

**Church of the Divine Child Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
October 18, 2016**

**Present:**

Rev. John Kopson - Associate Pastor  
Steve Gibb - President  
Ernie Bridgnanan – Vice President  
Reps at Large: - Frank Corak, Pamela Szpytman and Frank Neal

Beth Stawasz Donovan – Christian Service  
Tess Noonan – Education  
Jodi Ann Micallef – Worship  
Marilyn O'Brien – Communication

**Absent:**

Fr. Jim Bilot - Pastor, Margy Van Houten and Marti Biscaro

*Meeting was called to order at 7:03p.m. with prayer lead by Fr. John  
September meeting minutes approved by Frank Corak and Ernie Bridgnanan*

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Christian Service:** Report provided by Beth Stawasz

1. Wee Care Baby items drive was very successful.
2. The Capuchin Coats and Caps is discontinued at DC. The Capuchins are in dire need of household items, such as sheets, blankets, etc. Tags will be available for this collection. We might have members from the This N' That Ministry or Junior High Students, make out the tags.
3. View full report on church website under councils/commissions.

**Worship Commission:** Report provided by Jodi Ann Micallef

1. Christmas Masses are on the weekend and will not be our regular weekend Mass schedule. They are the same as last year. Saturday Christmas Eve: 4:00pm, 9:30pm and Midnight. Sunday Christmas Day: 9am and 12noon.
2. All our Adoration Chapel Relics will be on display in the church the weekend of October 29 and 30, in honor of All Saints Day. Name tags need to be replaced on the relics. Looking to see what is the best way to do this aesthetically.
3. View full report on church website under councils/commissions.

**Education Commission:** Report provided by Tess Noonan.

1. October 24, 2016 Catholic Faith Formation Night: FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP, with Paul Stankewitz. He is the Policy Advocate for the Michigan Catholic Conference. Nov 28 CFFN Developing a Prayer Life with Fr. Jim.
2. Mass for our Nation on Friday, October 28 at 7pm followed by a Holy Hour of Adoration for our nation.
3. We have a new Director of Religious Education, Dawn Dwyer.
4. 5-week Grief Seminary will start on Wed, Sept 28 in the Gathering Room at 7pm.
5. View full report on church website under councils/commissions.

**Communication Commission:** Report provided by Marilyn O'Brien

1. Signing with another Bulletin publisher effective January 2017, Dee Printing.
2. The Parish now has a new Facebook page! Look for it under "Church of the Divine Child." look for the circle nativity icon. Please like us, follow us and share! The School page is under Divine Child Catholic Schools.
3. Next Meet and Greet for new parishioners will be November 21 at 7pm.

**Finance/ Stewardship:** Report provided by Fr. James Bilot

1. Went through all 2015-16 financials. We will be posting financial report in the bulletin very soon. We did run in the red -45,000. Not a concern because it was due to some budgetary bills.
2. The new Alumni Athletic track and field is almost completed. Gateway, Iron fencing next to the gateway and two buildings need to be finished. One building will be the concession stand & visitor locker room the other building is the home locker rooms and storage. We do not have the funds yet and no parish funds were used for any of these projects. We readjusted the funds to be able to pay for the bleachers and lights.
3. Renovations for the 5 ½ rooms in the high school and 1 room in the elementary school science wings will begin next summer. We need 1.2 million to complete the project. Advancement will raise funds and if we cannot raise it all at once, we will do it in phases.

**REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE**

**Frank Corak:**

- He heard some really good feedback about our DC kids at a CYO Cross Country meet. Other school parents were commenting on what good sportsmanship our kids showed toward other schools and their teammates.
- On another occasion he also heard comments that some DC parishioners are cold and snobby. Cliques need to be banished. Fr. John asked Frank if he actually witnessed this himself and said we all need to be welcoming. If we see someone in the gathering room that looks alone or new, please reach out to them and say hello.
- Jodi Ann asked all Parish Council Members to make an effort and reach out to all the RCIA candidates/catechumens at the RCIA Rite of Acceptance on November 20 10:00am Mass. We are there to welcome them into our Divine Child Community.

**Pamela Szpytman:**

- Let's try not to cut down other people's ideas. We always need fresh ideas. There are no bad ideas. We also need to do away with the comment "But we always do it this way." Beth is focusing on getting more people involved with the Church. We need both new and seasoned parishioners.

**OLD BUSINESS**

At our last meeting in September, Fr. Jim asked Parish Council members to come up with three things we think Parish Council should be doing. Here are the results:

1. Ernie Bridgnanan: Be more welcoming. Have more community building events. Spiritual growth opportunities
2. Pam Szpytman: Parish should be like a family. Have a parish survey. Have social gatherings for young people that don't have children and for senior citizens. Listen to others' fresh ideas.
3. Frank Neal: Alpha program. Youth Mass once a month. Pulse of the parish – have photos of parish council members posted in gathering room/website/facebook...etc.
4. Jodi Ann Micallef: Display photos with names of Worship Commission. Baby & wedding photos – post in the bulletin "Celebrating the Sacraments." Offer two retreats per year.
5. Beth Stawasz: Integrate Christian Service programs with both schools and streamline efforts. Have more hands-on service projects such as soup kitchen, peanut butter & jelly ministry, etc. Would like new people involved.
6. Tess Noonan: Parable Project with Catherine Zardus during Lent for women. More programs learning about Christ. Evangelization table at various activities.
7. Marilyn O'Brien: Need more family events. Be more welcoming. Have commissions keep doing what they are doing.
8. Steve Gibb: We need to seriously implement an Evangelization Committee.
9. Fr. John: Implement directives from the Joy of the Gospel, Implement directives from the Synod 16, Implement Amazing Parishes

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Jodi Ann suggested we have a parish spaghetti dinner as our gift to everyone at Christmas. In the past we have given out books or CDs. Hand out a card that looks like an invitation and they can RSVP online.

Marilyn mentioned that Priesthood Sunday is on Sunday, October 30 and wanted suggestions on how to give the priests their spiritual bouquet. Frank Corak said his family would love to do that.

#### **ASSOCIATE PASTORAL COMMENTS**

- Fr. John read a quote from the book *Joy of the Gospel* by Pope Francis "If the parish proved capable of self renewal and constant adaptively it will accomplish the churches mission." Change is good because we cannot be at status quo. He also spoke about Parochialism which is an unhealthy pride in a church building. Statistics show that when two parishes merge, 20% of parishioners will not join the merging parish.
- Frank Neal mentioned there is a lot of bitterness amongst parishioners when two parishes cluster.
- Archbishop Allen Vigneron held a Mass of Pardon in October. This is a public act of apologizing for any wrongdoing the archdiocese has caused.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. closing with a Hail Mary prayer by Fr. John.*

*Next Meeting: Meet and Greet November 21*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Marilyn O'Brien*