

PASTORAL STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Minutes for the PSC Meeting on February 14, 2007

7:00 PM at Our Lady of the Rosary Church

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present: Fr. George Aranha (Pastor), Susan Adams (SAG Site Committee) Helen Baumann (STA Site Committee), Laura Chiu (OLR Site Committee), Tom Jaworowski (Human Concerns Committee), Jerry Lucha (Catechetical Board), Mary Beth Lefebvre (Youth Ministry Board), Micky Martin (Liturgy Board), Gerard McGuire (Adult Spiritual Development), Bud McKenna (Facilities Committee), Joe Passarello (Finance Committee), Jeanne Ramos (Community Life Board), Jesse Ruezga (Hispanic Leadership Team), Mary Sullivan (Communications Committee), Chuck Tully (Parish Administrator)

Absent: Fr. Tony Medina (Parochial Vicar)

Guests: Walt Lundin, Marguerite Purcell, Juanita Marquez

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Fr. George announced the Calendar of Lenten Activities that are scheduled for the three sites, including Ash Wednesday Masses, Stations of the Cross, and Reconciliation Services.

The present and future status of the Thomas House was considered by the PSC. A six-month extension of the lease to the current tenants was approved by vote of the PSC along with the formation of a subcommittee directed to report on the options for the use of the Thomas House to the PSC in May of 2007.

Three ministry representatives (Parish Administrator, Human Concerns Committee, and Hispanic Community) presented their quarterly oral and written reports on their activities to the PSC. The three written reports are included as Attachments to these minutes.

Two versions of the parish Mission Statement will be sent to the ministries for their consideration and their recommendations back to the PSC.

A presentation on the effective use of the Percept Data has been scheduled for the March 14th meeting of the PSC.

PROLOGUE

The meeting was called to order by Bud at 7:08 P.M. Gerard led the attendees in the opening prayer; i.e., the Stewardship Prayer, after distributing copies of this prayer to those present. Joe volunteered to lead the group in the opening prayer for the March 14th PSC Meeting. The minutes were approved after a few typographical errors were detected and corrected.

Comments from PSC Members and/or Guests

Mary Sullivan presented her thoughts on the parish Mission Statement

PASTOR'S REPORT

Announcements/Events

Fr. George gave an update on the Diocesan Endowment and Capital Campaign for our parish. STA has reached 63% of its goal at this point in time. Phone contacts will be well underway during the month of March.

A Calendar of Lenten Activities (e.g., Ash Wednesday Masses, Stations of the Cross, at the three sites) will be distributed in the Sunday Bulletin on February 18th, the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. Also, the Little Lenten Books will be available at all the Masses that Sunday. The Little Black Books are general for all, but there are also the Little Purple Books for children and Little Gray Books in Spanish. Another significant activity during this season of Lent is the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Welcoming of Newcomers to the Parish now occurs monthly at STA.

Fr. George related details about recent events in the parish. The Parish Patron Party for St. Thomas Aquinas was held at STA Church on Sunday, January 28th, after the 10:30 Mass. A short skit about 18 minutes in length was presented at the conclusion of Mass giving highlights from the life of our Patron Saint. A reception that followed in the basement of the Thomas House with sandwiches, fruit, and drinks, was well attended.

The PPP for SES in January involved a presentation of the life of St. Elizabeth Seton. The social dinner that was planned to complete the PPP for St. Elizabeth Seton was cancelled because of low response from the SESS Community.

The next Burning Bush session will be held on Sunday, February 25th, at 3:00 P.M. at OLR. The topic is "Evangelization", and Fr. Tony will moderate the program.

Thomas House

Fr. George introduced the present and future status of the Thomas House as topics of consideration by the PSC. The lease that the present tenants of the Thomas House have signed expires at the end of the month. The tenants would like to renew this lease for another year. The STA Site Committee has submitted a petition to Fr. George and the Finance Committee and distributed a copy to the PSC membership outlining plans to reclaim the Thomas House for use by the STA Mass Communities for both spiritual and social functions. The 10:30 Mass Community, for example, has indicated a strong desire for both hospitality and discussions of the homily/liturgy after Mass (50% of those responding to the survey from the 10:30 Mass attendees marked this preference). A copy of this petition is included with these minutes as Attachment 1.

Fr. George directed the PSC to consider the use of the Thomas House with respect to the mission and the vision for the STA Mass Communities, to acknowledge the financial impact of the approximately \$38,000. annual income to the parish from the current rental agreement, and finally, to strive for a decision by consensus that would achieve the best interests of the parish. At this point in the meeting various opinions were expressed by the PSC membership.

Joe pointed out that the parish made a big investment in the renovation and the remodel of the Homer House apartments prior to their being rented to two new tenants (one each for the two apartments of the Homer House). Helen emphasized the need for the Mass Communities at STA Church for space for fellowship/hospitality as well as a place for religious education and faith sharing discussions on Sundays.

Joe suggested giving the tenants of the Thomas House a six-month extension on the current lease. Helen noted that, even if the lease were not extended, the tenants would have 60 days legally before they would be required to vacate the premises. A six-month extension of the lease would actually be only a four-month delay for the parish to reclaim the Thomas House for parish use.

Joe presented a proposal that the lease be extended for six months and that an *ad hoc* committee of members from the STA Site Committee, the Facilities Committee, and the Finance Committee study the options for the Thomas House and make a presentation to the PSC in May of 2007. After a brief discussion of this proposal, Joe moved that the lease be extended for six months. Susan seconded the motion. The PSC voted by show of hands, and the motion passed with ten 'Yes' votes and three 'No' votes. After the vote, Joe emphasized the importance of the *ad hoc* committee presenting its recommendations to the PSC in May.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Three ministries presented oral reports of their activities during the past three months. In addition, each ministry member reporting orally provided a written copy of the quarterly report to the PSC membership. The written Quarterly Reports for the Parish Administrator, the Human Concerns Committee, and the Hispanic Community appear in these minutes as Attachments 2, 3, and 4, respectively. These written reports provide more detailed information on the activities of the ministries.

Parish Administrator's Report

Chuck presented the Parish Administrator's Report. He emphasized that a budget calendar has been created for next year's 2007-2008 Operating Budget to provide more time for budget inputs and feedback from the various ministries. Chuck also distributed information from the San Jose Diocese about Second Collections, Special Appeals, Vendors and Solicitors, and a page detailing procedures for paying California Sales Tax on items sold at church functions. Finally, he also presented data on the Hispanic Community, specifically, in which zip code those families registered with the parish reside.

Human Concerns Committee

Tom described some of the new pages and articles that now appear on the Human Concerns Committee web site. The following pages are included in the new entries on the HCC web site: 'Recent Reports from the Vatican', 'Social Justice for Busy People', 'Church's Teaching on Issues of the Day', etc. Articles entitled 'The U.S. Bishops and the Iraq War', 'Recent Immigration Raids', and 'A Catholic Response to the Death Penalty' have recently been posted on the HCC web site.

In October the HCC co-sponsored (with Amnesty International and Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice) a downtown prayer vigil against the death penalty. Later in the month HCC actively engaged in the Burning Bush discussion on the death penalty. In November HCC gave support from the pulpit for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. HCC members also planned and organized the Burning Bush session on *Deus Caritas Est*. HCC facilitated bulletin inserts in December of the USCCB letter to President Bush concerning the Iraq war and the Pope's New Year's Day message, 'World Day of Peace'.

Hispanic Community

Jesse described the excellent response that the Hispanic Community provided to a request for volunteers; e.g., Eucharistic Ministers, catechists, etc. He also announced the fundraising dance on February 17th to raise money to enable second year confirmation students to attend the Tahoe Retreat. He reported that catechesis sessions for both children and parents are well attended. A wide variety of subjects are covered, such as

‘Communications in our Marriage’, ‘Loving and Respecting our Children’, and ‘The Eucharist (Mass)’

Old Business

Mission Statement for the Parish

Two versions of the parish Mission Statement have been selected for consideration by the ministries. The first is the survivor of continuing tweaking, massaging, and editing of the mission statement that was created by a committee a few months ago:

St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Parish is a community of Christ’s disciples, on a journey of faith, living the Gospel as listeners, learners, and leaders.

The second candidate has been proposed by the Adult Spiritual Development Committee:

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is a Roman Catholic community of Christ’s disciples, on a journey of faith, living and sharing the Gospel in our daily lives.

This version attempts to focus on both the personal efforts and the evangelical outreach of the community at STA Parish.

There were a number of comments from the PSC membership reflecting the thoughts from their ministries. The Facilities Committee suggested that the word ‘witness’ appear in the Mission Statement. Susan thought that evangelization should be mentioned to indicate a personal outreach in our journey of faith. Mary stated that the last part of the Stewardship Prayer expressed sentiments that might be considered for inclusion in the Mission Statement. Micky complained that the whole process of choosing a Mission Statement is taking much too much time for PSC deliberations.

These two mission statements will be referred back to the ministries for their consideration and their response will be sent back to the PSC in March.

Percept Matters

Will Sousa will present the relevance of the Percept Data for our area to the long range planning and goals of the STA Parish at the March 14th meeting of the PSC. A subcommittee composed of Walt Lundin, Gerard McGuire, Mike McMahan, and Chuck Tully will coordinate the use of the Percept Data for the benefit of the parish.

New Business

Tom presented preliminary results from the surveys of the four Sunday Mass Communities at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. The surveys indicated that a majority of the people in the four Sunday Mass Congregations are 60 years of age or older. The surveys also revealed considerable interest in activities such as hospitality and religious education for adults and children for the 10:30 Mass Community, which does not have facilities for these activities at the present time. A more detailed report on the surveys from the four Sunday Mass Congregations will be forthcoming in the near future.

Closure

The next meeting will be held at OLR on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1 The Community Life Board, the Catechetical Board, and the Adult Spiritual Development Committee are scheduled to present their oral and written reports in March.

2. A subcommittee of members from the STA Site, the Facilities, and the Finance Committees will be created to study options for the best use of the Thomas House.

3. The Mission Statement for the Parish will be reviewed by each ministry from the two versions that are in current circulation,. Each ministry should make its decision and/or recommendation known to the PSC in March, 2007.

4. The PSC membership should review the Percept Report for the local area before the March 14th PSC meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. STA Site Committee Petition to Fr. George and the Finance Committee
2. Parish Administrator's Report
3. Human Concerns Committee Quarterly Report
4. Hispanic Community Report