

Divine Mercy Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting – December 4, 2007
Minutes
Approved January 15, 2008

1. **Call to Order** – Pam Kennedy called the meeting to order.
2. **Opening prayer** – Father Kevin read the Reading
3. **Roll Call**
 - Present:** Fr. Kevin, Fr. Thomas, Lisa Sammon Roach, Carolyn Heskett, Bill Keilen, Pam Kennedy, Julie Olson, Wayne O'Connor, Christine Shaffer, John Tobin, Doug Knutson, Larry Dozark, Patti Gartner, Karen Sommers and Lois Cleary
 - Absent:** Father Michael, Kerry McCarthy, Marian Anderson
4. **Parishioner Comment (What have we seen and heard in the parish?)** –
Patti and Lisa heard comments about the icy condition of the SH parking lot and who should be out shoveling snow.
5. **Consent Agenda Items** – no comment
6. **Finance Committee Report – John and Lisa**
 - The PPC needs to be aware of the budget short fall. Income is now at 29.6% of budget not at 33% as it should be. This is down \$38K from budget. Three reasons are the income needed for NET is not forthcoming, SpiritFest income was down, and the collections are down.
 - At the November meeting, the parish staff was asked to cut their budgets \$5 - \$15K. Staff cut their budgets by \$12. The Finance Committee will take money from the endowment fund to balance the budget. \$34K is budgeted, but the Committee is comfortable taking up to \$60K.
 - The PPC discussed the purpose of the endowment fund. This is our reserves. A portion of the income is to be spent each year. The PPC may need to discuss how to spend this (youth ministry?)
7. **Pastor's Report – Father Kevin**
 - As mentioned, there is a concern with the NET Team expense. The Team's expense is \$50K and this has not been raised as of yet.
 - It is now Advent – the season of Hope. The upcoming readings from Isaiah focus on this.
 - The Parish Newsletter is going out this week. As a sign of good things happening in the parish, a group of parishioners worked together to stuff the newsletter and get it out.
 - Archbishop Flynn and Nienstedt will be visiting the parish a number of times in the next few weeks. Archbishop Flynn will be presiding at Mass on December 12 for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadeloupe. Archbishop Nienstedt will be celebrating Mass at BA on December 21. He will be back in January for Catholic Schools week.
 - St Dominic's in Northfield will be taking up a special collection on Divine Mercy Sunday for the building of our new church. The Northfield pastor has urged other parishes in the Deanery to do the same. This is a good example of the communal nature of the Church.
8. **Agenda Items**
 - A. **New Beginnings**
 - Site Work – Work is suspended due to weather. There is just a little site work left to complete.
 - Parish Update Meeting – On December 16th the parish is invited to visual walk-through of the new church. The parish leadership will be able to preview this on Monday, December 10th.
 - Art & Treasures- There are 9 members on this committee. They are evaluating the art in the churches and visiting other new churches to see how their treasures were reused.
 - Design/Development –
 - The DD met with the finance committee to review an updated budget. MCL is now asked to give alternates for different portions of the design.

- Lisa reported that the landowner to the north has donated 9 building lots to the Church. We will be able to sell these in the future and could possibly generate \$500,000.
- Site Reuse Committee – There are 5 members on this committee. They have had 2 meetings so far - an informational meeting and a walk-through of St Lawrence.

B. Parish Council Retreat

The retreat is scheduled for the morning of February 9. We begin with Mass at Sacred Heart and then meet in PH to focus on Prayer and Lent. Our speaker is Father Jim Livingston.

C. Joint Leadership Meeting w/DMCS

Topics to be discussed at our Jan 15th meeting:

1. Building and Fundraising timeline for church and school
2. Strengths and concerns of DMCS
3. Declining enrollment at the school and recruitment efforts
4. What are the school leadership's expectations of the PPC
5. How are we handling transition period (where the church is located separately from the school) i.e. transportation to Mass, IC building maintenance costs
6. No false expectations regarding what is built in phase 2 – everyone on same page
7. Issues regarding the school that the school leadership wants the PPC to know

D. Mass Attendance 2006 – 2007

Mass attendance has declined this past year. We discussed why this may be happening and possible responses.

- Our parish is not a welcoming parish
- The decline in attendance is a national trend.
- It is hard to compete with kids sports
- We may need to look at this as a business and focus on marketing and customer service
- People aren't aware of all of the parish services. These need to be marketed.
- Flyers aren't the best way to market. It is better to give presentations.
- Other parishes have a Stewardship Fair where all ministries have a booth.
- Each week in the bulletin a different ministry could be highlighted
- Evangelization begins with each individual. We have been challenged by Father Kevin to introduce ourselves to one new person at Mass each week.
- Catholic catechesis stops at Confirmation. Adults need to learn the faith.
- Attendance will go up when the new church is built. But we will only have that one moment to recharge absent parishioners to bring them back to Sunday worship. We need to be a welcoming parish by that time.
- Pam challenged everyone to bring one idea to the January meeting.

E. 07 – 08 Goals: Stewardship Drive

- Feedback regarding the Drive has been positive. 20% of the Stewardship Drive cards have been returned and 42% of what is needed is already pledged. Over 50% of people giving through automatic withdrawals have increased their amounts. 15 new families have signed up for this. Of the people who haven't gives in the past, checks for \$120 have come in.
- Lisa explained how the envelopes that aren't picked up in church are handled. She also explained the rationale for giving envelopes to automatic withdrawal participants.

F. 07 – 08 Goals: Stewardship

- This was tabled until the January meeting

Closing Prayer - The Mission Prayer was read.

*****Next meeting is January 15 – Joint Leadership Meeting with DMCS
6:30 – Tomlinson Center**

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Olson, Secretary