

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012

Meeting opened with a prayer from Father Joe at 7:15 PM and was preceded by Mass at 6:30 PM.

Introduction of new member – Robert Tharrett

Members Present: JoAnn Augustine, Elaine Abraham, Gordon Birgbauer, Fr. Joe Esper, Bill Gilmore, Anthony Jubinski, Mary Kot, Pam Mertes, Deacon Ken Nowicki, Ted Stawiasz, Nicole Tomaszcki

Guest: Paul Torney

Members Not Present: Joyce Bynum, Pat McGrath

Minutes from September 4, 2012 approved with corrections: first page under Evangelization should read “should be conscientious” instead of “make”, third page Finance instructions items no. 5 should read “minutes” not “notes”

Approval of Sept. 11, 2012 special meeting – Mission Statement approved with corrections: Pam Mertes was present and the word “and” should be added to the first line. The following Mission Statement was adopted by consensus:

“As a faith community in the Roman Catholic tradition and as part of the Archdiocese of Detroit, we, the people of Immaculate Conception Parish, seek to live as followers of Jesus Christ by being formed through the grace of the Holy Spirit as servants and heralds of the Gospel.

Through our commitment to authentic lifelong faith formation, outreach to the needy among us, and our invitation to active participation by all our parishioners, we strive to be a place of refuge and growth for all those seeking to know Jesus Christ.

By our efforts to be a warm and welcoming community, we are committed to praising and glorifying God in all our words and deeds.”

Father Joe’s Opening Remarks:

- (distribute Together in Faith document) As many of you already know, on Sunday, September 16 we hosted a meeting for the parish leadership of our three southern parishes: St. Mary Queen of Creation, Our Lady of the River, and I.C. At that meeting the official Together in Faith Pastoral Plan was formally presented and then signed by the three pastors and parish council representatives.
- The Changing Lives Together capital campaign is drawing closer; we don’t yet have our official target, but using the formula given by the Archdiocese, I’m guessing it will be something like \$559,383. 70% of whatever we raise (even if it’s considerably less than that) will remain here in the parish; 30% will go to the Archdiocese. This morning I and several staff members met with the consultant from O’Meara Ferguson assigned to work with us; we went over some basic information, and scheduled dates for all the meetings that will be needed. The first of these will be an “enlistment meeting” on Monday, October 29 at 7 PM; I will try to recruit a campaign chairperson and administrator before then, but we’re hoping to fill the other dozen or so leadership positions at that meeting. Volunteer training meetings will take place in November, December, and January (one each month). All parishioners will be contacted by phone early next year, with information packets being given out after the Masses on the last two weekends of February (on either side of Ash Wednesday). An event for potential large donors will be held early in March; Commitment Sunday – the first time the parish as a whole will be asked to make a three-year-pledge – will be on March 16-17. We’re trying to schedule the campaign to avoid

overlapping with next year's CSA, though we realize this will be a problem. You'll be hearing much more about Changing Lives Together in the months to come.

- For those who've not heard, our business manager is resigning her position, effective October 19. The position has been posted on the archdiocesan website, and will appear in the Michigan Catholic. I've conducted several interviews so far; my plan is to invite the top two or three candidates to a second interview involving myself, the chairperson of the Finance Council, and a staff member. There have been two very good candidates so, so I'm sure we'll find the right person for the position.
- In regard to the status of the gymnasium, Mrs. Steels asked me for something she could put in the school newsletter, so I gave her this statement: "Our parish's Long-Term Planning Committee and Fr. Joe are actively exploring all options regarding the ongoing problem with the gymnasium walls – including discussions with an attorney, the building superintendent for the Archdiocese, and structural engineers, contractors and other consultants. Because of several legal considerations, more precise information cannot be disclosed at this time. Please be assured, however, that finding a permanent solution (aesthetically and otherwise) is a very high priority, and the Committee will soon be making its final recommendation in this regard."
- At next week's vicariate meeting, the priests of the Blue Water Vicariate will likely make a final decision on the exact school funding formula to implement beginning next year. All parishes will continue contributing 5% of their offertory income into a fund that's currently divided into eight parts, with two going to Cardinal Mooney High School and one to each of the six elementary schools. The question is whether to continue giving each of the six schools an equal share, or to divide the money on the basis of enrollment, or to use some combination of the two systems.
- As of yesterday, this year's Faith Formation program is underway (grades 1-6); the junior high program begins next Monday. The RCIA, or catechumenate, starts this Sunday.
- The Education Commission is being established, with potential members attending formation sessions; formal meetings will begin in the new year.
- A missionary priest representing Food for the Poor will be here the weekend of October 20-21.
- We again have the opportunity to purchase paperback Catholic books at \$2 a copy, and distribute them at the Christmas Masses (hoping to reach the C & E Catholics). Last year 750 copies were purchased; money for a similar expenditure is in the Faith Formation budget.
- Training for new altar servers is underway; an installation ceremony will be held the weekend of October 13-14. A re-training session for the servers in school will be held next week.
- A review session for all lectors and Eucharistic ministers will be held on both Thursday, October 25 (6:30 PM for EMEs, 7:15 PM for lectors) and Saturday October 27 (9:30 AM for EMEs, 10:15 AM for lectors).
- Last Saturday's healing service, held after the 4:30 PM Mass, was well-attended and seemed to go very smoothly; I will look at holding another one in a few months.

Review of Ground Rules – Please limit your time to allow everyone to express an opinion Canon Law - 1983

Discussion and remarks pertaining to the roles of Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council. Refer to Canon Laws 536 and 537. Basically - Parish Council plans – Finance Council budgets for it

Discussion followed on the purpose of Parish Council and Finance Council. Pam Mertes offered to form a sub-committee to go over the Operational Manual – she will welcome any help.

Vicariate Council Report – members – Debie Hauer and Amy O'Gara – no report

Finance Council – Gordon Birgbauer – no minutes to report – next meeting will be October 4<sup>th</sup>

## Commission Reports:

Worship – report attached – additional discussion about purchase of new Hymnals: Mary presented the new hymnals – approved by consensus that we should purchase the 425 hymnals as recommended by the Worship Commission. Also included should be large print copies. Ideas for fundraising will begin soon.

Christian Service Commission – no meeting to report

Education Commission – being formed by January

Stewardship Commission – Father has dissolved this commission for the time being with a view toward reconstituting it next fall.

## Committee Reports:

Long-Term Planning – Special Meetings with AOD to discuss the status of the gymnasium walls.

Faith Formation – no report

Young Adults – no report

Evangelization – Deacon Ken reports there will be a meeting at Holy Family Parish on Thursday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM – the topic – “Evangelizing the Parish” from Maintenance to Mission

160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2013) – Slogan/Logo contest is in the process now – final decision will be a vote of parishioners at coffee/donuts on Sun., Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – A dinner party is being planned for the kick-off of this celebration on Sat., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Changing Lives Together – See Father’s report

## Old Business:

Budget – budget for 2012-2013 will be presented at the next parish council meeting – it was the consensus of parish council to order the book “Jesus Shock” as a gift for parishioners (\$2 per copy)

Calendars – Paul Torney – calendars for this year have already been ordered – suggestion for next year that we plan ahead and have calendar include pictures from the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations

Forms – Pam Mertes – new application forms to be presented next month

Tractor – parish is in the process of purchasing a new tractor – it was the consensus of parish council that we not purchase a tractor at this time – the old one, with some repairs and maintenance, should be good for many years

Drapes in Hall – will look into traverse rod for the drapes with the stipulation that the drapes, when drawn, will be completely back from the window – they will hang approx. 8” from the shelf

Garage – new garage will be discussed as part of Changing Lives Together – suggestion we put roll roofing on for the winter to protect the items inside the garage

Gymnasium – covered in Father's report

New Business:

Limestone Panels on School – need to be cleaned not painted

Financial Peace University – a biblically based curriculum that teaches people how to handle their money – information will be in the bulletin

Ed Ross request for jackets for the Sacristans – should go through Worship

Lighting in Gym – before replacing lights in gym, look into more economical lights

Homework – Parish council members should read AOD Handbook on Goals and Objectives (pg. 39)

Assessment: Review the work of the council, commissions, or committees in the parish against the backdrop of the parish mission statement, goals and objectives as stated in the parish plan.

Meeting closed at 9:15 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by JoAnn Augustine