chris Smith

The Christian Stewardship brochure was just updated, effective June 2009. The next Stewardship Appreciation event will be on November 22, 2009, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. This will be held in the Church's upper level. This will not be a dinner (we're not in an economic position for that this year), but instead we'll have a spread of wine, cheese, appetizers and dessert. More details will be coming in September for this event.

Other Reports:

Vehicle Donations – Matt Rumps *(not present – report given by Chris Smith)*

In 2008, St. Thomas More Church received \$4,465.00 from vehicle donations, and to date in 2009, we have received \$919.50. We are awaiting the checks from four other cars donated in 2009. We are averaging approximately one donation per month, thanks to the exposure in the our bulletin. Since we started this program in 2006, we have received just over \$20,000.00 from vehicle donations.

New Ideas/Brainstorming

Anne will start publicizing in the North County Times “on line” what events are coming up at St. Thomas More Church. She will try publicizing at least two events each month.

Anne was also thinking how the Capital Campaign could memorialize smaller items for our new Church building and area for the amounts of \$500.00 - \$1,200.00 to bring in more money.

COUNCIL UPDATES:

Pastoral Council – Doug D’Agrosa *(not present – report given by Diana Diaz)*

Cathy Zych is stepping down as Council Secretary. Marti Harper will assume the role and attend the meetings. Thanks Cathy for your service!

Suzee Irwin has moved and the new Chairpersons of Social Ministries are Dick and Charlene Belprez. Doug spoke with Dick to review the “roles and responsibilities,” and he will be attending the next Pastoral Council meeting in August. Thanks to Suzee for her service!

There will be a meeting with some of our young married couples in August with Father Mike, Chris Smith, and Doug to discuss/brainstorm how to better include the young married couples in our Faith Community.

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

“Did You Know” brought in nearly \$70,000.00, and they had budgeted for \$65,000.00. Nice to be ending the year in the “black.”

PASTOR’S REPORT:

Father Mike finishes his duties as “Pro-tem” Administrator at St. Francis on June 30, 2009. Father Mike will be on vacation for the month of July.

Father Bud Kaicher, new St. Francis Church Pastor as of July 1, 2009, will be helping cover Masses at St. Thomas More during the month of July. Also, Father Pedro Gonzales will be covering the 3rd week of Masses in July as he speaks on his experiences in Kenya.

CLOSING PRAYER

Next Development Council meeting date and Opening Prayer Assignment:

October 14, 2009 – 7:00pm,
Opening Prayer: Anne Marshall