

Divine Mercy Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting – November 6, 2007
Minutes
Approved December 4, 2007

1. **Call to Order** – Pam Kennedy called the meeting to order.

2. **Opening prayer** – Lois Cleary led the opening prayer and reflection

3. **Roll Call**

Present: Fr. Kevin, Father Michael, Lisa Sammon Roach, Carolyn Heskett, Bill Keilen, Pam Kennedy, Julie Olson, Wayne O'Connor, Christine Shaffer, Kerry McCarthy, Marian Anderson, Doug Knutson, Larry Dozark, Patti Gartner, Karen Sommers and Lois Cleary

Absent: Fr. Thomas, John Tobin

4. **Parishioner Comment (What have we seen and heard in the parish?)** –

A parishioner who is against the new church emailed Father and told him she was going to have a letter in the paper. It was in today. We discussed how to respond to this. It was agreed there will be no rebuttal. Wayne asked how we can invite people back and let them know they can oppose any decision without disassociating themselves from the Church. He suggested that Divine Mercy develop some sort of protocol to deal with issues.

5. **Consent Agenda Items**

- Patti wanted to add to the Pastoral Care minutes that Julie helped with the presentation on the Twin Parish presentation.
- Patti also mentioned that Social Justice will be working with other groups to hold a clothing giveaway/resource fair for the Homeless on Nov. 14th. CCW will be donating chili for this.
- Pam mentioned that Family Faith Formation had planned a trip to Sharing & Caring Hands for October that was cancelled due to lack of funds. The St. Vincent de Paul fund is accepting donations for trips in January and April.

6. **Finance Committee Report – Lisa**

- We have three areas of concern - collections are down from budget and from last year, SpiritFest income was down \$14,000 and the NET Team has a \$45,000 cost.
- The finance committee is approaching this in three ways – The Stewardship drive is now in progress, Parish staff is being asked to cut their budgets by \$10,000 -\$15,000, and the committee is looking at what percentage of the Endowment Fund can be utilized.
- There was discussion on marketing items, especially Jubilee items and possibly using e-bay.

7. **Pastor's Report – Father Kevin**

- There is a fundraiser for the NET Team on Nov 13. The NET Team is really connecting with Latino Youth this year.
- 68 youth and 25 adults went on the MEA Mission Trip.
- On November 5th a Memorial Mass was held for people who died this past year. It was very beautiful.
- The Choirs are producing a CD. Larry passed around an order sheet.
- At a recent wedding, a couple mentioned that they had been to Divine Mercy before to pray at the Adoration Chapel. They are amazed at all that goes on in the parish.

8. **Agenda Items**

A. New Beginnings

- Site Work – Work began Oct 2. It is expected to last for 4 weeks.
- Art & Treasures- The first meeting for this committee will be Nov. 7. There are currently 7 people on this committee.
- Design/Development –The committee is looking at stacks of drawings with more details of the church. They are also considering how to build “green”.

- Site Reuse Committee – The first meeting for this committee will be Nov 19. There are currently 4 people on the committee and we are looking for 4 more.
- Other – We are looking for more people for the Prayer & Spirituality and the Communication Committees. If you know of anyone, contact Lisa or Father Kevin.
- Timeline – The architects are completing more detailed drawings. These will go to Langer who will use these to make a new project budget. This will be presented the end of Nov.

B. Parish Healing and Reconciliation Service

Father Kevin asked for suggestions:

- There is a priest in the Archdiocese who does Reconciliation Masses
- People should write things down as this is cleansing.
- Have the Service be broader than the new church – people need this for other issues
- Bernadette and Chris should be available after the service – they have the wisdom and are confidential
- This should be an annual event
- Hold the Service after Easter – maybe Divine Mercy Sunday.
- Lisa would like to organize a planning group and would like someone from the PPC to be one this.

C. Mass Attendance 2006 – 2007

Mass attendance in declining. The number of parishioners declined after the records were updated through the New Beginnings visitation process. But the numbers are now increasing with new families joining the parish. Our total number of parishioners is about 7500. Families are not going out of town to church. Shieldsville and St Michaels have not increased and Medford has only increased 1 or 2 families. The new churches in Faribault may be cutting into the numbers but other established churches, even the River, are experiencing the same thing. It may be an age group thing. Marian said that a survey of HS Seniors said most didn't go because their parents didn't go. Maybe we need more children singing or reading. It seems that people like to be individually asked or invited. Last year the PPC called new parishioners to get them involved. We may need to do that again.

D. Joint Leadership Meetings

- The meeting with DMCS will be Jan 15. This will be a change in our meeting date. We will have fellowship followed by our individual meetings.
- Meeting with BA and DMCS is tentatively set for April 7. Lisa sent letters to Bette and Betty asking if they would like to meet. We would have a State of The State for each entity to update each other. This would be an additional meeting night.

E. 07 – 08 Goals: Constitution/By-laws

Last year a committee started to look at our constitution and by-laws to make sure they reflect who we are and who we want to be. As time ran out last year, this is a goal again this year. The committee will be Wayne, Karen, Chris and Patti. A preliminary draft will be presented at the Feb meeting. If there are changes they will need to be approved by the Archdiocese before a change can be made here.

F. 07 – 08 Goals: Stewardship

- The week of Oct 29, all parishioners received a letter regarding stewardship. This week everyone will receive the annual report. Next week parishioners will receive a letter stating the average amount of donations with a request for a specified update. Father Kevin asked if he should sign these, or have Lisa sign them. After discussion, it was agreed that Father Kevin should sign these.
- We got into small groups and discussed what stewardship meant to us.

Closing Prayer - The Mission Prayer was read.

Next meeting is December 4 – 6:45 in Adoration Chapel / 7:00 in Tomlinson Center

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Olson, Secretary