

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS MORE
Interior Design Team Meeting
June 10, 2014

Present: Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor; Kathy Arciero, Charlene Buhlert, Mary Castle, Lorraine Doering, Ann Eriksson, Pat Goscienski, Phil Goscienski, Robert Habiger, Brian Leahey, Douglas Lynn, Sondra Parks, Kathleen Quinn, Chris Smith

Absent, Excused: Diana Diaz, Mario Diaz

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:00 PM.

- **Status of the Font**

Stephen Hirt sent drawings of various designs for the font cover. We reviewed a Power Point presentation that showed the process whereby the bronze font bowl was made. This included the template that holds the sheet of bronze and the hand work that gradually formed a shallow bowl. We viewed drawings of the proposed cover for the font basin that will be used for baptisms at the Easter Vigil. It will be made in four pieces so it can be removed as needed. The proposed design for the cover is made of travertine that will be similar to the floor covers. Later in the meeting we reviewed the decision to have it made of travertine, discussing the possibility of having it made of bronze or a combination of travertine and bronze.

We asked whether this cover would be strong enough to hold a casket during funerals and we were assured that it is. There is an internal structure that will ensure the strength of the cover.

- **Status of the Altar**

We saw photographs of the altar and the proposed carving for the front of the altar. The altar is almost finished. We may expect it will be shipped along with the ambo soon, perhaps next week. Brian Leahy asked for a template that shows the footprint of the altar so they may have the space ready when the altar is delivered. It will be lifted by crane into place before the roof is installed.

- **Status of the Ambo**

We viewed a photograph of the almost complete ambo showing a “mock up” of the proposed shelf that will hold the books. It is hinged so that it may be wider for those liturgies that require more than one reader. It will be affixed to a device that can lift or lower the shelf as needed. This device is not powered by electricity but rather a

component similar to the ones used in office chairs. There will be no carved design on the front of the ambo.

- **Status of the Tabernacle**

We reviewed drawings of the proposed tabernacle that will be placed in the Eucharistic Chapel. The tabernacle interior will be made of stainless steel. The sliding cover will be made of bronze with the intention that it echoes the design of the baptismal font. It will be placed on a shelf attached to the wall. The “luna” that displays the Blessed Sacrament will be in the center of the cover with carved (or hammered) lines radiating from the luna.

- **Telephone Conference with Artist Stephen Hirt**

After revisiting the idea for the design of the font cover for the large basin we discussed the possibility of having it made from bronze rather than travertine. This would eliminate the chance that someone would think the font cover was a continuation of the floor and the bronze would then match the design and material of the tabernacle.

The font cover will be made in four pieces, each of which would weigh no more than 110 pounds so the pieces can be removed when necessary – not only for the Easter Vigil but for maintenance as well. As we discussed this idea, we wondered about the olive color of the font upper basin and how it would appear adjacent to a bronze cover. We asked Stephen Hirt to send us a color illustration. We favor an abstract pattern rather than a sacred symbol on the font cover.

We had questions regarding the cleanliness of the water in the font and how it would be maintained. This concern has been addressed. The water will pass through a UV Light that will eliminate bacteria and a safe chemical can be added to the water to prevent the buildup of calcium deposits that are prevalent in water in our area.

- **Update on Shrine for Mary**

We were told that Claire Wing, the artist who is designing the shrine for Mary is presently working on another project and will begin working on our shrine sometime in July. She will submit some drawings for our consideration later this year. We do not anticipate having the shrine ready for the opening of the new church.

Our next meeting will take place on July 8 or August 12 as necessary. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Quinn