

**ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – January 20, 2010**

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Ron Briseno, Diana Diaz, Doug D'Agrosa, Paul Ibbetson, Anne Marshall, Chris Smith, Vlad Bolsakov, Flora Fallone, Brian Leahey, Jody Cadieux

NOT PRESENT: Bill Ipsen, Louise Briseno, Theresa Goeltz

CALL TO ORDER: By Ron Briseno at 7:05 p.m. Welcome to Vlad Bolsakov who will oversee the Vehicle Donations

OPENING PRAYER: Vlad Bolsakov

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 14, 2009 MEETING MINUTES: Approved as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

Ron: **RESTAURANT FUNDRAISING**

The first 3 restaurant fundraisers went very well for the parish. There have been several comments about how these outings have been great for the parish social network. We have received checks from Famous Dave's for \$462.45, from Chili's which is being reconciled as the amount should have been in the 15-18% range, and we should be receiving a check very soon from California Pizza Kitchen for around \$500.00 The next restaurant FUNdraiser is at Islands in February. The plan is to encourage the use of Islands scrip when dining at Islands, we will be double dipping for the parish!

NEW BUSINESS

Chris : **ST. THOMAS MORE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:**

Bishop Brom will be here on Sunday, October 17 and will preside at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. There will be a party afterwards. An initial idea is to have a tailgate themed party with games for the kids. Fr. Mike is inviting the first two pastors to the celebration as well. The newsletter will have a "Reserve the Date" on it. A committee is being formed and will start meeting at the end of February/early March timeframe.

Chris: **INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE**

The conference is scheduled for September 19 – 22 in San Diego at the Marriott downtown. If anyone is interested in attending they need to let Chris know. The conference will be of great benefit to the parish and to individual spirituality. There promises to be have sessions that will appeal to everyone. There is a plan to have a bus or shuttle from St. Thomas More to the conference each day. A flyer is not yet available. Chris will email specifics when she gets them. The banner on the altar used during Christmas is being submitted for the conference liturgies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flora: **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

Currently, about \$44,250 has been paid against total pledges of about \$45,375, we will be receiving a check for about \$10,250 in January 2010; the money will go into the Operating Budget. The diocese has raised the total ACA to \$3 million from \$2.5 million. \$1 million will go to help inner city schools and parishes in need. The assessment for St. Thomas More will be \$43,000 for 2010. Letters will be going out to parishioners February 6-7.

Chris: **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

An update was presented at all masses the weekend of January 16-17. The feedback was very positive. The Phase II of "Our Journey Into The Future...Together" needs to raise \$2 million in order to break ground on the Sanctuary. This is a 2 year campaign. \$640K of this amount has already been pledged, including gifts from non-parishioners. The mailing went out on January 19. It is requested that pledge commitments be returned ASAP. We are asking to be conservative with the pledge, whatever is most comfortable. Artist renderings can be seen on both the upper and lower levels. The interior design renderings are examples and samples, not actually what will be in our sanctuary. Diana Diaz will be helping with some of the initial work with the Campaign. We are hoping to receive 850, or more, pledges.

Ron: **MEMBERSHIP**

The next New Member Reception is scheduled for Sunday, March 7 at noon.

Brian: **NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Brian Leahey walked the site with Joe Garcia to examine the storm drain issue. There have been catch basins put in place so we are in compliance. Brian called Dan Rancourt, Director of Construction Services for the Diocese, to introduce himself to Dan. Brian is looking at elevations to get pricing for construction costs and per foot costs. Ideally everything will be ready for when the New Construction Committee kicks off again. Some options for bidding include a guaranteed contract maximum or hard bid after design.

Chris: **PLANNED GIVING**

The Towers of Faith reception was held December 6 at Dell'z California Grill in Vista and was very well received.

Anne: **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The next STM Tower newsletter is in production and scheduled to be mailed the first week of February. It will include articles on the Liturgical Program for the Interior of our Church, the annual publication of Baptisms, Deaths and Weddings, Stewardship Appreciation Month, a Faith Formation article and upcoming events such as the Lenten Schedule, Parish Mission, Spring Sing Concert, Golf Classic and the 25th Anniversary Celebration for STM. There will also be an envelope attached for donations to help offset the cost of the newsletter.

Ron: **SCRIP**

Working on publicizing Islands Scrip in conjunction with the Islands FUNdraising event in February.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

The Stewardship Reception was in November and was very nice, it was catered by our parish committee and the event may be catered by an outside firm in the future.

Vlad: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

Information about Vehicle Donations was made at masses a couple of weeks ago. The plan is to do quarterly announcements in the future to keep it fresh in parishioners minds. One person suggested a program to repair vehicles and return them to those in need, a great idea for the future. 2009 Vehicle donations were lower than in 2008. STM has received about \$15,500 in total since the program started in 2006. The total raised will be added to the information in the bulletin.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

Bowling Tournament ?

Other Restaurants for FUNdraising? Suggestions were for Rubio's, Applebee's, Outback, Nucci's, Jumping Bean, Shakee's Pizza, Via Sicilia, Souplantation

Better ways to promote Scrip? Promote those vendors which have the highest percentage back to STM. Have the ability to fill out a form (online perhaps) or preorder before mass and then pick it up after mass to help alleviate the long line. Would an electronic credit card swiper help to make the purchasing process faster? Does the Scrip committee put the different cards on a board to show what is available? Put a copy of the available Scrip as a bulletin insert. Diana Diaz and Laura D'Agrosa will work with Theresa on some of these ideas.

Knights of Columbus BBQ in June or July timeframe? All of the proceeds would come back to us directly.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Doug: **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

The last meeting was November 4, 2009. Stewardship Awareness Month was in November. The weekend of November 14-15 had ministry displays on the plaza for those ministries where there is a need. The position for the Parish Organizations and Events Chair has been filled by Pat and Lisa Attardo. They will be holding a meeting on Saturday, January 22nd with all of the council chairs to update after action reports. The Belprez's are putting together a form for the subcommittees to offer a record of all events so there isn't duplication of types of events (i.e. Luau by two different groups within a short time of each other). A Pastoral Council Charter is being revised. The high school retreat is the weekend of January 22nd - 24th. There is still a need for facilitators for Liturgy of the Word for Children.

Paul:

FINANCE COUNCIL

For the 1st 6 months of the fiscal year the parish is approximately \$70K short. Christmas collections were about \$7,300 short of projections and the “Did You Know?” campaign is also short about \$7,200 from projections. The parish is behind on monies at this point. We need to watch what we do. Some items have been delayed such as resurfacing the parking lot, which must be done in the spring. It will cost about \$7,500 to do this. The parish reserves were at about \$36K, there is now only \$5K in reserves. The reserves need to be rebuilt.

PASTOR’S REPORT

Nothing to report.

CLOSING PRAYER: Our Father.

NEXT MEETING: April 21, 2010 – 7:00pm. Opening Prayer- Jody Cadieux