

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013

Meeting opened with a prayer from Father Joe at 7:15 PM.

Members Present: Amy O’Gara, Nicole Tomaszynski, Joyce Bynum, Bob Tharrett, Ted Stawaisz,
Pamela Mertes, Mary Kot, Bill Gilmore, Anthony Jubinski, Gordon Birgbauer, Father Joe
Esper
JoAnn Augustine

Members Not Present: Pat McGrath, Elaine Abraham, Deacon Ken Nowicki, Robert Mueller

Minutes from February 5, 2013 approved with one change – Under Old Business – School Report
From I.C. Principal – “see above” instead of no report

Father Joe’s Report:

- The “Changing Lives Together” campaign is reaching its climax. The first of two Advanced Commitment gatherings was held last night; about 45 parishioners were in attendance, and the evening unfolded very smoothly. A second such event will be held next Monday; those who were unable to attend last night will receive another invitation. In my bulletin column last Sunday, I talked about the campaign and gave examples of how other parishes have successfully completed it – and, in some cases, far exceeded their goals. My homilies last weekend and this coming weekend are focusing on stewardship; on Commitment Weekend (March 16-17), the homily will walk people through the actual process of filling out the commitment card. We’re off to an encouraging start – in large part because we have an excellent parish leadership team, and I’m very grateful to them for their hard work.
- Soon after the active phase of “Changing Lives Together” ends, it will be time for this year’s CSA. We are in need of a volunteer to serve as CSA secretary; please share with me the names of any possible candidates.
- I mentioned last month, a structural engineer came out to look at the church, and I received a copy of his report, dated February 11. The summary sentence reads thusly: “The general condition of the church is very good and I saw nothing to warrant further inspection” (Joseph Rockwood of J&R Engineering, in New Baltimore).
- Archbishop Vigneron and the Consultants have given us official permission to construct the new maintenance garage, and then demolish the old one; work should begin as soon as weather allows, and be completed before the festival.
- A representative from the Michigan Department of Transportation stopped by the parish office yesterday to give us advance notice of the project to widen M-29, scheduled for 2016. We may be directly affected in that the project will possibly take some of our driveway in front of the rectory and church to add a right-turn lane onto Church Road – but the details haven’t been worked out.
- As always, our school students took part in the Bluewater Catholic Schools Academic Olympics on Saturday, February 23, held at St. Augustine in Richmond. The following day, the school held an Open House for prospective families, along with a pancake breakfast as an 8th grade fundraiser.
- I will be away this Friday, March 8, giving a Day of Reflection at a retreat center in Bloomington, Indiana. Bishop Michael Byrnes (our regional bishop) will be coming here for Mass that morning with the school students (and, if time allows, will visit school afterwards).
- All of us, of course, are praying for the cardinals about to enter into conclave, that they’ll be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in this way elect the right person as Pope to lead the Church in these challenging times.

Father Joe's Comments from Worship Meeting

Worship Commission:

- The next Worship Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14.
- A blessing of married couples was held at all the Masses on the weekend of Feb. 9-10.
- Today the Lenten penance services were held for our school students; similar services will be held for the students in faith formation next Monday afternoon and evening.
- The Vicariate Communal Penance Services are taking place this week: this evening at Holy Trinity in Port Huron, tomorrow at 7 PM at St. Mary Queen of Creation in New Baltimore, and next Saturday at 1 PM at St. Mary in St. Clair.
- As part of the catechumenate process, the first of three Scrutinies was held at the 4:30 PM Mass last Saturday; the second Scrutiny will be held this Sunday at the 8 AM Mass.
- An usher had pointed out that the light fixture on the newly-refurbished ambo in church was a bit too high, making it hard for some people to see the face of the lector if he or she was short in height. This light fixture has just been lowered a couple of inches, which should solve the problem.

Commission Reports:

Christian Service – JoAnn Augustine – report as posted – additional comment – since we are not collecting for the Military this year, we will announce this in the Spotlight

Worship – Mary Kot – see above – additional comments – New altar linens are being prepared by Carol Gilmore, problem with moisture in closet which stores cleaning items in the Church was discussed, concern about who will make the decisions on painting the Church – Father will have final decision

Vicariate Report – Amy O’Gara – no report (no meeting) – next meeting end of March

Finance Council Report – Gordon Birgbauer – as posted

Education Commission – no report

Changing Lives Together – see above

New Business:

Volunteerism – 10 tips for Working with Volunteers was presented by Nicole – should pass these on to other committees – Suggestion of holding a pizza/beverage party to show appreciation of volunteers – Pam and JoAnn will organize

Possible fundraiser – working concessions at Tiger games – will look in to

Euchre – Ed Ross unable to continue – Ellen Vernier gave May 1st as last day – should advertise in paper to see if there is an interest in continuing this

Synergy – St. Vincent DePaul combine with KofC for a Food Drive at IC – Mike Tomaszczki from K of C will organize

Old Business:

“Purpose of PPC” – suggestion to share with other committees

Drapery for Hall windows – ongoing

Suggestion to put I.C. on Facebook

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 2, 2013

Meeting closed at 8:40 PM with a prayer from Father Joe

Minutes respectfully submitted by JoAnn Augustine