

St. Damien of Molokai Parish Council
St. Gabriel's Church Hall
11 March 2019 6:00 PM

Minutes

- I. **Call to Order & Opening Prayer** – Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Parish Council President, Peter Arsenault. Father Melnick led Parish Council in Prayer.
- II. **Scripture Reading**-Mark Caron (Jeremiah 14/John/Revelations 8)
- II. **Attendance & Ministry Affiliation** - Vicky Ascherman
- IV. **New Business:**
 - a. Review & Acceptance of Council Minutes – A motion to approve January 14th, 2019 council minutes was made by Jackie Reardon, seconded by Marie Dixon. Unanimously approved.
 - b. Report from Standing Committees

Liturgy: Stan Kulas

- Last Liturgy meeting held at 2/28/2019, St. Gabriel Hall
- 2 new members joined as a result of Ministry Town Hall

Lent

- Theme change from Wailing Wall to Come to the Water.
- A new fountain was placed in both churches to emphasize theme.
- Theme to continue through Easter and send Holy Water home at Easter.
- Stations of the Cross held this year at St. Joseph Church. Approximately 60 parishioners attended Stations on 8 March.
- Discussion of future merging of children's stations with parish stations for unification.
- Do You Believe Series - Wednesdays during Lent, theme; Purgatory. Begins late March exact date TBD.
- Soup for the Soul – Thursdays during Lent
- Bible study on Tuesdays begins March 12 continues for 6 weeks.
- 375 Black and White prayer books ordered for Lent and Easter – distributed to both churches and stamped with parish name inside cover to evangelize.
- Confessions Mondays during Lent: 12:00 -12:30 pm St. Gabriel and 6:00 - 6:30pm St. Joseph.
- Foot washing participants are being gathered for Holy Thursday by Vicky Ascherman.
- 2 Catechumens will receive sacraments at Easter Vigil this year.

Building & Grounds: Pete Arsenault / Fr. Melnick

- Inspection/walk through was done for all buildings/structures with committee members and parishioners to create a maintenance & repair list.
- Team prioritized work and a list of maintenance requirements has been started.
- Update a/o establish vendor list for maintenance.

Social Action: Ellen Messina / Jim Welsh

- Completed a reach out to all committee leaders to update ministry information including.
- Chairperson(s) and contact information.

- Created a single matrix streamlining all ministries into one St. Damien of Molokai ministry list.
- Town Hall - Ministry approximately 100 people attended.
- Time to hear from ministries 1st part of the evening.
- Opportunity to have people visit different ministries and get information.
- Prepared 3 documents for distribution:
 - List of Ministries – combined list of all St Damien of Molokai committees/ministries.
 - email sent to all ministry leads informing them of Town Hall Meeting.
 - Bulletin flyer containing purpose and date of Town Hall meeting(s).
- Primary Town Hall: 2 Feb 2019, 4:00-6:00pm, St. Gabriel Hall
 - Ministry's displayed items and discussed their ministry. Refreshments were served.
- Next step: Ministry corner in the bulletin that gives information and contacts about a ministry. New ministry purpose and narrative each week.

Evangelization: Michael Stewart

- Ministry leaders have built a potential diverse team to speak for the broader community. Mike Stewart will be contacting them this week.
- Discussed possible goals for St. Damien of Molokai example: 50-100% in one year, 70% in 2 years.
- Evangelization team will establish recommended goals for next Parish Council meeting.
- Next steps consideration
 - Work with existing ministries to evangelize their work and members.
 - Check old directories for "lost parishioners.
 - Focus /reach out to new and "lost parishioners.
 - Social Media
 - Get parish to use 'My Parish App'
 - Use FB and web site to get more people involved in.

St. Gabriel School: Patty Martin

- Kindergarten Open House was early March.
- Knights of Columbus March 2nd Spelling Bee.
- Working on National Accreditation – ongoing.
- Fast Cash brought in Approx. \$5,000 profit.
- Stations of the Cross every Friday/Living stations.
- Younger grades will participate in an Easter egg hunt.
- Preparing an Easter Bunny Breakfast fund raiser.
- April Plans
 - 25th Culture Night
 - 26th Grandparent Day
 - 28th Open House-all grades

Religious Education: Cyndie Glick

- Confirmation was at St. Joseph Cathedral on March 2, 2019. Thirty-six (36) students Confirmed, Archbishop Cronin celebrated. Good feedback from families.
- 25 Students in C1 for next year but the following year the numbers should be up again.

- 1st Communion Retreat will be on March 31st at St. Gabriel.
- 1st Communion is on May 4th at St. Gabriel
- May Crowning at St. Gabriel church on May 5th at 10:30 Mass.
- April 7th is Last day of classes for K-8th grade for this school year.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Melnick

- Forward in Faith Campaign is ending February 2019. Current contributions only \$30 of \$800K. Of Forward with Faith pilot parishes program, St Damien ranked 3rd in achieving our goal.
- Adoration Chapel is proposed in the old Dining Room area of the St. Joseph Rectory. It is considered a good location because it has a separate entrance and can be closed off from the rest of the rectory.
- Fr. Melnick attend a Deanery meeting at Archdiocese discussing issue and their plans for preparing for shortage of priests. Anticipating the likelihood of their ministry stretching between many towns in the future.
- As of May 1st, Fr. Grant will take residence at St. Joseph Rectory and Fr. Vargo will have his official residence at St. Gabriel.
- No priest will be replacing Fr. Diaz due to shortage. Fr. Grant will help out as he is able.
- Notification to parishioners regarding priest shortages will be in the bulletin for 2 weeks. Transition committee has proposed mass schedules that allows for a single priest to cover both churches. Parishioners will be asked to vote on mass schedules. Anticipate single priest schedule starting June 1st.

Open discussion/Comments

- Parishioner would like to donate a player piano and player rolls to St. Gabriel parish hall. Piano required repair which parishioner will have done. Voted and approved.
- Susan Tauge has resigned from Parish Council due to her job. Peter Arsenault will fill the seat with the parishioner who was runner up in the last election. This would be Laura McCaffrey

Parish Visits

- St. Damien in Molokai, Hawaii by Michael Stewart
- Basilica of the National Shrine by Ellen M

V. Scripture reading: Peter Arsenault

VI. Next Meeting: 13 May 2019 St. Joseph Hall 6:00PM

VII. Closing Prayer: Deacon Carl Lickwar

VIII. Adjournment: Pete Arsenault 7:40 PM