

Church of the Divine Child Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Parish Conference Room

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Present:

Fr. James Bilot – Pastor

Ernie Bridgnanan – President

Margy Van Houten – Vice President

Beth Stawasz – Christian Service

Marti Biscaro – Co-Education

Marilyn O'Brien - Communication

Gordon Brooks, Andrea Swierlik, Dave Paluszewski – Representatives at Large

John Balash & Camryn Pieknik – Youth Representatives

Absent:

Fr. Matthew Hood

Jodi Ann Micallef – Worship

Pamela Szpytman – Secretary

Tess Noonan – Co-Chair Education

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 and opened with a prayer.

September 17, 2017, meeting minutes were approved with 1st and 2nd motions by Beth and Andrea.

Commission Reports:

Christian Service: Report provided by Beth Stawasz

- 1) Mercy in Action went well. We collected enough items to fill 120 backpacks. Additionally, approximately \$900 was collected in cash donations. This money will be used to purchase additional items to fill out the backpacks; the remainder will be donated to the Michigan Veterans Foundation. 50 volunteers have signed up to work on 10/14 to fill and deliver the backpacks.
- 2) Household item collection to Benefit CCSEM Refugee Resettlement Program (11/18-11/19).
- 3) Fiber Arts Ministry started up with 19 people attended the first meeting on 9/21. Projects included pillows for post-op cardiac patients, scarves for children at infusion clinics, hats for newborns, and scarves and hats for the homeless. Because of strong interest, it was decided that ministry will meet 2x per month, on the first and third Thursdays of each month

Communication: Report provided by Marilyn O'Brien

- 1) Working on the new parish website with Karen Kruszka and Lil Dominiak. Should be operational in November.
- 2) No Christmas card drawings this year.
- 3) Good feedback on the Christmas/4th Sunday of Advent chart we posted in the bulletin. Did not hear any negative comments. Fr. Jim said it is the priest's responsibility to explain this.

Education: Report provided by Marti Biscaro (Co-Chair)

- 1) December 10 – Charlie Brown Christmas Night at 6:30pm in the Gathering Room. Opportunity to make an ornament then watch the movie at 7:15, followed by Advent Night Prayer at 8pm in the church. No RSVP needed. All age appropriate, even for adults.
- 2) January 2018 - Catholic Faith Formation Night (CFFN) on the Holy Spirit. Undecided about a Lenten CFFN.

Worship: Report provided by Fr. Jim Bilot

- 1) November 1 - All Saints Day, Hoy Day of Obligation. 6:30am, 8:30am and 7pm Masses.
November 2 – All Souls Day Mass of Remembrance at 7pm is a Mass for all those who were buried at Divine Child in the past year. Families of the deceased received invitations from the parish. Small reception will be in the Gathering Room.
- 2) Christmas schedule and decorating have been planned.

Finance/Stewardship: Report provided by Father Jim Bilot

- 1) No meeting – no report

Representative-at-Large Reports

- 1) No Reports

Youth Report

- 1) Camryn – Confirmed with Fr. Jim that high school students should park in the south parking lot during Tech week for the play.

Old Business:

- 1) Fr. Jim would like to have a “Welcome Kiosk” in lieu of the Ambassador Table in the Gathering Room, to answer questions regarding the Parish (i.e. Sacraments, Sign up new parishioners, RCIA, Funerals, Weddings, etc.). Would like to have a staff member or volunteer to cover all Masses. Sacred Heart tried doing this as well, but Marilyn heard that they did not get much traffic. Do we really need this? Is it necessary?

New Business:

- 1) Unleash the Gospel – Ernie will get parish council members a nice colored copy of the document. Fr. Jim and Ernie said the parish council members need to read the entire document. We have it posted on the parish website and you can also access it on the Archdiocese of Detroit website at aod.org.
- 2) Pastoral Leadership Team – Consists of Fr. Jim, Fr. Matt, Matt Simpson (Organist), Jodi Ann Micallef (Evangelization & RCIA Coordinator), and Dawn Dwyer (Director of Religious Education). They are making plans on how to “Unleash the Gospel” to all commissions and parishioners.

- 3) Leadership Team – Consists of Fr. Jim, Fr. Matt, and all the directors of the parish and schools. They currently are working through “Unleash the Gospel.” Having 1-hour sessions and streamlining their meetings.
- 4) Parish Pastoral Plan – Parish Council needs to focus on “Unleash the Gospel” which will be our guide to revising the Parish Pastoral Plan. Jodi Ann will be our guide in keeping us focused on Evangelization. Our meetings need to be streamlined and devoted toward that goal, starting at the November meeting. No meeting in December.
- 5) November 5 - Meet and Greet at 11am for new parishioners. Marilyn will send out sign-ups.
- 6) November 12 - Rite of Acceptance for RCIA. Coffee & Donuts. Tess & Tim Noonan will be generously providing 25 dozen donuts. All Parish Council members should be there welcoming the new RCIA members. Marilyn will send out sign-ups.

Pastor's Comments:

- 1) Using “Unleash the Gospel” to revise our Pastoral Plan.
- 2) Marti asked if we announced Masses & Confessions at football home games. Fr. Jim said yes.
- 3) Dave asked if we should have Athletic Directors at our PC meetings? Fr. Jim suggested Dave to keep us on track if & when we should invite them. Camryn asked Fr. Jim if the coaches have a code of conduct? Fr. Jim stated yes. DC had a coaches retreat in August which was well received. Dave liked to hear that there will be no sports on Sunday which was a directive from the Archdiocese of Detroit. This will take affect next year. Gym time will be in dire need.

Closing prayer, meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday, November 20 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn O'Brien