

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FROM JANUARY 13, 2009**

The meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. with a prayer.

The minutes from November 11, 2008 were read by the members and accepted by Pat McGrath and Sue Share.

The following members were present: Jane Petitpren, Pam Mertes, Pat McGrath, Eileen Gretkierewicz, Stanley Sommers, Lisa DiMaggio, Susan Share, Father Tomek Maka, Deacon Kenneth Nowicki, and Stan Lisica.

The following members were not present: Anthony Jubinski, Cathy Furtah, Janis Cornwell, JoAnn Augustine, Randy Proctor, Amy O'Gara, and Theresa Austin,

SCHOOL ADVISORY REPORT GIVEN BY STAN LISICA: The following are the minutes from the January 6th meeting:

I. Prayer/Minutes

- a. Review of November Minutes. Minutes approved.

II. Old Business

- a. Iowa test scores reviewed. Improvement from 2007/2008 scores.

III. Continuing School Improvement

- a. Congratulations Bishop Vigneron! Distinguished graduate of IC school honored in 2003.
- b. Survey Results- approximately 50% of families returned the surveys. Initial review is complete (see handout). Results will be graphed and mailed to each family. Comments on the surveys are still being reviewed. The last survey was completed in 2003-2004. Results were compared.
- c. Unpacking the standards- Teachers at each grade level will meet with from each of the Blue Water schools. Second grade will be the first to meet. They will be reviewing academic standards, key standards & how to meet them. GLCE & Iowa standards will be reviewed & integrated with the standards. Curriculum mapping will be discussed. Six elementary schools will participate. IC will host two of the sessions.
- d. Cougar Beat & PR- Kelley Lovati will oversee the school newspaper Cougar Beat and will assist with local newspaper correspondence.
- e. Open House- sponsored by the 8th grade. Theme will be a pancake breakfast.

IV. New Business

- a. PTC report- Santa Secret shop successful. Next year a "craft table/coloring station" will be available for those children who wish to not participate in the Santa Secret shop. Tentative date for Winter Wine Down will be 3/7/09. Book Fair will be the week of 3/19/09.

Misc:

1/24/09 Academic Olympics for grades 5, 6, 7 & 8 at St. Augustine

3/19/09 Science Fair

Feb agenda items: Survey Comments

CHRISTIAN SERVICE REPORT GIVEN BY PAT MCGRATH:

The following are the minutes from their November 11^h meeting:

DEL HASKIN REPORT – 17 CARDS SENT LAST MONTH

ROSARY MAKERS – KATHY BECKER – WILL MEET AFTER 10 MASS THIS SUN.

FUNERAL LUNCH REPORT – 2 LUNCHEES THIS PAST MONTH

COPE (CHRISTIAN OUTREACH PROGRAM ENDEAVOR) – NOTHING TO REPORT

HANDCRAFTER'S GUILD-BARB BLAZ – AS OF NOW THEY HAVE MADE 103 QUILTS, 25 PAIR

OF BOOTIES, 16 PREEMIE HATS, 33 SETS OF HATS AND BOOTIES, AND 45 PAIR OF

SLIPPERS-MEETING DATES NOV. 12, 19, DEC. 3, 10, 17 FROM NOON TO 2:30 PM

COFFEE/DONUTS WILL BE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH AFTER ALL MASSES

FLU SHOT CLINIC WILL BE HELD AFTER MASSES ON SUNDAY AS WELL

SUE SHARE-PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER ORGANIZED – WE WILL

ORGANIZE AND DO THIS NEXT YEAR

PARISH CHRISTMAS SALE WILL BE HELD AFTER ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND IN PARISH HALL

MCREST – ST. JOHN – OCT. 21ST & 23RD – WENT VERY WELL – FED OVER 30 HOMELESS

GOOD SHEPARD – NOV. 6TH – FED OVER 25 HOMELESS

STARS OF CHRISTMAS- TREE WENT UP THIS WEEKEND – GIFTS DUE BACK BY NOV. 30TH

WE WILL SORT GIFTS, THUR., DEC. 11TH, 8 AM- ALGONAC LIONESS MADE \$100 DONATION TO EACH ST. MARY'S FOOD DEPOT, TRINITY METHODIST FOOD

DEPOT AND

I.C. FOOD DEPOT

I.C. ADULT CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE WILL BE HELD FRI., DEC. 5TH IN PARISH HALL,

6:30 PM - \$15 PER PERSON – INCLUDES DINNER BUFFET, ENTERTAINMENT, DOOR PRIZE

SANTS SECRET SHOP WILL BE HELD WED., DEC. 10TH IN SCHOOL

NO MEETING OR COFFEE/DONUTS IN DECEMBER

The following are the minutes from their January 6th meeting:

DEL HASKIN REPORT – NO REPORT

ROSARY MAKERS – KATHY BECKER – WILL MEET AFTER 10 MASS THIS SUN.

FUNERAL LUNCH REPORT – 1 IN NOVEMBER, 2 IN DECEMBER, 2 SO FAR IN JANUARY

COPE (CHRISTIAN OUTREACH PROGRAM ENDEAVOR) – NOTHING TO REPORT

HANDCRAFTER'S GUILD-BARB BLAZ – WILL BE MEETING THE 1ST AND 3RD
WEDNESDAYS
OF THE MONTH STARTING JANUARY 7TH

COFFEE/DONUTS WILL BE SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH AFTER ALL MASSES

RED CROSS SENT A LETTER ASKING IF WE COULD HAVE MORE BLOOD DRIVES –
BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING, IT WAS DECIDED, AT THIS POINT, TO CONTINUE
HAVING THE TWO DRIVES ALREADY SCHEDULED

STARS OF CHRISTMAS- JOYCE BYNUM – WAS NOT PRESENT FOR REPORT – WILL
REPORT NEXT MONTH

I.C. ADULT CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE WAS BE HELD FRI., DEC. 5TH IN PARISH
HALL,
APPROXIMATELY 75 PEOPLE ATTENDED

CHRISTIAN SERVICE VICARIATE MEETING WAS HELD IN DECEMBER – THEIR FOCUS
WAS

ON PROGRAMS TO HELP THE NEEDY – THERE MIGHT BE AN EFFORT TO
ORGANIZE

A "MCREST" TYPE PROGRAM IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY – IT WOULD NEED THE
COOPERATION OF MANY, MANY CHURCHES FROM ALL DENOMINATIONS

UPCOMING CHRISTIANS SERVICE EVENT – ST. JOSEPH LAYETTE – WILL DISCUSS AT
FEB. MEETING

SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

SCRAPBOOKING WEEKEND – JAN. 23RD, 24TH

DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE – SUNDAY, FEB. 22ND

ST. PATTY PARTY – MARCH – DATE TO BE DETERMINED

NEXT MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 10, 2009

NEXT COFFEE/DONUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2009

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP REPORT GIVEN BY FATHER TOMEK:

Their meeting will be held January 16th. Father Tomek said thank you for a wonderful
Christmas.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORT GIVEN BY JANE PETITPREN:

Confirmation Retreat will be held this Saturday. Currently on Topic 18 – Spirituality.
Protecting God's Children will be here at I.C. this week. This coming Saturday night the youth
group will be trained as EMEs. There are five older sacramental candidates preparing for First
Sacraments. Preparations are being made for First Holy Communion with parent gathering on
Feb. 3rd. Mary Toupin stepped down from Faith Formation; Jane is taking her place. First
Reconciliation is coming up on January 29th.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT GIVEN BY PAT MCGRATH: Please see the attached minutes for their January 6th meeting.

EVANGELIZATION REPORT GIVEN BY DEACON KENNETH NOWICKI: Deacon Ken said this committee has been put on hold; therefore, there is no report.

VICARIATE: No report.

ENRICHMENT: Father Tomek presented two books to the committee for consideration for reading material. Both of them are novels that are neither historical nor theological. They make the reader think about the humanity of Jesus, as He is shown in the First Person. Their titles are Christ the Lord – Out of Egypt and Christ the Lord – The Road to Cana. Both of these books give a more relaxing way to look at our faith. They bring up good questions.

OLD BUSINESS: Eileen received a letter from Ellen Vernier, a parishioner, regarding the walk-in freezer. The letter was passed around and all committee members reviewed it. The letter stated that we should not purchase fish in advance, and she thought she could get fish at a very good price elsewhere. Deacon Ken asked about procedures on tabling such issues. Stewardship did not return to our meeting to update and answer questions but instead e-mailed Parish Council members with this information - (members without e-mail were not informed with updates and answers). It was decided that it is not top priority to purchase a walk-in freezer at this time.

Jane informed us that the festival committee is meeting February 17th. This is our 37th annual festival.

Eileen asked if it was figured out how many parishioners are registered. Father Tomek stated that it would take up to two years to get an accurate count with a mail out, such as when parishioners respond to the C.S.A. Deacon Ken asked if bookkeeping procedures would help to get an accurate count. Father answered no because someone could be active but not using their envelopes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Father Tomek would like someone to be the photographer for our parish functions. We asked Paul Torney, and he agreed to help out but not to take over completely. Release forms need to be signed to have children's photos published. Stan suggested forming a committee for this job. It was discussed to have a new pictorial made. It has been six years since our last one.

Stan Sommers stated that his son is the President of the Ira Township Little League and would like to have use of our gymnasium for the teams to have indoor practice in the cold weather. He has already been denied for this request. Father Tomek stated there are guidelines through the Archdiocese that need to be followed for use of the gym, particularly when it involves children. Insurance would have to be purchased if this were to take place. Also, background checks need to be performed, as well as having the involved adults attend a Protecting God's Children session. Stan asked who to contact next to pursue this and it was answered Jeff Wooten, who leads the Building and Grounds Committee.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Father Tomek stated that we are very proud our new Archbishop Elect Allen Vigneron. The installation will take place January 28th. There is very limited space, but our parish is allowed ten tickets. We will have a celebration mass in His honor as soon as possible, but taking into consideration His busy schedule along with his new responsibilities. We are hoping to have it sometime before Lent. Father Tomek would like to meet with Him to see what He would like as

a celebration. Father Tomek hopes to have the Archbishop attend our Confirmation. Having the Archbishop come from our parish puts more pressure on us to be an exemplary parish. Father needs to check on Central Services of Archdiocese. We need to further educate ourselves more on the C.S.A. Kimberly Vivian has been hired to be our bookkeeper. She will be working part time (19 hours a week). It is being discussed when to have a farewell for Michelle Meldrum.

Improvements: There now is a couch for the waiting area in the parish office. A processional cross is going to be donated by someone from outside of our parish. Two families donated enough money to cover the costs for new windows for the rectory. Greg Knoche is donating his skills and time to install a panic door for the church. Parts will be \$1600.00 for which we will be responsible. Some of this might be covered by donations. Temperatures needs to be above 60 degrees before installing. We have a family that donated \$250.00 to use toward new carpeting for the church. It was stated that kneeler pads could use replacement.

Debt reduction: Good Christmas report. We are above budget. We will look closely at this.

C.S.A.: We need to further educate ourselves and realize that we cannot pay the debt if we don't give to the C.S.A.

Father would like to have something major in the near future to address the building fund.

Cemetery Fund: It was discussed whether or not to take money from the cemetery fund and put it toward our building fund. We would be saving 2% if we did it this way since there is a 6% interest fee on the building loan, and we get 4% interest on the cemetery fund.

It was figured that \$300.00 paid per family would eliminate the building loan.

Usher's meeting will be held next week. No changes with procedures. It will be discussed the possibility of having some uniformity with clothing, though.

Father is interested in having business cards and stationery for the parish and would like to change our logo to the word "parish" instead of "community" at the end of our title. Members agreed to his suggestion.

IT: Chris Ameal has agreed to work on our computer system. Father Tomek, in the long run, would like to do something to check the software that is installed on our computers. Also, in the future, Father would like to connect the school to the parish.

The meeting closed at 9:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa DiMaggio.