

**Divine Mercy Catholic Church**  
**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – January 13, 2009**  
**Minutes**  
**Approved February 10, 2009**

**1. Call to Order:** Christine Shaffer called the meeting to order.

**2. Roll Call:**

**Present:** Fr. Kevin, Fr. Fernando, Lisa Sammon Roach, Dennis Germann, Mary Campbell, Christine Shaffer, Karen Sommers, Patti Gartner, John Tobin, Kerry McCarthy, Lois Donahue Cleary, Doug Knutson, Bill Skluzacek, Jeff Pridie, Shane Pemrick, Betty Berge, Jorge Martinez

**Absent:** None

**3. Ministry Highlighted:**

Pastoral Care/Social Justice – Chris Sorenson Woodside presented information on the Pastoral Care Ministry. She along with Bernadette Tatge and their trained volunteers minister to people at District One Hospital, 3 nursing homes, group homes and assisted living homes. The church is always to be present-if people can't come to the church, the church goes to them. They coordinate and train BeFriender Ministers. BeFriender Ministers are trained to lend a compassionate ear in times of loneliness, grief or any other difficult issues. Pastoral Care is very involved with Funeral Ministry. Divine Mercy averages 2-3 funerals/week. They or their trained volunteers assist the family in planning the funeral and provide the wake vigil prayers. Bernadette and Chris are members of the Faribault Christian Ministerial Association. It helps them know what is going on in the community, participate in joint ventures (Good Friday Service) and support each other. They are also members of the Association of Pastoral Ministers. There are 4 meetings, a banquet and retreat every year. The purpose is for networking and obtaining information from the Archdiocese. Chris and Bernadette pursue their own continuing education and spiritual direction. They understand the need for good self-care. It keeps them honest in their relationship with God and that enables them to be honest in their relationship with the Faribault Catholic Community. Stewardship in their area of ministry includes being available to all who minister with openness and mutuality. They offer a fall retreat to express their gratitude and provide spiritual sustenance to all the ministers in their area. More people who are willing to commit their time and talent are needed in pastoral care.

Social Justice is led by Dan Wesley who could not be here tonight. Social justice is a constructive piece of Catholic life. It provides support to Prison Ministry/Caring and Sharing Hands/used furniture to those in need. Social justice works to change systems i.e. actively working in the system to change immigration policies, homelessness, etc. Money that is collected for the St. Vincent de Paul Fund goes to buy gas, groceries and Christmas gifts. The need is

especially high this year. Another aspect of Social Justice is supporting our Sister Parish relationship with St. Francis of Assisi in Panajachel, Guatemala.

#### **4. Parishioner Comment:**

- Comment that the highlighting in the bulletin is too dark and makes it difficult to read.
- Rumor that the North Campus (Sacred Heart School) is moving. Initial school budget projections reflected a \$100,000 + deficit. Over the last several years, that has been a downward trend in enrollment. Two of the biggest pieces of the budget are staffing and facilities. Wanting to maintain good staffing ratio, it was decided to close the North Campus (Sacred Heart) building and move all classrooms to the South Campus site. The pre-school and kindergarten will move into the main building and specialists will utilize space in the basement of IC church. The benefits are monetary, as well as facilitate increased communication/unity. It will be easier for parents to drop kids off if everyone is at same location. North Campus building is most marketable site. Plan to make change for the fall.
- Question regarding the Sunday School Program in the new church. The Faith Formation staff is discerning a change in format to a Children's Liturgy of the Word.

#### **5. Consent Agenda Item:**

We are at 78-79 % of collections for capital campaign pledges. Fr. Kevin will be sending a follow-up letter to those who may be behind.

#### **6. Finance Committee Report:**

- November report reviewed.
- New Beginnings-2009 last year of collections for first capital campaign.
- Church accounts are in good shape-staff are on top of their budget. They cut back when they see their budget is short.
- Collections are down \$15,000 from last year.
- Approved moving forward with removal of 2 windows at IC.

#### **7. Agenda Items:**

- a) Parish Life Committees Meeting** – New meeting date has been set for March 3 in order to be better prepared for future planning. Many factors will be affecting the budget next year. Collections are in a down economic cycle and we will have to plan how to do with less.
- b) PPC Retreat Update** – Scheduled for February 28. Fr. Michael Becker from St. Michael who has recently dedicated a new church will be the retreat presenter.
- c) Stewardship-New Parishioner Welcoming-** Karen distributed names of new parishioners to be called and welcomed by a PPC member.

**d) Stewardship** – Christine and Shane gave a recap of the discussions on the Pillar of Hospitality and gave the following recommendations to the Stewardship Committee:

- How is our parish welcoming?
- What can we do in the new site? Welcome people at the doors.
- New Members: Post something in back of church or newsletter about new parishioners-maybe a photo.
- Re-define ushers as greeters/hospitality.
- Publish volunteer recognition in the newsletter.
- Look at ways to do things differently in new church i.e. more than 1 reader.

Pillar of Prayer- Small group discussion of Pillar of Prayer held.

**Next meeting is February 10, 2009**

- **6:45 pm Adoration Chapel**
- **7:00 pm Tomlinson Center**

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Gartner, Secretary