

Church of the Divine Child Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Parish Conference Room
June 19, 2017

Present:

Fr. James Bilot – Pastor

Steve Gibb – President

Ernie Bridgnanan – Vice President

Pamela Szpytman – Secretary

Beth Stawasz – Christian Service

Marilyn O'Brien – Communication

Marti Biscaro and Tess Noonan – Education

Jodi Ann Micallef - Worship

Gordon Brooks, Frank Corak, Frank Neal, David Paluszewski, Margaret Van Houten – Representatives at Large

John Balash, Camryn Pieknik – Youth Representatives

Absent: Andrea Swierlik

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm and opened with a prayer by Fr. Bilot.

March meeting minutes approved and motion to accept by Margaret Van Houten and Tess Noonan.

Guest Presentation: Dominic Raona, Grand Knight, Bishop Foley Council-Knights of Columbus

Dominic provided information on the 130 member Bishop Foley Council, which Fr. Jim approved to become our parish-based Knights of Columbus council. The council will meet monthly on the second Wednesday, beginning July 12, in the Theresa Avila room in the Elementary School. They will work with all parish commissions.

Dominic welcomed parish groups to contact him if they need help, or would like to coordinate a project together.

New Members:

David Paluszewski and Andrea Swierlik (absent) were welcomed as new Representatives at Large.

Commission Reports:

Christian Service: Report given by Beth Stawasz

1. Will partner with the High School for the clothing drive, and coordinate with the schools for donation programs held in the parish.
2. Elevate Detroit – High school students go once per month to prepare food with Elevate Detroit workers, and serve at Detroit Community Barbecues in underserved neighborhoods. Year round participation except July and August.
3. Mercy in Action Service Project – Archdiocese wide community service on October 14.
4. Drive for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan Syrian Refugee Program – will submit proposal to Fr. Bilot.
5. St. Pat Senior Center – Prepare and serve a meal June 24. Contact Mary Lou Jansen to sign up.

Worship: Report given by Jodi Ann Micallef

1. No May meeting.
2. Joan Condon training new Readers and Michelle Schroeder training new EMHCs.
3. Oremus Prayer Program (Latin for “Let us pray”)
 - Education and Worship commissions will partner together to present this program.
 - Program consists of readings, DVD presentation and small group discussions. Goal is to have people engage in daily prayer with scripture.
 - Open to all, including non-parishioners.

- 8 week program will run from September thru October. Program promotion will start in August.
- Program days were selected based on parish survey. Each week a day and evening session will be presented:
Beginning 9/6/17, every Wednesday 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Beginning 9/11/17, every Monday 7pm – 8:15pm
- Other meetings will not take place at these times to give priority to the prayer program.
- \$10 program fee includes program book
- Junior High and High School students will receive extra credit for attendance.

Education: (See Oremus above). Will not have Faith Formation programs during Oremus program.

Communication:

1. Work continues on one website for Church, Elementary and High Schools, with launch in August or September.
2. Held training session for Parish Ambassadors.

Finance/Sterwardship: Reported given by Fr. Bilot

1. 2017/2018 budget submitted to Archdiocese of Detroit.
2. Archdiocese of Detroit is conducting a partial audit of Divine Child
3. Facility updates:
 - High School – new windows, painting classrooms, science room addition
 - Elementary School – science room gutted and remodeled, boys bathroom remodeled, new lockers and flooring on second floor. First floor lockers and floor will be done next year.
 - Power-washing brick and limestone on Church and front of High School

Representatives at Large Report:

1. Gordie Brooks - Requested parish facility map. Fr. Bilot stated we have maps of parish facilities, and he will have them updated. Marilyn will put updated maps on parish website.
2. Frank Neal - Problem with children riding bicycles on track. Fr. Bilot is working on entrance barriers for sports complex.

Youth Representatives Report:

1. Camryn Pieknik – Working with High School administration to establish “office hours” for HS parish council reps to get student input/feedback.

Ambassador Station Report:

1. Request for priest to identify Eucharistic prayer at Mass.
Fr. Bilot stated there are only 2 prayer options for Sundays, and believes people can easily identify which prayer is being said. Announcements should not be made in the middle of Mass.
2. Handicapped seating at rear of Church near restrooms.
A pew will be removed to make handicapped seating. Communion will be brought to the back of Church for people seated in this area.
3. Request for infant changing areas in Family and Men’s restrooms.
Fr. Bilot will have them installed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Council Members Term Ended:
 - Steve Gibb thanked for his years of service to Parish Council as his term ends as president.
 - Frank Corak and Frank Neal thanked for their service to Parish Council as their Rep-at –Large term ends.
2. Council Positions for Next Year
 - Ernie Bridgnanan will be new President
 - Margaret VanHouten will be new Vice President
3. Ambassador training for new Reps-at-Large will be provided by Marilyn. Ambassador program will resume in September.

Public Comments: None

Pastor's Comments:

1. Archdiocese Synod held last November
 - Synod dialogue sessions produced 44 pages of recommendations, called “Unleash the Gospel”
 - 10 guide posts – each with propositions and action steps
 - All parish council members asked to download document from Archdiocese website and read prior to next meeting.
 - Fr. Bilot will begin working on these recommendations, with parish team leaders this summer.

Closing prayer led by Fr. Bilot, meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Next meeting: September 2017 – date and time to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Szpytman, secretary