

Divine Child Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2015

The meeting began with Prayer at 7:04 PM with Fr. John Kopson

Those in attendance were: Fr. John, Kopson, Fr. James Bilot, Steve Gibb, Frank Neal, Frank Corak, Marilyn O'Brien, Pam Szpytman, JodiAnn Micallef, Ernie Bridgnanan, Margaret Van Houten, Tracey Boudreau, Tim Ciarelli

Steve Gibb made introductions of two new members: Ernie Bridgnanan, an alternate in the election for Sherry Ossy who stepped down and Youth Representative, Tim Ciarelli.

Minutes from the June PPC meeting were reviewed and approved by Tracey Boudreau and Marilyn O'Brien. No objections by the PC members.

***Commission Reports***

**Christian Service** – No Report. Marylou Jansen was absent. Marilyn commented that the high school is having a clothing drive for SVdP this week. It is a competition with all the Catholic high schools. The high school whose pod weighs the most (or who collects the most clothes) will receive a trophy at the Prep Bowl.

**Worship Commission** - JodiAnn Micallef reported they have not had their meeting this month. The Mass for Special Needs Persons went very well. Catholic Charities was very impressed with the Mass and reception. Mass of Remembrance will be on Monday, November 2. We have scheduled a Catholic Faith Formation Night on October 26.

**Education Commission** - Jodi Ann Micallef reported that the Lighthouse stand is going very well. Our expenses ran \$1,800 and people deposited approximately \$2,000. It has been up for 8 months. We sold 555 cd's and 110 books. We have selected certain cd's to advertise in the bulletin. We looked into another ordering program, but it was too expensive. Jodi Ann is now chairing the Worship Commission and no one has emerged to be the chair of Education yet. Duties will be divided until someone does. Three new people have joined.

**Communication Commission** - Marilyn O'Brien reported that the volunteer opportunity handout has been revised. We hand these out to new parishioners. Suggestions about how we distribute the handout to all parishioners: 1. Have Ushers pass them out after Mass, look it over and turn it in the following weekend. 2. Leave them in the pews. 3. Post it in the bulletin. 4. Pass out during Lent, then have a Ministry Fair. 5. Pass out every year. 6. Have rep speak about their committees at the pulpit. 7. Ernie suggested we have a different group every week in the gathering room. 8. Have the youth ask the youth. Someone suggested we change the book to be more simplified, ie; List of Volunteer Opportunities..... Maybe send an email out when an event comes up that we need volunteers for? The high school uses Sign-up Genius which is an easy computer tool people can do when volunteering for something. There is a new group ministry called the Hospitality Ministry. They will be serving refreshments & assist in organizing certain Church events.

**Finance Committee** – Fr. Bilot reported that the budget for 2015-2016 has been submitted. Net income for last year (2014-15) was \$38,358. This is mainly due to the Advancement endeavor and most of the “era of big givers” have passed or moved away. Many younger parishioners do not donate like their predecessors. Margaret Van Houten suggested that we have someone from the Finance Commission give a “State of the Parish” one weekend and ask “Do you as a parishioner consider what your giving?” and “Consider what this parish has given you?”

The Changing Lives Together (CLT) campaign effected our CSA collections. CLT will be finished this year. With the CLT funds, we were able to repair the stained glass windows, repair the Adoration Chapel chairs and kneelers, repairs in the auditorium and would like to finish up by repair/replace church ceiling. We received \$832,000. The schools are full with the high school budgeted for 811, we currently have 813. Elementary school budgeted for 526 and we currently have 538. Advancement Director, Kristin Herman, has resigned and her last day will be October 23.

**Reps at Large** –No comments

**New Business** - Fr. Jim Bilot and Fr. John Kopson reported that the Archdiocese of Detroit will be moving in an new direction in the fall of 2016. Archbishop Vigneron will be implementing the New Evangelization Initiative. We need to become a Missionary diocese and need to re-evangelize Active Catholics, non-active Catholics and non-Catholics. The goal is to change the fabric of the diocese. It is all about changing us within and to have a relationship with Christ. Encounter - Grow - Witness, three key items we need to build our prayer life on. We will be selecting 3 people from Divine Child to attend this New Evangelization Synod in the fall of 2016, which is like a really big parish council meeting. Bishops, priests and parishioners (3 from each parish) will jointly come up with a consensus and go and teach as one. You cannot evangelize what you do not know. Steve Gibb asked “What can Parish Council do to help out?” Fr. John responded “Pray for someone you think might be in a bad way or you are worried about their soul. We will also be teaching the prayer method “Lectio Divina, the Art of Praying with Scripture. The Lectio Divina is the practice of scriptural reading (the Bible) whereby we open ourselves up to what God wants to say to us, to actually have an encounter with Christ. We will be having a Catholic Faith Formation night on this on November 30, with Fr. Jim Bilot as the speaker. Fr. John Kopson would like to host another Holy Hour for Persecuted Christians and also teach the Lectio Divina during Adoration.

**Old Business** - Next scheduled Meet and Greet is on October 19 at 7pm in the gathering room.

**Pastor’s Comments** - It was a blessing to be at the Priest Convocation with Fr. John Kopson and the rest of the AOD priests this September. Our DC staff day of prayer went very well. Sr. Rosemary Stets, Bernardine Franciscan, led our retreat and her theme for us was “Trust in Divine Providence,”

8:30pm - Meeting concluded with a prayer from Fr. Bilot.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn O’Brien