

DIVINE MERCY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2018

Attendance: Doris Champagne, Donna Darey, Dave Ehret, Kathy Hass, Mike Lachnitt, Dave Sanning, Liz Sanning, Margie Swanner, Father Marty, Deacon Bob, Father Bill, LuAnn Glaser

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by chair, Liz Sanning. Opening prayer was led by Father Marty.

Under Old Business, Father Marty discussed stewardship/evangelization. Cash flow has not been good. The parish needs an average of \$19,000 per week and is running between \$3000 and \$10,000 below that amount. As a result, \$35,000 had to be taken from savings to pay bills. The parish is cutting \$25,000 of support to Notre Dame for the 2018-19 school year. Father looked at a copy of the registration form for Notre Dame which does not indicate anything about financially supporting the parish. Approximately 20% of families at Notre Dame claim to be parishioners but do not give money to the parish. Father plans to meet with the Notre Dame parents before school starts. If we have parents who claim to be members of the parish but do not contribute, should they pay the full tuition? St. Mary's, Dodgeville has four students who attend Notre Dame and the parish contributes to Notre Dame. Students who attend Notre Dame from other parishes do not have an assessment paid by their parish. The council members asked about electronic giving, and how much a parishioner would need to increase their giving. Roughly 10-20% of parishioners are giving 90% of the parish's income. Father wonders if it is time for a stewardship of treasure drive and is considering having a company address the issue of sacrificial giving in the parish.

There are only three Mass servers available for 10:30 Mass due to parents indicating that their child cannot be at Mass to serve because of sports activities. It was suggested that we need to do more evangelization and make contact with families who were present for Easter and Christmas. A member of the Outreach Commission wants to bring back fallen away Catholics. The Commission member is trying to get the names of graduates of Notre Dame and contact them if they are not attending church. The Outreach Commission can make it a goal to bring back fallen away Catholics. Dave Sanning suggested having each commission discuss ideas for increasing stewardship and evangelization.

The recommendation was made to publish the names and contact numbers of council and commission members in the bulletin and on the website. This has already been done.

The council is recommending a long-term planning retreat in July. Father Marty has someone in mind to lead the retreat on either Saturday, July 14th or July 21st. Part of the goal is to look at the structure of the commissions and if they are achieving what they should. The plan would be to meet with the Pastoral Council first and then Commission members. Father Marty indicated he has been looking up best practices for pastoral councils and has seen ideas such as having the pastoral council meet even numbered months and commissions meet odd numbered months. We can start evangelization now. Father Marty's vision is for more decision making by the Pastoral Council.

Covenant review: Before next month's meeting the Pastoral Council members are asked to look at the Covenant booklet to determine what is working and what needs to be changed.

Commission work: Are there issues that have arisen from the contacts?

Transitions DMC: Father Marty will talk to Craig Fenton to see what he needs from the parish.

New Business included a discussion of Father Bill's Farewell Party, which will be held June 10th at SSMP Hall after 10:30 Mass. Cake, coffee, water, and lemonade will be served. Father Marty indicated we will have a welcome reception for Father Dan and suggested having it at Faith Festival. Father Marty also mentioned that Deacon Bob is celebrating his 5th anniversary as a Deacon.

Another item of new business was participation in parish events and how we can increase it. Father Marty asked if we are offering things that speak to people in the parish? Can we send the bulletin out to Notre Dame and religious education parents on Friday? A suggestion was made to E-mail information to parents of Notre Dame and Religious Education parents on raising a Catholic child, and other topics of interest, beginning September 1st.

Increased participation of Notre Dame in parish events:

The Faith Festival is August 17 and 18. Information will be sent in July with e-mail blurbs.

Parish Concerns:

Long Term Planning:

Father Bill had closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnn Glaser

Divine Mercy Commission Coordinator