

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES FROM January 12, 2010

The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with a prayer.

***The following members were present:*** Pamela Mertes, Stanley Sommers, Susan Share, Amy O’Gara, Pat McGrath, JoAnn Augustine, Father Tomek Maka, Deacon Kenneth Nowicki, Andrea Taravella, Jane Petitpren, Cathy Furtah, Diane Vigneron

***The following members were not present:*** Randy Proctor, Janis Cornwell, Anthony Jubinski

Minutes from the November 10, 2009 meeting were read by members and accepted after four changes were made.

***Youth Ministry Report:*** Not present to report

***School Advisory Report Given By Diane Vigneron:***

**ALSO See Attached Minutes from December and January Meetings**

- Looking for a tuition management company
  - Starting exploring this option per the Archdiocese
  - They will handle the collection of the tuition-parents will pay the company so that the payments are not going through the school secretary
  - If the families pay upfront they will not have to go through the company, they will pay IC directly
  - Trying to see which program best fits IC and who is set-up to handle service credits, script, etc.
  - They have looked at two companies: Christian Financial Credit Union and FACTS
  - Christian Financial CU is a bank and the money will go directly to them, but they do not specialize in collection
  - FACTS is a company that solely handles this type of work. They are more aggressive at collecting the money. They charge \$45 a family (173 families) and they will be flexible for families. Families will be able to pay with credit card through the company which is not offered at IC. Parents at other Parishes like working with this company
- Horn of Plenty raised \$8K for athletic program
- Ladies Night Out surpassed their goals but exact figure was not given

Discussion occurred regarding the tuition collection. Andrea stated that she thought that the whole reason why they went with Vanco for the Parish collection was because they offered a tuition option. Father Tomek stated that they had a tuition option, but that company would not act as a collection agency rather as an intermediary for the school. Other discussion included whether there was a large need for a collection agency to handle payments and the question was asked if there is a lot of back tuition. Father Tomek stated that there was a need for the collection and that if the tuition was taken out of the accounts just like a mortgage or car, that it would be paid. The company will also be taking the burden of “reminding” the parents that the tuition is due and/or late.

***Christian Service Report Given By JoAnn Augustine:***

- Del Haskin Report – no report – it was suggested to find someone to help Del with sending cards – Elaine Abraham & Carol Sacco will offer to help Del
- Rosary Makers – no report
- Funeral Lunch Report – three funeral lunches in Nov.-Dec.
- COPE (Christian Outreach Program Endeavor) – one more driver added (not a parishioner but went through all requirements), one man being taken to dialysis twice a week
- Handcrafter’s Ministry – Meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays

- Coffee/donut Sunday – will be held Sunday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> after all masses
- Flu shot clinic was held Sunday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> – over 50 shots given, five pneumonia shots given
- MCREST – three dinners provided at St. John and Christ Lutheran – approx. 35 homeless fed at each dinner
- Stars of Christmas – Joyce Bynum – over 20 families from Algonac food pantry helped, 9 families from head start in marine city helped, approx. 10-12 families called I.C. parish office for help-gifts were purchased or scrip gift cards given
- Anniversary Mass – suggested by father to have it Saturday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> – Holy Family Sunday – no reception to be held – father called each couple by name and gave a wonderful homily
- Adult Christmas dinner dance was held Friday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – approx. 70 people attended
- St. Joseph Layette is scheduled for Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup> – Worship Committee did give permission to put the bassinet in church during this time
- Social events committee will meet Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> – Daddy-daughter dance scheduled for Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> in parish hall & Scrapbooking weekend scheduled for Feb. 19-20<sup>th</sup>
- Next meeting will be Tues. Feb. 9, 2010
- Next coffee/donuts will be Feb. 14, 2010
- Other – Sue Share made a report at Nov. Mtg. About the blue water vicariate career transition ministry (to assist unemployed with resources in their private lives as well as in trying to get a job). I.C. will help with this program. Christian service will assist when needed.
- Congratulations and god bless Joyce Bynum for her dedication in providing the outdoor nativity with the generosity of an anonymous donor

### ***Christian Worship Report Given By Father Tomek/Deacon Ken:***

- Music: Light installed on stairs, Epiphany concert held in Jan-went well
- Trees put-up the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of advent
- Liturgical ministries training held Nov. 14 and there were a good number in attendance
- There were concerns about flu-antibacterial products are now provided in ushers room
- Since the 5<sup>th</sup> server was added (to shadow) it has gone well
- Altar cloths & linen were ready for Christmas
- Loving Hands-Gum problem in the entrances-difficult to remove
- Stated Joyce wanted to know in Oct about the giving tree
- Appreciation to Joyce for the Nativity that was donated (purchase at Bronner's) by an anonymous source, Nick DeMonaco bolted the Nativity scene to the base and put the stable together, now stored in a secure place
- Upcoming events: next meeting moved to Feb
- Complete Church painting-committee will be formed when funds available
- Repairs on roof made
- New Crown was Blessed for the Statue of Mary (on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at school mass)
- Parish guidelines to be updated and provided to weddings and funerals-a committee was formed to update these
- Announcements for mass are required to be submitted one week prior
- Living Water Prayer basket in front of Church
- Discussion regarding lost & found and guest registry

### ***Christian Formation Report Given By Jane Petitpren:***

- Children's Liturgy of the Word – we are inviting parish members to participate in this ministry. We will be training in February and March.
- Confirmation Retreat – The Confirmation Retreat will be on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:30am to 5:30pm in the parish hall.
- Older Sacramental Formation – We presently have three young people in our Older Sacramental Formation program who will be preparing for the First Reconciliation and Holy Communion in the spring.
- Circle of Grace – The Circle of Grace program will be taught in February to our 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders and in March to our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders.

- First Reconciliation – The date for First Reconciliation has been changed to February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Church.
- Lent – Our parish has again ordered the Lenten Little Black Book for adults and the Little Purple Books for our young people. We will also have available the Lenten Family Activity Booklet – all proceeds from this family activity will go to our St. Vincent de Paul Group.
- Adult Formation/Bible Study – Beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup> our parish will be sponsoring an 11 week Bible Study on The Tragic and Triumphant Cross on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am in the parish hall and Wednesday nights at 6:30pm in the school library.
- Service Project – 7<sup>th</sup> Girls – Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls have teamed up with St. Aloysius' Church in Detroit to make back packs for the homeless. They will be inviting parish members to join them in this very special project in February. See attached list.
- OTHER: The 1<sup>st</sup> Festival gathering for 2010 will be on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the parish hall. This will be a potluck gathering. All parish members are invited to join us.

***Stewardship:*** No report

***Evangelization Given By Deacon Ken:*** No Report

- But Deacon wanted to call attention the Men's Catholic Conference on June 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm-held in Ypsilanti and will have all of the diocese represented throughout Michigan to connect in the Power of Christ for Men-this will be published in upcoming bulletins
- Also, Day for Life is Jan 17<sup>th</sup> and they will be having a Prayer from 2:45 pm to 5 pm

***Vicariate Report Given By Amy O'Gara:***

- Discussion about Drift-change possibly to a monthly and one pager rather than the three pager
- Looking for a second Vicariate Rep- Father Tomek stated that he is looking for candidates, he wants to be able to involve more people
- Meetings are held at Holy Family in Memphis

***Old Business:***

- Issue of Minutes and Commission Reports given to Secretary in timely manner: Have minutes prior so that we can have questions ready prior to the meeting. JoAnn stated that this would not be possible for CS because they often have the meetings the same day as the Parish Council, which would be ok. Sue stated that she thought that there should be a time limit on the commissions rather than having the minutes sent prior. She stated that then the committee members would just come to sit rather than give the reports. Andrea stated that this would allow everyone to be able to review the reports and that this would allow us to have questions ready rather than trying to digest all of the information in a short amount of time. Amy stated that she would like to see the reports ahead of time. Andrea stated that she preferred the information for the minutes and reports no later than the Thursday prior to the Parish council meeting so that she has time to compile everything because she has to place some of the minutes in the regular mail and they need to get to the Council Members on time.
- Father Tomek's request for Parish Council Members to address Parish: wanted to know what they would be addressing the Parish about. Father stated that it would be about what the Council is doing for the year, CSA, Phase II, present plan to the Parish for Long Term Planning-these presentations will not be done until next fiscal year, because there is nothing to present at this time. At some point Father would like to see this done at the beginning and ending of every year.
- Calendar: committee had Calendars out in a timely manner

***New Business:***

- 2010 Festival Committee first meeting Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm in Parish Hall w/ Pot Luck
- CSA in bulletin-Pam requested to start moving with CSA-Stewardship has a sub-committee to handle this-Father Tomek stated that we had to do some kind of follow-up and that it may take a whole new approach,
- Discussion regarding active members in the Parish- the Long Term Planning did a survey and they received 78% response (but this was done 3-5 years ago), need to put in the bulletin that after 18 (or another age) that the individual should be registered in the Parish if they want to be recognized on their own (i.e. for marriage, etc)-Father Tomek again stressed the need to have policies worked on and put them in writing and revised (the only one currently being revised in the Weddings & Funeral policy) –we should look at examples from other Parishes
- Dec 29<sup>th</sup> Christmas collection that were done through e-giving were not included in totals yet-to be shown sometime in January
- Heating in the Church-working on it, new boiler so it is being adjusted

### ***Open Forum:***

- Tim stated that he would like to see the Parish move forward on a Pro Life Group to foster Pro Life activities in the Parish-Deacon Ken stated that the meeting he had was an informal meeting and that he would be discussing with Father as to whether this is something that the Parish wants to have. Father Tomek stated that this would be a part of the Christian Worship, Services, or, Formation and that there needs to be a plan in place before this can continue.

### ***Pastor's Report:***

- Christmas went well-decorations were out (saved money on) and they were beautiful, Celebration of Eucharist attendance was good, had a lot of guests and thanked Parishioners for bringing them music was outstanding
- Bank Closure:
  - Didn't have a lot of time (45 days) to move accounts
  - Vanco stated no problem with transferring to the new account
  - Kimberly made a lot of calls and spent two full days to take care of opening new accounts
  - Had a few leads and had people who helped by giving him guidance
  - Looked at 4-5 banks:
    - 5/3: closest, offered room for collection cash to be counted, but they had a lot of hidden fees and the fees were too high, they also charged for depositing a certain amount of cash
    - Also looked at Comerica & Huntington
    - Charter One (the one IC chose): They already work with other Parishes in Diocese, they were honest and upfront regarding fees, they stated that they would be willing to work with IC, the only downside is that the deposits would have to be driven to the branch location (discussed safety of this) and that the Parish would be looking at armored car service (had one family offer to donate ½ of the cost)
  - Children at the school wrote thank you notes to the employees at the Bank
  - Few people approached Father to purchase the property because it was part of the original long term plan
    - Father Tomek didn't know if it was for sale yet and didn't think it would be for sale any time soon
    - Don't know the price and the Parish currently does not have the money for it

The meeting closed at 9:45 p.m. with a prayer and Deacon Ken gave enrichment on Ordinary Time  
 The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
 Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea Taravella.