

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

**PRESENT:** Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Doug D'Agrosa, Bill Ipsen, Anne Marshall, Chris Smith, Flora Fallone, and Lorraine Doering (taking minutes)

**NOT PRESENT:** Paul Ibbetson, Louise Briseno, Jody Cadieux, Brian Leahey, Theresa Goeltz, and Diana Diaz

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

**OPENING PRAYER:** Anne Marshall

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 24, 2009 MEETING MINUTES:** Approved as posted on the website.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ron: **RESTAURANT FUNDRAISING**

Have six restaurants lined up. They will donate from 10-25% of sales, depending on the restaurant. The restaurants will create the flyers and send to us for printing. These restaurants will allow the fundraiser to run all day instead of a limited time period. People just need to bring the flyer. Flyers may not be distributed in the restaurant parking lots. We agreed to plan the restaurant fund raisers for the second Wednesday of each month, starting in November 2009. Flyers will be inserted in the bulletin 2 weekends before, and an STM eNews reminder will be sent out on Monday the week of. Mass announcements and tables will be arranged, as well as a connection with Scrip for the restaurants that are on the Scrip list. Ron will be arranging the publicity and coordinating with Henny and Lorraine for the calendar, Mass announcements, and bulletin arrangements.

The initial schedule is:  
November 11: Dave's BBQ  
December 9: Nucci's  
January 13: Chili's  
February 10: California Pizza Kitchen

Ron: **CANNED GOODS COLLECTIONS**

St. Thomas More will be collecting food throughout the year for the North County Food Bank in San Marcos. The bins are ready to go, and the program will start the first Sunday of November. Anne will make the Mass announcement at 5:00pm Saturday, and Ron has arranged for the youth to make the Sunday Mass announcements. Fr. Mike or Ron will coordinate with Douglas regarding the canned goods collection during the November 8 concert to see if it can be directed to this program.

Chris: **NEW MEMBER RECEPTION**

With new members and staff/volunteers, the attendance will probably be 90-100 (updated after calls). Request for Louise to update the office with any RSVP's received at home so that the count will be accurate. Flora will represent the Development Council.

## NEW BUSINESS

Chris,  
Bill, and  
Fr. Mike:

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:**

Chris: First phase wrap up letters went out to those with pledges ending by the end of this year or early 2010. Council members received sample copies of the letters: one to those who are on track, one to those who are behind, and one to those with three-year pledges who have continued paying or renewed their pledges. Those who are behind were asked to let us know whether they are able to catch up, pay a part of the balance by the end of the year, or are unable to pay anything. We plan to close out open balances and start new pledges for the next phase to make the recordkeeping easier. Responses are coming back with checks and responses. Most responses have been positive, with payments coming in. A few initial responses were negative, mostly due to the fact these people were receiving a statement for verification for the first time in the campaign. Statements were enclosed in this mailing to all to make sure our records matched theirs. Chris has responded to these.

Leadership receptions are set up for late October/early November. Invitees are the top 10% of donors, approximately. The purpose is to thank them for the past support, give them an update (sneak preview) on what's happening, and to invite them to participate in the next phase of the campaign. Of the 100 or so invited, there are currently 34 yes and 12 no.

Bill: There is lots of buzz on the letters; people are wondering about the receptions, what's going on. Chris mentioned that about 65% of the invitees are newer and have not been involved in leadership receptions before.

Bill is putting together his presentation for the leadership receptions and also for the January update. He plans to key on the great opportunity afforded us by the Diocese, and the fact that the building costs are considerably reduced at this time. This is all key to our efforts in the next two-year phase.

Fr. Mike: Asked whether another meeting is needed to coordinate the various presentations. It was suggested that emailing Fr. Mike's and Bill's remarks should be OK, since each presenter is targeting a slightly different group. Fr. Mike also proposed that he and Chris would review and assign topics and make sure the presentations were all coordinated.

Chris: The emphasis from the Stewardship Conference (attended Sunday-Tuesday)—all we have is gifted by God. Christian Stewardship is how we return God's gifts. It is important to thank parishioners for their past generosity and ongoing support to the church. We (STM) are actually a rather small parish and are doing magnificently for our size. Also learned that the giving pattern all over the world is shifting—instead of a few high-dollar donors, the trend is moving toward larger numbers of smaller-dollar donors.

Chris:

### **STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY RENEWAL**

Starts off November 7-8 with Fr. Mike's homily. Lay witness talks by Kathy & Skip Wilson will be November 14-15. The fair component will also be that same weekend. The fair will be a little different, focusing on the ministries with the greatest needs, rather than advertising everything. New subcommittee chairs Dick and Charlene Belprez

(Social Ministries) and Kathy Arciero (Liturgy) are very enthusiastic. The appreciation reception (not dinner) will be the afternoon of November 22.

Another observation from the Stewardship Conference is that our materials are excellent, and we are on track. Thanks to everyone participating—without that, we wouldn't be where we are.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Flora:           **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**  
Currently, \$38,858.26 has been paid against total pledges of about \$42,000, so we will be receiving a check for about \$8,000 in January 2010.
- Bill:             **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**  
Already reported.
- Ron/Chris:      **MEMBERSHIP**  
Already reported
- Fr. Mike:        **NEW CONSTRUCTION**  
They are working on visible drawings, etc., with Renzo and Robert. There will probably be 3 exterior renderings for our upcoming campaign activities. Interior renderings will wait until Robert and Renzo have started working on that phase. There will be large poster versions of the exterior renderings as well as page-size and electronic versions.
- Chris:           **PLANNED GIVING**  
Stocks are still down. The stewardship conference was exciting—lots of helpful information that will work to our benefit. There is a lot of updated information with an international perspective. Statistics presented indicate that 80% of people who donate through a will don't announce it beforehand; also, 50% of those that give the most in wills are not the ones who made large donations while living but the ones who made small, consistent donations.
- Anne/Chris:     **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
The next STM Tower newsletter is due for publication in January—will need pictures. Chris has a steward reviewing past issues to determine what new items should be considered. There will definitely be an update on the campaign, and probably the Interior Design Team. The January issue will also include baptisms, weddings, and deaths.
- Chris:           **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**  
We recently received a boat donation. Matt is not able to continue coordinating. Chris has plans to bring another person on board who will be able to respond within 24 (max 48) hours from the time someone calls to donate a vehicle. Once a donation has been initiated, it can take several months for the money to come through.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Doug: PASTORAL COUNCIL**

We have a new secretary, Marti Harper. Dick and Charlene Belprez, new chairs for Social Ministries Committee, are both very busy, but came to their first meeting with forms reporting what each chair was working on, what they needed, etc. We may be using that form for other committees and subcommittees. Marriage & Family Life has morphed into Adult Catholics in Their Twenties and Thirties who Socialize (ACTTS); the first event had 8-10 people besides the 6-8 core members. Upcoming events are a beach BBQ on October 17 and Halloween party on October 30. The Pastoral Council Charter will be reviewed and worked on. We have 4 new candidates in RCIA, making total of 9 people in the program. The next meeting is November 4th.

**Fr. Mike: FINANCE COUNCIL**

The Annual Financial Report is on the website. We are not printing and mailing it this year in order to save money. People without internet access can request a printed copy through the Parish Office.

Fr. Mike will put together the meeting schedule for 2010. We will continue to meet on Wednesdays, but will try to avoid too many meetings in the same week (or day).

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Our Father.

**ADJOURNED:** 8:22pm.