

# Divine Mercy Commission Meeting Minutes

## February 8, 2018

Father Marty called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Gary Johnson, a member of the Formation Commission, led opening prayer.

Father Marty led a discussion to improve communication between Notre Dame and the commissions. Bill Maupin, Judi Simon, Jeremy Swink, Karen Merino, and Brian Krieger represented Notre Dame. The discussion talked about sharing links on each group's Facebook page. Ways need to be found to keep the parish and the school working together. The parish invests \$43,750 every month to Notre Dame, which leaves approximately 1 ½ weeks' contributions for the parish to use for its expenses.

Father Marty shared that he asked the Pastoral Council if the Commission system is working. Father wants to make the system better. The parish staff is available to the commissions. Father Marty indicated he is proud of his staff. What needs to be done is not to go around the staff, but through them. He wants to know if what we do on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month is of value to us and to the parish. Seven questions were developed to be discussed by each commission this evening.

1. What is the purpose of our commission?
2. What are the strengths of our commission?
3. What are the weaknesses of our commission?
4. What is the purpose of the commission system?
5. What are the strengths of the commission system?
6. What are the weaknesses of the commission system?
7. What suggestions does our commission have for improving the system?

### **Administration Commission:**

Their discussion of the purpose of their commission concluded communication between parishioners and staff was the purpose. A strength is the knowledgeable and diverse skills of the members. A weakness is the lack of time to accomplish commission goals and determine the direction of the parish. They saw the purpose of the commission system as to take the responsibility of running the parish from the priest, and to offer support. The strength of the commission system is the people who wish to donate their time and talents. A weakness of the commission system is communication, so their suggestion to improve the system is better communication between the commissions.

### **Community Commission:**

The Community Commission believes the purpose of their commission is to bring people together by celebrating events, with their strength being committed, hard workers. Weaknesses of their commission include: spread too thin, lack ability to delegate, communication with the other commissions, and lack strength in recruiting help. A strength of the commission system is that it brought people together with different skills and abilities, and increased networking. Weaknesses of the commission system include communicating between the commissions and networking outside of the commissions. Their suggestions to improve the system is to act like a commission, not a committee, with oversight and not just doers of events; and to clearly identify and communicate among the commissions the responsibilities of each commission.

### **Formation Commission:**

The purpose of their commission is to help our parishioners to grow in their faith and increase the opportunities for continuing faith education. They perceive their strengths as having a diversity of experience in members and a common goal. Weaknesses of their commission are

that they are somewhat unsure of their present direction and how to be in communication with the groups under their umbrella. The Formation Commission sees the purpose of the commission system to coordinate and suggest improvements for our parish. They see the strengths of the system as similar to the strengths of their own commission.

**Outreach Commission:**

The members of the Outreach Commission see the purpose of their commission to oversee and communicate with the committees. Their strength is the people on the commission, although a weakness is that the members have a lack of experience. The commission sees the purpose of the commission system to oversee the committees. The strength of the commission system is seen as the mission and goals. They perceive the weakness of the commission system as a lack of involvement. A suggestion for improvement is to have specific goals which are measured.

**Worship Commission:**

As to the purpose of their commission, they indicate it is to have people in place for Masses. A strength of the commission is the devotion of its members. Weaknesses of the commission are: not enough people, a lack of knowledge for what needs to be done, and a lack of communication. The purpose of the commission system is to lessen the load for the clergy and to get more people within the parish involved. The commission sees the strength of the commission system as the willingness of the people to step up and get things done. Perceived weaknesses of the commission system are the lack of communication between the groups and the lack of reaching out to parishioners. Their suggestion to improve the system is to change the mindset to being one parish instead of three.

Father Marty shared that we know what we are against as a church, but what do we stand for? We need to identify who we are.

Father Marty has hired Carmen Lachnitt as the music director for the parish.

Lent begins next Wednesday. The parish is offering lots of Lenten activities which will be listed in the bulletin. The Easter schedule will be different with Masses on the hour, except for one Mass.

The Pastoral Council talked about the Christmas Eve Masses and trying to determine how not to use the Auditorium or Notre Dame. The Pastoral Council recommended having all Christmas Masses in our churches.

Gary Johnson encouraged everyone to sign up for the FORMED program.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM, with closing prayer led by Father Marty.

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnn Glaser  
Divine Mercy Parish Commission Coordinator