

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012

Meeting opened with a prayer from Father Joe at 7:10 PM

Members Present: Anthony Jubinski, Joyce Bynum, Bill Gilmore, Pamela Mertes, Pat McGrath, Nicole Tomaszewski, Amy O’Gara, Ted Stawiasz, JoAnn Augustine, Father Joe

Members Not Present: Gordon Birgbauer, Bob Tharrett (excused), Mary Kot (excused), Elaine Abraham, Deacon Ken Nowicki

Minutes from November 6, 2012 approved with corrections: Bill Gilmore was not present, removed last comment from St. Vincent de Paul report, Letter from Father included Advent ‘information’ not booklet

Father Joe’s Report:

- The planning and preparation phase of our “Changing Lives Together” campaign is underway; most of the leadership team has been recruited, and these parishioners were recognized at the Masses last weekend. A planning meeting was held last Thursday, and another meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 13. We are still awaiting our official target, though I’ve calculated it to be about \$559,000. (Under New Business we’ll discuss the goals for the campaign.)
- Two weeks ago we hosted the annual meeting of the Vicariate School Oversight Committee, which reviews a report from each of the vicariate schools and approved participation in the school support program (in which all ten parishes contribute 5% of their offertory income into a fund that’s divided into eight shares: two for Cardinal Mooney High School, and one for each of the six elementary schools). All the schools were approved for continuing vicariate financial support.
- We’ve been holding our own strategic planning meetings for our school, involving our principal, business manager, Finance Council chairperson, and myself. The purpose is to consider new or additional ways of marketing the school and increasing enrollment; right now we’re looking into the possibility of using an outside consulting firm specializing in this area.
- Registration for photograph appointments for the parish photo directory began this past weekend and will continue over the next two weekends.
- A letter was mailed to every parish household, including an Advent and Christmas calendar, a list of upcoming parish events and information on signing-up for the new parish photo directory.
- The “Jesus Shock” books we selected for Christmas have arrived, and will be distributed at the Christmas Masses; also, a special half-size “Christmas bulletin” will be given out. Both these resources are directed especially at the once or twice-a-year Catholics who will be present.
- As I mentioned in my bulletin column, I was recently at the EWTN studio near Birmingham, Alabama, for the taping of interviews on two of my books. At least one of the two five-day series of programs is likely to be aired in January; once I’m informed of the dates, I plan on giving that information in the bulletin.

Vicariate Report – Amy O’Gara – Dan Angerki presented information on “The Cross and the Light”, I.C. Parishioners are invited to an outing to see this on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM (Tickets-\$52), Together in Faith Program – hope every parish is making progress with their goals especially Evangelization, Last Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe will be Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Finance Report – Gordon Birgbauer – No Report

Worship Commission – Father presented Worship Report:

- The RCIA Rite of Acceptance was held at the 10 AM Mass this past Sunday; our participants included 3 catechumens, 4 candidates, and 7 Catholics needing one of the sacraments. From now on, a dismissal of the catechumens and candidates will take place at the 10 AM Mass (following the ancient tradition of the Church, in which non-Catholics preparing for reception into the Church gathered apart during the second half of the Mass for their own time of prayer and relection).
- This Saturday, December 8, is our parish feast day and a holyday of obligation, with Masses at 7 PM Friday, and 9 AM and 11 AM Saturday. The 4:30 PM Mass on Saturday does not count for the holyday obligation. We're using December 8, of course, as the official beginning our 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration – with a potluck dinner following the 4:30 Mass.
- We received 500 plastic rosaries (in varying colors) as a gift from EWTN; we'll distribute them to the school children, and then give out the remainder at this week's holyday Masses.
- The 2013 parish calendars (paid for by Gendernalik Funeral Home) were made available last weekend, along with the Advent booklets.
- The Blue Water Vicariate will be holding three communal penance services next week, with two of them taking place in our neighboring parishes: St. Mary Queen of Creation on Wednesday Dec. 12 at 7 PM and at Our Lady of the River (Holy Cross in Marine City) on Sat., Dec. 15 at 1 PM.
- We will also have extra times for individual confessions, including on Friday, Dec. 21 and Sat., Dec. 22 and on Christmas Eve. (These times are listed on the Advent calendar that was mailed to every parish household.)
- The new hymnals were used for the first time this past weekend; they're attractive books, and include the Sunday Scripture readings as well. We're still seeking donors for individual books (at a cost of \$18 each); donor cards will be inserted inside the front cover.
- On Friday, January 4 an organization called Men of the Sacred Hearts will be present at the 8:30 AM school Mass; they come to different parishes to promote consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- The next parish healing service is scheduled for Sat., January 12, following the 4:30 PM Mass. Once again, there will be Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Anointing, silent healing prayers, and prayer teams available to pray with those persons desiring it.

Christian Service Commission – No Report

Education Commission – being formed for January\

Stewardship Commission – being reorganized possibly for the Fall 2013

Long Term Planning Committee – Discussion was held regarding the long-term goals for the parish and what recommendations we must submit to the AOD by December 27<sup>th</sup> for “Changing Lives Together.”

It was decided by consensus of the members of Parish Council to approve the following for goals in the “Changing Lives Together” campaign: 1. repainting/repairing the interior of the church, 2. renovating the main entrance to the school and 3. expanding the gym to include a stage, sound system and locker rooms.

Old Business:

New application form to become a member of Parish Council approved by consensus.

Financial Report for I.C. Festival presented to members.

Next meeting January 8, 2013

Meeting closed at 8:25 with a prayer from Father Joe

Minutes respectfully submitted y JoAnn Augustine

