

# **DIVINE MERCY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**August 9, 2018**

Attendance: Doris Champagne, Donna Darey, Dave Ehret, Kathy Haas, Mike Lachnitt, Dave Sanning, Liz Sanning, Joe Spillane, Margie Swanner, Father Marty, Father Dan, LuAnn Glaser

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

Old Business began with an update on the long-term planning retreat. Father Marty has an e-mail into Dan Ebener about the planning.

In the update on the Faith Festival, it was indicated there are t-shirts to buy. The back-up plan in case of bad weather is to hold it at Notre Dame. A phone call was made to all parishioners. The people who made the calls found many phones are no longer in service. Heather Tieman, Director of Evangelization and Renewal will speak at all Masses this weekend. Father Marty reminded the parish leadership to attend the Faith Festival.

Father Marty reported on the meeting with the parishioners who provide funeral luncheons. This group is not unified, and we need to unify the parish. He presented the Community Commission plan to them, which is to combine all of the leaders of the funeral luncheons for each hall, determine chairpersons to chair for one month per year, with parishioners assigned to a month. The team for a specific month would provide for the funeral luncheon, as well as a social event, if one occurred during the month. Father Marty shared the comments voiced at the meeting. Since the Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols event has been adopted, it was suggested to consider finding someone to adopt other events. Other suggestions were made as to how to use technology to contact all the parishioners who have indicated they are willing to help. Parishioners sign up to bring food to events, but do not get contacted, so there is less of a desire to contribute. Father Marty will take the situation under advisement.

Under New Business, the Gathering of Ministers will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> at SS. Mary and Patrick Church at 6:30 PM. The Communication Committee will be in charge of advertising it. Father Marty challenged everyone to invite five people. Dave Ehret was asked to stay on as the lay director liaison.

The Divine Mercy Fall Festival will be held October 7 at SS. Mary and Patrick Hall with tickets at \$10.00, and the same menu. There is a need for volunteers. The next meeting is August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 PM in the Police Station. Some of the features include: an auction for parking places at each church; a bake-off between Father Marty, Father Dan, Deacon Bob, and Sister Kathy; and a country store.

Father Marty asked if we wanted to have a Red, White, and Blue Mass. It was decided to cancel the 5:30 Mass on September 11<sup>th</sup> and have the Mass at 7:00 at St. John Church, followed by a reception. Personal invitations could be sent to parishioners who are firefighters, police, medical personnel, etc. It was suggested that if this is becoming a yearly event to get the date out early. Deacon Bob will prepare the invitation.

Parish Concerns: With the help of the Finance Committee, a budget was prepared and submitted to the diocese. To meet the parish's financial responsibilities, money was taken from investments. The parish started July \$16,000 in the red.

Father Marty will be holding a meeting with Notre Dame parents to inform them what the parish does for the school, what it costs the parish, and tiers of tuition: Catholic, non-Catholic, Catholic from another parish. A concern is that Notre Dame has parents who claim to be Catholic but are not Catholic or do not attend the parish. Criteria needs to be determined to describe a practicing Catholic. There is financial aid for families who cannot afford tuition, but there might need to be some requirement, such as a certain number of hours of service, turning in a weekly contribution envelope even if it is empty, etc.

Father Marty reminded the Council that each of our three buildings are over 100 years old. He asked at what point do we decide enough is enough? In the bulletin, he has asked three weeks in a row: What kind of parish do you want to be? Do you want to be a parish with three buildings and just Mass?

Father Dan had closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnn Glaser  
Divine Mercy Parish Commission Coordinator