

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FROM MARCH 10, 2009**

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer.

The minutes from February 10, 2009 were read by the members and accepted by Pat McGrath and Jane Petitpren.

The following members were present: Jane Petitpren, Eileen Gretkierewicz, Lisa DiMaggio, Father Tomek Maka, Deacon Kenneth Nowicki, Cathy Furtah, JoAnn Augustine, Janis Cornwell, Theresa Austin, Amy O'Gara, Pat McGrath, Stanley Sommers, Carol Johns, Bob Clancy, Mike Denys, Tim VerVaecke, Gordon Birgbauer, Craig Surprenant, and Jeff Wooten.

The following members were not present: Anthony Jubinski, Randy Proctor, Susan Share, and Pam Mertes.

LONG TERM PLANNING: Tim VerVaecke was the first to report from this committee. He stated Father Tomek asked if he would come to this parish council meeting to update the members and to remind us what the initial objective was when this committee formed ten years ago. Tim briefed us about how the committee was formed, how the long term plans were made, and how the phases were developed. He talked about how the hard goals and soft goals were created. Tim said Father Tomek thinks we need to move forward to phase two which involves connecting the parish hall to the church, plus other changes. Tim suggested not "telling" the parishioners what the church is going to do but kindly "make suggestions" as to what could be done. Tim has asked himself "What did we do wrong" in the past regarding the Long Term Planning Committee. He thinks that the committee did not fully or strongly enough educate the parishioners on the commitment they would have had to make in the long run. He also stated that the parish needs to be educated on what needs to be done to run this parish. Bob Clancy spoke next and reviewed what could be done as far as completing the original plan, such as adding a storage facility. He said we are very fortunate to have all the property that we have. Mike Denys spoke next asking, "Where did we lose the motivation?" He stated we need to move on to the next phase and to get new families to carry out the long term plan. He said that the original Long Term Planning Committee members will be glad to mentor the people who would take over. The original committee has the knowledge and will help to educate and guide. Tim stated that not as much effort would need to be put into the next phase since a lot of it has been done already. He suggested that every year it should be evaluated what parishioners can give. Every three to five years a financial analysis should be made with the parish to reevaluate the needs of the parish. Tim "ran numbers" on new goals. Deacon Ken shared a story about an Episcopal family in Connecticut. Cathy Furtah stated more people got involved in the past. People now need to get revved up again to get more families involved. Deacon Ken suggested having a "social time" to get parishioners together to possibly form a new generation of a Long Term Planning Committee. Father Tomek asked Parish Council members to bring to him three names of parishioners that we know that would be "good candidates" to join the Long Term Planning Committee. Father is willing to talk to anyone ready and willing to help our parish. Tim thinks the parish needs to do two things. 1) Talk about what kind of committees to form to combine efforts to form a Long Term Planning Committee. 2) Figure out what kind of people would work best for these committees. Mike stated the necessity for awareness sessions to get parishioners excited again about long term planning. Craig spoke regarding what has been done so far with this committee.

SCHOOL ADVISORY REPORT: No one from this committee was present to give their report.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE REPORT GIVEN BY JOANN AUGUSTINE:

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP REPORT GIVEN BY FATHER TOMEK: Rene Meldrum and Pat Austin adjusted the speakers in the church. Ava Robinson stepped down from decorating the church, and Father Tomek expressed his gratefulness for all her help. Jeff Wooten and Carol Gafa will continue decorating the church. The altar clothes are being washed regularly. A committee called Loving Hands is being formed to clean the church more often and regularly. Upcoming liturgical events include Soup and Prayer, Reconciliation, First Communion, and Stations of the Cross. Holy Week – We will have a blessing of baskets on Holy Saturday. Reminder of First Friday and Adoration. Paschal candle has arrived.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORT GIVEN BY JANE PETITPREN: First Communion pictures will be taken this Saturday, and there will be a potluck on Sunday. Thursday is the first potluck supper starting at 6:30 p.m. A new book club is forming as mentioned in last month's minutes. They will be meeting Wednesday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Good Friday Journey will take place soon. Confirmation will be April 30th. First Communion will be May 2nd. Jane still has new students registering. White books will be available for the Easter Season.

STEWARDSHIP: No one from this committee was present to give their report. Pat McGrath did state that from their last meeting, Stewardship is asking parish council members to write "CSA" on their regular envelopes so that their contribution can be put toward CSA. A lot of discussion was had over this.

EVANGELIZATION: No report.

VICARIATE REPORT GIVEN BY THERESA AUSTIN:

2/11/09 VPC Meeting Notes

Reported at 3/10/09 Parish Council Meeting

- After review, the Christian Service Coordinators determined the Vicariate faith communities were able to meet the basic food, clothing and shelter needs on an emergency basis and there is not a need to develop a MCREST program in St. Clair County at this time.
- Checks to parishes with schools have not been sent yet because only one-third of the money has been collected when it should be one-half. Our Catholic Schools Agreement is the model for the Archdiocese.
- Cardinal Mooney Annual Auction will be held in the activities center on Saturday, April 25th, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, followed by the Auction at 5 p.m.
- Cardinal Mooney High School construction progress can be viewed online at www.cardinalmooneycatholic.com.
- The Tracking Committee commended the Blue Water Vicariate on our work in social outreach for the homeless, the smooth transition and success of the three merged parish communities, our attempts at youth and young adult outreach, our catechesis on stewardship, the strong, united work of the vicariate DRE's and especially our support of Catholic education with the 5% Sunday collection stewardship. We were encouraged to strengthen our Hispanic outreach and to proceed with finding resources for those in our vicariate who have lost their jobs or are in danger of losing their homes.
- Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at Holy Family Parish in Memphis.

OLD BUSINESS: Eileen Gretkierwicz asked if the parish could have available funeral times and services of recent deaths listed in the church. Father Tomek answered that he would rather share that information when asked for it.

NEW BUSINESS: Jane Petitpren would like banners made stating, "Welcome to the Home Parish of Archbishop Allen Vigneron", placed in the school/parish hall. Father Tomek would rather refrain from something that might be temporary and wait until something more permanent could be done.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Working on budget. Two bids were made for the carpet replacement for the church. We went with the less expensive bid. The carpet has been chosen and ordered. Mass will temporarily be moved to the parish hall when the carpet is being replaced. The kneelers will be updated with new foam in them soon.

OPEN FORUM:

The meeting closed at 9:00 p.m. with a prayer.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa DiMaggio.