

Church of the Divine Child Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Divine Child High School Parish Conference Room
February 15, 2016

Present:

Rev. James Bilot – Pastor

Rev. John Kopson - Associate Pastor

Steve Gibb – President

Marti Biscaro – Education

Jodi Ann Micallef – Worship

Marilyn O'Brien – Communication

Reps at Large - Ernie Bridgnanan, Pamela Szpytman, and Frank Neal

Absent:

Tracey Boudreau – Vice President

Tim Ciarelli – Youth Rep

Marylou Jansen – Christian Service

Frank Corak, Jolanda Karson & Margy Van Houten – Reps at Large

Meeting began at 7:06pm with a prayer lead by Fr. Kopson.

January meeting minutes approved by Frank Neal and Ernie Bridgnanan

Commission Reports:

Christian Service Commission - Marylou not present. See full report.

1. January presentation, by Professor Dr. Robert Fastiggi, on basic teachings of Christians and Muslims was a success and very well attended. Feedback indicates that this should be a first step in bringing similar faith presentations to DC.
2. RTL Baby Shower March 5/6 & 12/13
3. SVdP Clothing Drive held on March 12/13 – DC Elementary School Parking Lot

Worship Commission report given by Jodi Ann Micallef

1. Lent preparations underway
2. Five worship ministries wrote articles to be posted in the bulletin. "You are wanted and needed in the Church."
3. Ministry Breakfast is scheduled for Sat April 9. Meet at 8:30am Mass then proceed to high school cafeteria for breakfast and short talks by Fr. Bilot and Fr. Kopson.
4. Planning a DC pilgrimage to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Holy Door on Sat June 4 or June 11, 10am. Suggested lunch down at Sacred Heart Seminary or someplace downtown Detroit. Maybe tour the Seminary? Bus provided or drive your own vehicle.
5. Next Book Group read will be "Beautiful Mercy." This book will be handed out as a gift from the parish, to all those attending Easter Sunday Masses.

Education Commission report given by Marti Biscaro

1. High School group, Fr. John and volunteers attended the "March for Life" trip on January 21-23, to Washington D.C. despite the weather and road conditions!

- The bus ride home was 17 hours long and not one complaint from the students!
2. Travelling Chalice is circulating through the Education Commission members and Parish Council members are encouraged to also sign up. Discussed the advertisement in "The Infant." Looking to connect the travelling Chalice "sign up" with the parish weekly email.
 3. Dr. Fastiggi's presentation was well attended, approximately 600 people of Muslim and Catholic faith. Next Faith Formation Evening to be held on February 29, 2016 in the Gathering room at the Church. Fr. John to be discussing "the last four things" which is Judgement, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory.
 4. Looking to have the Divine Child Q & A in the summer, date TBD. Discussed last year's Q & A at "Uncle Rays" and how successful it was, but parking was an issue. Other possible venues to consider would be Knights of Columbus, Antonios and Leon's.
 5. Ordering "Beautiful Mercy" books to distribute at Easter Masses. Fr. Jim has approved to order 800 books at a price of \$1.50 per book including shipping. "Beautiful Mercy" books fits with Pope Francis' year of Mercy theme.
 6. Fridays during Lent, following Stations of the Cross, that Lectio Divina will be offered for any to share and participate and Fr. Jim and Fr. John will alternate in leading the Lectio Divina.

Communication Commission - No Report

Stewardship Commission reported by Fr. Bilot

1. Capital expenditures are being prioritized and sorted for schools, church and convent.
2. Tuition has been set for 2016-17.

Reps at Large:

1. Ernie asked about link for Dr. Fastiggi's talk. It is on YouTube on the church website under NEWS and click on VIEW ALL NEWS. Scroll down to the bottom of the news feed.

Old Business:

1. Jodi Ann shared an email from a parishioner who did not feel welcomed. She suggested he join a ministry and is now part of the Ushers' Ministry. We all need to be mindful of our presence at the church and always welcoming.
2. Next Meet and Greet will be in May

New Business:

1. Frank Neal shared concern about new Athletic Field and how it will affect parishioners. Fr. Jim said parishioners have not been asked to help support the new field. He wanted to ask alumni first for donations, then parishioners, therefore, nothing has been mentioned at the pulpit yet. Changing Lives Together was finished as of December 2015 and now we will ask parishioners to help with the field.

2. Frank was also concerned about what charities the church helps with. Fr. Jim responded; 40% of our operating expenses can be used to subsidize our schools. We subsidize 31% of our budget to both the elementary & high schools. In 2015 we gave \$797,327 to the schools for Catholic Education plus \$76,481 to Religious Education. Remember, one of our missions is Catholic Education.

Next meeting discussion:

1. What can we do as Parish Council for our parish? Many parishes are in maintenance mode, not mission mode. What is the role of Parish Council
2. How do we engage our parishioners to be more active?
3. The value in Mass and confession. Many do not see how many hours the priest spends in confessions.

Meeting adjourned with a blessing given by Fr. John at 8:22pm.

Next meeting: March 21, 2016 at 7pm, in the High School Parish Conference Room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Marilyn O'Brien