



## Immaculate Conception Parish Council December Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Parish Hall

| Member Name        | Present | Absent  | Position                               |
|--------------------|---------|---------|--|
| Fr. Joe Esper      | X       |         | Pastor                                 |
| Deacon Ken Nowicki |         | Excused | Evangelization Rep.                    |
| Nicole Tomaszynski | X       |         | Chairperson                            |
| Bill Gilmore       | X       |         | Vice Chair                             |
| Pat McGrath        | X       |         | Council Member                         |
| Kathleen Grimm     | X       |         | Council Member, VPC Rep.               |
| Lori Stefani       |         | Excused | Council Member                         |
| Bob Tharrett       | X       |         | Council Member                         |
| Tom Dunn           | X       |         | Council Member                         |
| Ted Stawiasz       |         | Excused | Council Member                         |
| Mary Kot           | X       |         | Worship Representative                 |
| Anni Adkins        | X       |         | Council Member                         |
| James Haase        | X       |         | Long Term Planning Rep. (Rotational)   |
| Dennis Cyr         | X       |         | Long Term Planning Rep. (Rotational)   |
| JoAnn Augustine    | X       |         | Christian Service Rep.                 |
| Beth Kjerrumgaard  | X       |         | Education Commission Rep. (Rotational) |
|                    |         |         |  |

**Meeting opened with a prayer at 7:12 PM**

**Minutes of the November 1, 2013 meeting were approved with no changes.**

### **PASTORS REPORT:**

- Work on the church roof was completed a few weeks ago; the church interior repainting continues, and everything is on schedule to be completed before Christmas. The statues were repainted with the approval of the Worship Commission. In the spring, the wooden floors will be refinished and some additional exterior work will be completed.
- A mailing has been sent to all parish families regarding the relative importance of the Sunday collection, the Catholic Services Appeal, and Changing Lives Together. As a result, our collections have gone up slightly and we have received a few more contributions and pledges for the capital campaign. Some of our parish volunteers have contributed the earnings of over \$4,000 from a recent poker night; this brings us to within \$8,000 of our target.
- The recent fundraiser of a scrap metal drive brought in 1,700 lbs. of scrap metal; we received a check for \$161 from Basic Metals (the company which conducted the drive).
- Last month's vicariate meeting was held here at I.C. on Tuesday, November 12; it was an all-staff meeting (held twice a year), with separate meeting for the school principals, faith formation directors, Christian service directors, office personnel, and clergy.
- The clergy meeting was also followed by the School Oversight Committee meeting, which reviewed and approved the applications for vicariate financial assistance submitted by Cardinal Mooney High School and the six elementary schools of our vicariate.



- On Saturday, November 16, we hosted a retreat for religious education catechists from throughout the vicariate.
- December 7, there will be a preparation day or workshop for all who've volunteered to help with the ChristLife program that begins in January. This preparation day begins with the 9:00 am Mass, and lasts until 3:00 pm. The following weekend, December 14-15, a short DVD on ChristLife will be shown at all the weekend Masses.
- The next Mass of Reparation will be held on Monday, December 16 at 7:00 pm.
- The volunteer appreciation dinner originally scheduled for Saturday, January 12, has been rescheduled to the more convenient date of Saturday, May 17.

**FINANCE COUNCIL: No notes or representation. Fr. Joe reported.**

- Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting to brainstorm ideas on various ways to make up the deficit. Members of the Parish Council, Finance Council, Long Term Planning, Festival Committee, Fish Fry Committee, Tastefest Committee, SCRIP, and PTC, along with any interested Immaculate Conception parishioners are welcome to attend.

**COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**Worship Commission – See attached November meeting minutes.**

Additional comments:

- The Vicariate Pastoral Council Traveling Mass was held at Immaculate Conception. Visitors seemed very happy with the event.
- The Rite of Acceptance was held this past weekend. 12 members participated.
- VPC Communal Penance Service – Two to be held in our area; Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm at St. Mary Queen of Creation in New Baltimore and Saturday, December 14 at 1:00 pm at Our Lady on the River, Holy Cross Church.
- There will be a join ad placed in local publications for Advent and Christmas schedules by Our Lady on the River, Immaculate Conception, and St. Mary Queen of Creation.

**Christian Service Commission – See attached November meeting minutes.**

Additional comments:

- We will be cooperating with the school to collect Campbell Soup Labels and Box Tops for Education. More details to follow.

**Education Commission – See attached November meeting minutes.**

Additional comments:

- We are happy to report we had a representative from the Youth Group at the last meeting.
- Would like to use the model used by Festival of Ministries and have speakers share their experience on various topics. This will be revisited after ChristLife or possibly in the summer.
- Discussed the options for movie nights in the Parish Hall. Licensing is very expensive. We will be looking at this for other options. We may still have rights to the movie *Facing the Giants*.

**Long Term Planning (LTP) – See attached November meeting minutes.**

Additional comments:

- Gutter and downspouts installation completed.



- Outside doors will be refinished.

**VICARIATE PASTORAL COUNCIL (VPC) – No meeting minutes. Report given by VPC Representative.**

- The last meeting was a Leadership Training Session.
- Our vicariate is sponsoring *Living Every Day with Passion & Purpose* with Matthew Kelly. The event will be April 5, 2014 from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM at St. Mary's Parish, St. Clair, MI. Tickets are \$39.00 and Immaculate Conception has 100 available to sell.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – No report submitted.**

- The closing of the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary year will take place December 8 at 2:30 pm with the play *The Journey Continues....* This will be followed by a Pot Luck Dinner in the Parish Hall.

**Changing Lives Together – No report submitted.**

**Evangelization – No report submitted. See below for report.**

- Immaculate Conception's ChristLife program falls in nicely with the New Evangelization requested by the AOD.

**Festival Committee – No report submitted.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- The gift received from the AOD for participation in the *Changing Lives Together* campaign has been received by our parish; framed artwork of St. Anne. Fr. Joe requested ideas for where to place it so it can be appreciated by all the parishioners of I.C.
- A draft of a survey proposed by the Education Commission was passed around. It was suggested that this should either be delayed until summer or somehow tie into the ChristLife program. More information to follow.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- The updated I.C. Parish Council Operations Manual is complete and will be posted on the I.C. web site for public and parish council access.

**OPEN FORUM:**

- One of our members Anni Adkins will be working on the St. Vincent de Paul Telethon on December 4 from 5:00 AM to 8:00 AM. The telethon will be broadcast on channel 7.
- There was some discussion about placing a crown on the head of the statue of Mary and possibly Baby Jesus. More research is being done.
- Discussion on why only approximately 25% of parishioners donate. We have no solutions at this time.
- It was suggested that another scrap metal drive be held in the spring with more lead-up advertising.
- Altar server training was discussed. Fr. Joe holds training sessions for all servers on proper procedures and reverence.

Meeting closed with a prayer at 8:50 PM

Next Meeting: January 7, 2014 following the 6:30 pm Mass.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted: Amy O'Gara, Recording Secretary



## **WORSHIP COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

### **January 9, 2014**

Meeting opened with prayer at 6:30 pm.

Present: Fr. Joe Esper, Pat Austin, Rene Meldrum, Carol Gawel, Mike Mytinger, Sandy Kott, Jeff Wooten, Mary Kot. Not Present: Deacon Ken Nowicki, Ed Ross, Eliana Hogarth.

Minutes of November 14, 2013 were approved by consensus.

#### **FR. JOE'S REPORT:**

- The anticipated heavy snowfall the weekend of January 4-5 had an effect on Mass attendance, with more participants at the Saturday 4:30 Mass and somewhat fewer at the Sunday Masses; the sub-zero temperatures the next three days also had an effect with only 5 people on Monday morning, 18 Tuesday evening, and 14 Wednesday am. Back to normal Thursday with 30 attendees. (It's interesting that, at daily mass, the women always outnumber the men - except when the weather is bad and attendance goes down, it's the other way around.)
- The three choirs and the musicians all gave a wonderful performance at the Epiphany concert; unfortunately, attendance was sparse due to the weather.
- The next Mass of Reparation will be held on Monday, January 20 at 7 pm; as always, it will include a healing service after the homily.
- A vicariate healing Mass was held at St. Stephen's in Port Huron back in November. We will be hosting the next such vicariate healing Mass, scheduled for Friday, May 9 at 7 pm.
- To commemorate the anniversary of the tragic 1973 Supreme Court decision overturning all restrictions on abortion, on Wednesday, January 22, following morning Mass, Eucharistic Adoration will take place until Benediction at 12 noon.
- The feast of St. Blase occurs on Monday, February 3. Blessing of throats will take place after the morning Mass, and at a special prayer service at 6:30 pm.
- The Archdiocese has prepared a resource manual on what to do in an emergency situation in which a priest scheduled for a weekend Mass is suddenly unavailable, and there is no time to find a substitute. A presentation on the new manual will be given over the next few weeks at various sites throughout the Archdiocese; Deacon Ken and Jane Mount will attend as parish representatives and bring back our parish's copy of the manual. (The one thing already known about the emergency liturgy is that it would *not* be a communion service, as this would make it too easy for people to mistake it for Mass.)
- *Christlife* begins Thursday, January 16, (with morning and evening sessions); we hope as many people as possible will take part.

#### **REPORTS & UPDATES**

**Music:** The way the Christmas holidays fell this year Pat stated he was concerned that there was not enough practice time for the choirs to be adequately prepared for the



Epiphany concert but from all reports it was enjoyed by those present. Perhaps for year 2015 we should have an Easter concert instead of the Epiphany.

**Art & Environment:** Jeff is in search of a crown for the Blessed Virgin Mary, perhaps one in the form of a halo with 12 stars. Christmas decorations will all be down after the noon mass on Sunday, January 12. Discussion about placing a rosary on the BVM statue, Fr. Joe said it should be just a 5 decade one. Jane Mount is looking for the one that should be somewhere on the church premises, also Beverly McCormick has one that he would like to see. Fr. Joe will make the decision on the rosary.

**Liturgical Ministries:** Another meeting with EMs and lectors coming up soon. Father explained the format and timing of when the lectors should go to the ambo for the Prayers of the Faithful and announcements. For the Word of God the lectors should wait until the people are seated before approaching the ambo. After the first reading, a pause of about 10-15 seconds is needed to absorb the message before the Responsorial Psalm. Carol mentioned a problem with the presider at the 11 am Christmas Mass that he didn't allow time for her announcement about the parish gift books. The ushers are supposed to begin the Offertory collection even while the children are bringing up their envelopes.

**Sacristans:** Tabernacle key was lost but now has been found. A couple more were made in case it happens again; they are in safe keeping.

**Ushers:** Mike is working with Deacon Ken in trying to organize the Ushers Club in that they will have some by-laws and a checklist of duties, etc. and should have something for us to look at by our next meeting. They would like to have a "greeter/welcoming" type of thing. Regarding the church basement and the mold issue, Mike has found that we have multiple sump pumps, the water is mostly from the flooding in the parking area around the church. Mike will work with Bob Clancy to investigate which drain is obviously plugged and snake it out. Some of the ushers do not know how to correctly replace the two communion kneelers in front of the front pews to avoid someone accidentally falling over them. The pads at the communion rail are in place in case we ever want to use them.

**Altar Linens:** We now have an array of new altar cloths and table linens which we began using after the re-painting of the church was done. We have the beautiful white lace cloths that were used during the Christmas season, Advent purple, Lenten purple, green for ordinary time, red, and black (for when the pope dies). We are searching for the right shade of yellow (papal color) in preparedness for when it will be needed. We have done an inventory but still must organize the linen drawers.

**Loving Hands:** At Christmas time, between and after holidays, the church was cleaned by Butch and/or Tammy and they did a good job. It was suggested that the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at IC could/should be required to dust/wash the pews and kneelers to assist our group with some of the work and to give them some sense of what it takes to keep things



clean and looking nice--and they may be more responsible themselves to do their part to keep the church clean. Father will have Mrs. Steele contact Sandy to arrange this.

#### **UPCOMING LITURGICAL EVENTS**

St. Blase feast day – already discussed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Review of Christmas & Advent:** Christmas Eve Masses at 4:30 and 6:30 were both children's, and the 11 pm (instead of midnight) Mass all worked out well.

**Mary's Crown:** already covered above.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Votive Light Stand:** Pio Zammit painted the statues of St. Anthony and Ste. Therese; also Mary's feet in the church dome. He is researching replacing the votive candles with electronic ones as a means of keeping the church cleaner and did not yet have enough information for a presentation to us at this meeting.

**Lent & Easter Planning:** Tabled until next meeting.

Carol Gawel brought up the subject of providing more space in the church for wheelchairs as the make-up of our parish consists of more people over the age of 50 than below and the growing need to accommodate those who are infirm but can still attend Mass. She will form a committee to address this issue and report back to our commission. Jeff signed on.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 11, about 7:10 pm, after the 6:30 pm Mass.**

Meeting closed at 7:55 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Kot, Secretary



**Immaculate Conception -Education Commission**  
**Un-approved minutes**  
**January 20, 2014**

Present: Nicole Tomaszynski, Tina Kovalcik, Beth Kjerrumgaard

Absent: Andrea Tripicchio, Randy Proctor, Pat Phelan, Megan Weins (Youth Ministry Rep)

Opening Prayer: Tina

**Old Business:**

- Nicole – shared Council didn't meet in January.. In December Council was okay with the 5 question survey. Concerned with interfering with Discovering Christ. Postpone until after second session of Christ Life and have it support Christ Life.
- We agreed to look at the survey status after the second session of Christ Life. Maybe Marriage Enrichment dinner, movie night, basic topic offering not heavy theology, MOMS group, etc.
- Suggestion was made to ask Fr if we can do a 2 minute talk on faith sharing at announcement time. (reflecting testimonies)  
- Put on hold.

**New Business:**

- Homosexuality offering that happened Jan 12 at St. Christopher's. Can we bring this to IC? Mary Wilkerson from BOLD Ministries was the speaker.
- Confession Refresher – an offering in St. A's bulletin. Was a great sounding offering for parishioners. Can we do something here?
- \* two flyers scanned and attached.

**Faith Formation:**

- Christian Parenting component is in place. First class was Jan 9. Three couples attended. Next session, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm School Library. March session will be offered to all families who have had children baptized in the last three years.
- First Penance potluck family day is January 26. First Penance celebration is Feb 6<sup>th</sup>. We have 48 celebrating.
- Confirmation Retreat is Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. 58 candidates.
- Catholic Schools Week is Jan 26 to Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Feb 23 is IC School Open House. 11am to 2pm is meet the teacher. 10am to 1:30pm is Pancake Breakfast.
- Tina's has ideas to connect school and parish.
- Discovering Christ has 165 attending. This number includes table leaders. Free child care is also being offered at both sessions.
- Tina - Write another bulletin article to promote Education Commission. "If you know someone who would be an asset to the commission, please invite them to call Tina for more information"

**Youth Ministry**

- YM is helping with child care for Discovering Christ – evening session.

Beth Kjerrumgaard, is stepping down from Education Commission. We thanked her for her time served and everything she has brought to the group. She will be missed.

Next meeting: Undecided. Tina to email Bob, Randy, Pat, Beth (call) to choose a date we can meet. \*\*Bring someone with you!

Submitted by Tina Kovalcik



## **Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting Notes**

December 4, 2013

### **Attendance:**

**Cardinal Mooney –**  
**Holy Family –**  
**Holy Trinity –** Lucy Sebastian  
**Immaculate Conception –**Kathleen Grimm  
**Our Lady On the River –**,  
**St. Augustine –** Gerard  
**St. Christopher –**  
**St. Edward on the Lake**  
**St. Mary, St. Clair –**  
**St. Mary, Port Huron –**Tony Paladino,  
Deacon Tim Maxwell  
**St. Mary, QOC –** Larry Mavis, Matt Hoxsie

**APC –** Kym Nummer  
**Hispanic Rep –**  
**Evangelization –**  
**Christian Service –**  
**D R E –** Margie Smith  
**Principal –**  
**Youth Ministry –** Randy Husaynu,  
**AOD Facilitator -** Dcn. Bill Kolarik  
**Vicar –** Fr. Joe Horn  
**Vicar Secretary –** Catherine Wullaert  
**AOD Regional Coordinator of**  
**Evangelization**

**Visitor:** Kathy Peace

Meeting started at 7:09 PM  
Opened with prayer

**Review / Approval:** Minutes approved by consensus

### **Vicar's Report**

**The new vision for Catholic schools –** The archbishop presented his vision for the refounding of Catholic schools, has given both the presbyteral council and the APC the task of forming a committee to move forward with recommendations/improvements from the Catholic School Advisory Board's recommendations. A roll out of the vision for governance will happen in 2014 school year; the financial aspect will be brought out later, possibly in 2015.

**Bishops are preparing for the Synod on the Family –** Sought input from presbyteral council on the status of Marriage, family, prayer within the modern culture.

**Holy Cross Elementary –** Is facing decision whether to remain open after the New Year, is conducting review.

**Fr. Brian Cokonougher** updated clergy that the sale of St. Joseph to charter school is approved.

**Vicariate Penance services:** December 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen's (7 pm), December 11<sup>th</sup> at Queen of Creation (7pm), December 14<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross (1pm).

**For next meeting:** CYO, is it working better than our former league?

### ***No Reports were submitted***

- **APC met yesterday.**



## Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

December 4, 2013

- First part of the meeting was about Catholic Schools. There was a plan that was presented to the APC and they are to take it and give feedback on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Two things that were impression the regional school model is not being embraced however the parish model is. Schools are asked to financially responsible. The parish is being asked to support the schools by giving a percentage of the offertory to the support the schools.
- It was stressed to begin marketing the schools.
- Second part of the meeting was about family
  - **Status of Marriage, family, prayer within the modern culture.**  
Open conversation regarding perhaps looking at how the Charter Schools run their schools and adopt the strategies so the Catholic schools and be able to receive the per child rate from the state.
- **Hispanic Ministry** - remove from the agenda
- **Christian Service** –no one present – no report submitted
- **Evangelization** – there was some discussion as to how to address this if it is to be from the AOD rep or Vicariate rep
  - Tony reported that there have been 3 parishes that have offered the Christ Life program.
  - Looking at doing a general communication for The Christ Life project
  - Will be looking at publishing this info through the Drift, the Vicariate Website and through the Times Herald.
    - They are asking for funds from their budget to do this publicity.
    - Kym Nummer is the publicity contact person currently until a person is in place for publicity regarding the Christ Life series.
    - It was recommended that it be clearly communicated the importance of the levels and the sessions that the Christ Life is based on.
- Christian Service – no one present, no report
- Youth Ministry – topic Homosexuality; what does the Church teach. This is a newer event that the BWV Youth Ministry is doing and they are looking to the BWV to use \$200 from their budget to pay for the speaker.
  - The BWV discussed and shared that the Youth Ministry should be allowed the \$200 for the speaker from their budget.
- **DRE** – no one present; no report submitted
- **Principle** – No one present; no report submitted
- **Right to Life** – No one present; no report submitted

### **New Business:**

None

### **Old Business:**

Respectfully submitted by C. Wullaert  
Attendance updated 12-20-13 cw



## Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

December 4, 2013

### Prison Ministry

#### Regarding Jail Ministry

They met with Tom Sepo and aired concerns regarding ministering to the Catholic Women.

There is a bottle neck and they believe that they have figured out who it is that is causing the hold up with them coming in to minister to the Catholics in their jail. Apparently, there are 170 Protestant Ministries ministering at the jail.

### **Open Forum:**

**There was conversation regarding the Catholic Schools and the potential issues with their viability.**

- Some feel that the parents treat Catholic school as private school.
- Some feel that core Catholic values are not being taught
- It was agreed that there is not one reason why Catholic School are failing but in fact various reasons.
- Another challenge for Catholic School is being able to keep up with the Public Schools in what they offer such as gym, foreign language, art and music
- There was a suggestion that what is currently working good for the Catholic schools become the focus and then build from there.

### **Feed back regarding the healing Mass**

- It was impressive that there was more than one priest at Mass
- There is a plan to have another one on a Vicariate.
- Looking at following the idea of Vicariate wide perhaps ever 3 month the model of the Vicariate Communal Penance.
- One complaint is that during the confession time the music was to loud
- Music is something that is going to be visited in the next planning

### **Action Items**

#### **No action items**

Meeting ended at 8:36 pm closing with prayer.

Upcoming BWV Dates and Hospitality

### **Hospitality / Meeting INFO** Calendar for 2013-2014

| <u>Date</u>    | <u>Hospitality</u>    | <u>Leader / Reader</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Feb. 12, 2014  | St. Edwards           |                        |
| March 12, 2014 | St. Augustine         |                        |
| April 9, 2014  | St. Mary, St. Clair   |                        |
| May 14, 2014   | St. Christopher       |                        |
| June 11, 2014  | Immaculate Conception |                        |