

**Divine Mercy Catholic Church**  
**Parish Council Meeting – October 2, 2007**  
**Minutes**  
**Approved November 6, 2007**

1. **Call to Order** – Pam Kennedy called the meeting to order.
2. **Opening prayer** – Patti Gartner led the opening prayer and reflection
3. **Roll Call**
  - Present:** Fr. Kevin, Fr. Thomas, Father Michael, Lisa Sammon Roach, Carolyn Heskett, Bill Keilen, Pam Kennedy, Julie Olson, Wayne O'Connor, Christine Shaffer, Kerry McCarthy, John Tobin, Marian Anderson, Doug Knutson, Larry Dozark, Patti Gartner, Karen Sommers and Lois Cleary
  - Absent:** none
  - Also in attendance:** Deacon Dan Wesley
- **Tri-Parish Advisory Committee** - *As Deacon Dan was in attendance, this was moved up in the agenda.*

Divine Mercy is involved in a Ministry Colloquium funded by the Lilly Foundation. It is for parish clusters. Representatives from Divine Mercy, St Patrick's and St Michael's went for a 3-½ day retreat at St John's University last May. The purpose was to determine how our cluster of 3 separate parishes can collaborate for the betterment of all parishes. A project is being submitted this week. The project involves first having the parish leadership help develop a Tri-Parish vision. This will be achieved by having Father Michael Byron come to make a presentation on clustering. Then having an Advisory Committee form – to be comprised of 2 representatives from each parish. This committee would look at how the cluster can collaborate on ministries such as Faith Formation, Pastoral Ministry and Administration. The second stage would be bringing all parishioners together. Bill said he would be interested in serving on this Advisory Committee.
4. **Parishioner Comment (What have we seen and heard in the parish?)** –
  - Christine had been asked what is going to happen to the trees at the new site. They will not be affected by initial site work. New trees will also be planted in order to follow code.
  - Marian has raffle tickets for the CCW quilt.
  - Wayne said that one person can make an impact. He was at the LaCanne wake and Delores really had an impact at Divine Mercy and in Faribault.
5. **Consent Agenda Items**
  - Karen attended the Music and Liturgy Review & Development Committee meeting. Items discussed were: the letter against building a new Church, the contemporary music changes at the 11:15 Mass, and the assessment tool on the liturgical life of the Church (we are doing well).
  - Pam reminded everyone that October 23 is Basilleo's night for DMCS. Also Faith Formation has 300 students in grades 1-8 and Confirmation has 100 students!
6. **Finance Committee Report – John Tobin**
  - John reported that collections are down from projections this year and that is a concern. This will be watched for one more month before the budget would be revised.
  - Divine Mercy has 2 properties that are being readied for rental. These are the Albers Ave house and the Sacred Heart rectory.
  - A question was raised concerning the lowered enrollment at DMCS and how that affects the budget. John replied that DMCS has their own budget and finance committee and they have addressed this. It has no effect on the Divine Mercy Parish budget.
  - Another question was how much money can be taken out of the endowment fund to balance our budget. The endowment fund has specific guidelines. Only a certain percentage of the interest can

be taken each year. The principal is never touched – and money must be added to the principal each year.

## **7. Pastor's Report – Father Kevin**

- The Ground Blessing was a great day with a lot of excitement. 800 people showed up. Archbishop Nienstedt's homily was inspiring. Having the building taped out on the grounds was a nice visual. People commented that it seemed more real now. This represents years of work and dedication.
- The DMCS Marathon is next Monday.
- Father Kaluza is getting inducted into the Knights of Columbus this evening.
- 9 new NET Team members have arrived and already hard at work! They are all new to Divine Mercy. Sunday evening 40 kids attended movie and pizza night. This included 10 –15 Latinos. A couple of the NET Team speak fluent Spanish which will help greatly.
- There are 100 confirmation students this year. There should be 130. The NET Team introduction included a visual activity showing that 30% of youth drop out of Church before high school and 40% after high school. Pray for the kids not involved and think about how we can reach out to youth.
- Lola Brand met with our deaf community to get their input into our ministry. She is sending the minutes to Father Kevin. We need to be attentive to their needs.

## **8. Agenda Items**

### **A. New Beginnings**

- City Processes – It was hoped to have all the paperwork completed by 10/1, but it will now be 10/10. An informational meeting will be held for neighbors on 10/4 and the approval by the City Council should be 10/9.
- Loan Closing – Loan closing and filing of paperwork is expected to occur 10/10.
- Archdiocesan Approval – Archbishop Flynn has given his approval for phase 1. The Archdiocese will need to sign proxies for all of our contracts for the project. The Archdiocesan CFO, John Bierbaum, also sent a memo expressing appreciation for the effort of the entire Divine Mercy team, and especially Lisa and Father Kevin.
- Site Work – Heselton Construction was awarded the contract for site preparation. This is scheduled to begin 10/15.
- Design/Development – Pam said it is exciting to look at more specifics of the space. Ministries were asked for input and focus groups were held. The committee also met to envision "What does Divine Mercy mean". Guest speakers included an artist and a priest/architect. Developing a new church was likened to naming a child – it may be something new and have special meaning to the parish. If you have ideas of people with an artistic flair who may be interested in developing this idea further, give their names to Father Kevin or Lisa.
- Site Reuse Committee – Father Kevin and Lisa will begin contacting people who were recommended with hopes of starting in November. Lisa met with the Baptist church that was interested in renting St. Lawrence. Their vision of usage of the church would have involved de-commissioning St. Lawrence. Lisa and Father brought this to the Finance Committee for a recommendation and the recommendation was to wait for the Site Reuse Committee to meet and get their input. The timing for this rental wasn't right.
- Reaching Out – There are parishioners struggling with the new Church project or who are not in favor. We will continue to pray for unity in the weekly petitions – and need to be patient, kind and respectful.

### **B. Land Blessing/Ground Breaking – September 22**

- Julie Fox is working on the video w/ the hope of having it on Channel 10. It will also be part of the 160<sup>th</sup> video.

### **C. Open PPC Position**

The position vacated by James Curran will remain open for 2007 - 2008. It will be filled at Discernment Night through a one-year term.

### **D. 07 – 08 Goals: Stewardship**

Stewardship Conference Recap – Patti Gartner and Steve Marquard attended the Archdiocesan Stewardship Conference on September 22. Patti represented the PPC and Steve DMCS.

The keynote speaker was Bishop McGrath from KY. He said that Stewardship is not a program but a relationship with God and a way of life. He suggested starting with time and talent and not mentioning money as treasure is built on time and talent.

Several of the breakouts were Fr. John Estrem - "Stewardship From a Pastor's Perspective"; Carrie Kemp on "Catholics Can Come Home Again"; "Important Role of Volunteers in Developing Parish Stewardship"; and "Hosting an Effective Parish Ministry Fair". The closing speaker gave the Bible perspective on Stewardship.

Stewardship Reflection – Father Kevin gave us three questions to reflect on:

#### **What is Stewardship to Me?**

- My whole life – I heard a sermon where the priest said prayer can be your whole day or whole life. I live this everyday.
- Ask God to help me be holy in everything I do – try to always do God's will.
- Maximizing God's gifts to me. I can purchase items wholesale so giving product may be better than money.
- Volunteering – giving back.
- Giving a percentage of my before tax income.

#### **What has been the fruit of Stewardship in my / my family life?**

- Having a close family and seeing my adult children in Church.
- Having my kids follow my example of volunteering and prayer.
- Holiness radiates from you in daily living and affects everyone you interact with.
- If we are aware of community needs and the needs of others then treasure will come.

#### **Divine Mercy's Stewardship drive – what should it look like?**

- We need to talk about money.
- We should just ask for a time and talent commitment. People could list their abilities.
- What's in it for me? – this needs to be addressed. Could be as simple as "peace of mind"
- Divine Mercy has many ministries and they need to be paid for. We need to make people aware of these – there needs to be buy in to fund these.
- Maximize your gift – not always money but resources or talents. Be creative in how you give. (ex. Electrician fixing light fixtures)
- Have every parishioner donate 1 hour each year. They will get hooked and give more.
- Getting people involved will take time. There isn't a volunteer network in place.

#### **Our homework is:**

1. What is stewardship to me? What is the fruit of being a steward in my life and in my family's life?
2. Think of someone that could get involved in a ministry that isn't currently involved
3. Bring someone to Church.

**Closing Prayer** - The Mission Prayer was read.

**Next meeting is November 6 – 6:45 in Adoration Chapel / 7:00 in Tomlinson Center**

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Olson, Secretary