

St. Damien of Molokai Parish Council  
January 14, 2025, 6:00pm St. Gabriel Church Hall  
Council Minutes

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

- a. Meeting called to Order at 6:00 pm by Steve VanGasbeck, President
- b. Father Daly led Parish Council in our opening prayer.

Attendance & Ministry Affiliation – Michelle Kuhlberg, Secretary (see attached list)

II. Scripture Reading: Ellen shared a reading from the Book of Numbers - thank you! Michelle volunteered for our March meeting.

III. New Business

- We welcomed our new Trustee, Jacqueline Reardon, and Cyndie Glick who will join our meetings going forward.
- Reviewed & Approved November Parish Council minutes.

IV. Standing Committees

Ellen contacted all ministry leaders, reestablishing liaison with them. All are invited to share updates and attend and speak if able. Ellen summarized ministry updates and highlights are included in standing committees and additional notes below. One item to note is the Social Action Committee is in the beginning stages of planning a 2025 fundraiser to support the ongoing needs of those we support. Once planned, the committee will bring forward to Father's approval and then share with Parish Council.

Liturgy Committee: Pete Arsenault and Theresa Bennett shared an update from the Liturgy Committee. Highlights included:

- Adoration Chapel – new coordinators for Monday (Gail Meakin) and Wednesday (Linda LaFleur). Andy will update contact list. Dottie requested help in getting new adorers and subs. Discussed ideas for additional contacts and potential to use online scheduling and work with Lindsey for updates.

- Bible Study – Facilitated by Diane Caron and Peggy Nolan, both graduates of the Archdiocese Catholic Biblical School or CBS). Spring session will study the Acts of the Apostles. There will be morning and evening sessions again, starting April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- This year's Lenten Theme will follow the Pope's Jubilee Year theme – Pilgrims of Hope. There will be a special meeting on 2/4 on implementation of the theme.

#### Building & Grounds Committee: Father Daly

- The fence installation started at SJC.
- Replacing deck at St. Joe's rectory.
- Looking into GFI replacements.
- Wood Molding to be fixed at St. Joe's.
- 3 dead trees need removal. Look into a certified letter. They were the neighbors. Phil is going to check into name/address of owner.
- Phil raised a suggestion about a Knox Box for firefighter entry for St. Joseph church to be set up with the fire marshal. \$500 cost.

#### V. St. Gabriel School: Father Daly

- 30 students currently enrolled
- No further updating pending updates from the archdiocese.

#### VI. Faith Formation: Victoria Ascherman-Director submitted her update.

- 97 students currently enrolled.
- 12 students had a reconciliation retreat and will make their reconciliation on 1/25 at 10 a.m.
- Nick Chapman held a zoom call with the middle school students sharing a life in the day of a seminarian. He will be home this summer and become an ordained deacon this year.
- 16 C2 students will be confirmed on 3/8 at the Cathedral.
- The diocese is changing over the next 3 years to a family faith formation.
- Lisa Stewart offered their farm for a spring outing.

#### VII. Knights of Columbus: Steve, Richard

- The Keep Christ in Christmas poster went well with 3 winners.
- \$500 donation being made to Birthright.

- 144 coats and hats were collected and donated.
- Next activity is Easter Baskets.

#### VIII. Pastor's Report: Father Daly.

- Noted buildings and grounds activity captured above.
- The Advent Reflection by Father Joe MacNeill was well received.
- Advent Giving Tree was a big success, Blessing of the baby Jesus (Bambinelli) went well.
- Attendance for Christmas Eve masses were 785 and 268 on Christmas Day – overall a little higher than last year. For consideration – do we need 2 masses on Christmas Day. Christmas Collection was \$20,407.
- Parish Coffee Hours have been well received.
- Two parishioners are building a new stable for the Holy Family. We will have a special blessing for the crèche on a date to be determined.
- The Annual Collection was a success with a final \$100,595 surpassing our \$95,000 goal!
- Archbishop Coyne will be celebrating Mass on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Parish Council will assist at the coffee hour.
- Father will be away Feb 24-29 – no daily masses that week
- Lent -- Deacon Carl will be leading the Do You Believe Series. He will also lead Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 12 noon. Monday confessions during lent at St. Gabriel Church from 5-6 p.m. There will be one afternoon session as well. Still finalizing dates and speakers for a Lenten Retreat.

IX. Youth Outreach: Alex's observations from Coffee Hour suggesting an option with less sugar.

#### X. Next Meeting:

- St. Gabriel Church Hall on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. (Monday confessions)

#### XI. Closing Prayer by Father Daly

Adjournment: made by Steve VanGasbeck.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Kuhlberg.