

Church of the Divine Child Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

High School Conference Room

February 20, 2017

Present:

Fr. John Kopson – Associate Pastor

Steve Gibb – President

Ernie Bridgnanan – Vice President

Pamela Szpytman - Secretary

Beth Stawasz Donovan – Christian Service

Marilyn O'Brien - Communication

Tess Noonan & Marti Biscaro – Education

Jodi Ann Micallef – Worship

Gordon Brooks, Frank Neal, Margy Van Houten – Representatives at Large

Absent: Fr. Jim Bilot – Pastor, Frank Corak – Rep at Large

Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm and opened with a prayer by Steve Gibb.

January meeting minutes approved by Beth Stawasz and Ernie Bridgnanan.

New Parish Council Youth Representatives were welcomed: John Balash – grade 12, and Camryn Pieknik – grade 10.

Pamela Szpytman was congratulated as new Parish Council Secretary.

Commission Reports:

Christian Service: Report given by Beth Stawasz Donovan

1. Goal: More hands-on ministry and service opportunities, as requested by parishioners.
2. Prison Ministry – several people have requested this ministry.
 - St. Thomas a Becket has a prison ministry program at the Huron Valley Women's Correctional Facility in Ypsilanti. Their deacon, Jim Ward, has invited Divine Child to participate with their parish in this ministry. Deacon Jim has offered to come to DC to present an informational meeting. Christian Service will identify a meeting date and time.
 - The prison ministry offers weekly or monthly opportunities. Both men and women are welcome to participate. Participation opportunities include face-to-face meetings with a screen, Catholic prayer services and pen-pal programs. Deacon Jim will interview each participant and match them with the correct prison ministry experience, based on their desires and time commitment.
3. Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan – refugee placement and support.
 - Catholic Charities has been contacted to explore this service opportunity. Currently waiting for information.
4. St. Pat's Senior Meal
 - Mary Lou Jansen has arranged two service opportunities, March 5 and 24, 2017. Open to all parishioners, information will be in DC Infant. Elementary and High School students welcome.

Worship: Report given by Jodi Ann Micallef

1. Will address heating issue in Eucharistic Chapel.
2. Stations of the Cross
 - Fr. Jim desires to increase attendance at Stations of the Cross. The priests will invite parishioners to attend at each Mass.
 - Two flyers, one with pictures of the Stations, and one with reasons to pray the Stations by Pope Francis were passed out. Council members decided that the two flyers should be printed back-to-back. Need 1000 flyers, Marilyn will ask the Infant printers to print the flyers.
 - 4 to 6 people will be needed at each Mass to hand out flyers and personally invite parishioners to Stations. Also, have people attend Fish Fry to invite people to attend. This & That ministry and Parish Council members to participate.
3. Sunday, June 25, 2017 is Fr. Jim's 25th Anniversary of Ordination. Connie DiMarco is in charge of celebration plans.

Education: Report given by Tess Noonan

1. Warming Our Hearts – Women at His Feet event very successful, with 156 women attending. All comments were very positive, except for two which identified food issues.
2. Angela Hospice will present "Hospice 101" on April 24.

Communication: Report given by Marilyn O'Brien

1. Marilyn is helping Marketing to develop a new parish website. Both Elementary and High School are involved and Frank Neal is assisting. Bids will be taken from several companies and new website will launch in August, 2017.

Finance/Stewardship: Deferred until Fr. Jim's return.

Representatives at Large Report:

1. Margy Van Houten – inadequate facilities for the elderly and handicapped parishioners.
 - Elderly and handicapped parishioners who sit in the front of church have difficulty getting to the restrooms in the gathering room. Is it possible to install a restroom in the front of the church, or move the handicapped seating to the rear of the church, closer to the restrooms?
 - Request for hand rails at steps of Elementary School, for elderly parishioners attending Book Club.
 - Request for Braille hymnals.

Old Business:

1. Pulse of the Parish
 - A program run by parish council to provide parishioners with the opportunity to voice comments, questions or concerns.
 - Pulse of the Parish will be offered on the second Sunday of the month (omitting July and August), in the gathering room, after all Masses. Parish Council members will be available to speak to parishioners, and gather their comments/questions, to take back to council meetings and address.
 - All Reps at Large will participate, with other parish council members as needed.

The following schedule was established:

4:30pm Mass – Gordon Brooks and Pamela Szpytman

8:00am Mass – Ernie Bridgnanan and Steve Gibb

10:00am Mass – Margie Van Houten and Frank Corak

12:30pm Mass – Marilyn O'Brien and Marti Biscaro

John Balash and Camryn Pieknik will participate when they are able.

Other Parish Council members will act as substitutes as needed.

- Pulse of the Parish will use the table from the vestry and set up in the Gathering Room with a picture of council members, clipboard, pen and forms to take notes.
- If parishioners want to be contacted with a response to their comment/question, they must give their name and phone number. This information should be recorded on the form, and check the response box.
- Parish Council members should not provide an answer to parishioner's comments/questions in the Gathering Room. They should actively listen to the parishioner, make note of their comment/question, ask if they would like to be brought to Parish Council for discussion and/or resolution.
- All comment forms are to be placed into the labeled Envelope in the Vestry. Marilyn will take them to the rectory office after 12:30pm Mass. Frank Neal will pick up the envelope on Monday and tabulate the comments/questions for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.

New Business:

Stations of the Cross discussion under Worship Commission report. No other new business.

Public Comments: None at this time.

Pastor Comments:

1. Fr. John, Associate Pastor, announced that Mark Sierra and the High School Pro-life Club will be taking a bus to the Northland Family Planning Clinic in Westland, on March 11, at 10am, to hold a Prayer Protest against abortion. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Closing prayer led by Fr. John, meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Next meeting: March 20, 2017 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Szpytman, secretary