

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FROM March 9, 2010

The meeting opened at 7:10 p.m. with a prayer.

The following members were present: Father Tomek Maka, Deacon Kenneth Nowicki, Pamela Mertes, Stanley Sommers, Amy O’Gara, Pat McGrath, JoAnn Augustine, Andrea Taravella, Janis Cornwell, Tim Messing, Cathy Furtah, Diane Vigneron, Jane Petitpren, and Sarah Cornwell

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

Minutes from the January 12, 2010 meeting were read by members and accepted after two changes were made.

Youth Ministry Report Given By Sarah Cornwell:

- January went to March for Life- Thursday to Sunday
- Rainbow was the following weekend Jan 29th through 31st
- The Youth Group has grown
- 2nd week in February had a retreat on Angels
- March 7- NET Retreat for all youth in the vicariate and 20% of participants were from IC
- Will be doing a 30 hour famine March 20th through 21st they will fast from 7 am on Saturday until Sunday at noon- getting pledges from people will be living in a cardboard city on that Saturday night in IC’s parking lot
- 2011 Youth Group will be attending world youth day in Madrid, Spain-they will be holding spaghetti dinners in the Fall to raise money for the trip-it costs \$2,500 per person, so hopefully they will get donations to defray the cost-they will also have other fundraisers to help raise money
- Meetings are every other Sunday in the Library and any can join once they have made their confirmation

School Advisory Report Given By Diane Vigneron:

- See Attached Minutes to support Report given
- Next meeting is April 13th
- Diane was posed the question last meeting as to why Vanco wasn’t considered and the answer was because SAC was looking for someone who would act as a collection agency and Vanco could not do this
- FACTS is what the SAC is recommending and it is intended to begin with the next school year
- Budget Committee needed to specify what budget will be before they can proceed
- Technology update: looking to obtain computers from Citizens State Bank
- The question was asked if we would be selling the MACs and Diane stated she did not know
- Academic Olympics-students did very well and there were a great deal of ribbons handed out
- Open House was held on February 28th- 17 new families filled out forms
- Full Day Kindergarten- survey went out regarding interest in this
- March 6th was the Wine Down-but there were no results given from this yet

Christian Service Report Given By JoAnn Augustine:

- Del Haskin report – jan.-2 cards sent, feb.-3 cards, total for 2009 227 cards
- Rosary makers – will meet after 10 mass this Sunday
- Funeral lunch report – two funeral lunches in Feb.
- COPE (Christian Outreach Program Endeavor) – still one man being taken to dialysis twice a week, one woman taken to Dr. Appt. and they are offering Fish Fry vouchers
- Handcrafter’s ministry – met March 3rd & 17th – they are making items for children’s hospital, Medilodge of Richmond and Mt. Clemens regional hospital. They are currently making “pillowcase dresses” for girls in Haiti and Africa – they have shipped 62 dresses and 20 pair of boy’s britches
- Coffee/donut Sunday – will be held Sunday, March 14th

- St. Joseph Layette is scheduled for Feb. 27st – March 14st – Joan put ad in spotlight – date for sorting is Friday, March 19th – 9 am
- Blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, April 25th in the Parish hall – 8 am – 2 pm
- Social events committee:
 - i. Daddy-daughter dance was held Sat., Feb. 27th in parish hall- 1 pm to 4 pm – approx. 100 people attended
 - ii. There will not be a St. Pat's party this year because of scheduling problems with the hall and Celtic Cross
- Scrapbooking weekend scheduled for April 16th-17th
- Mother/daughter tea will be discussed at next meeting
- Discussed career transitional support ministry – sue share was unable to attend our meeting -members are unclear of what is required of volunteers
- Next meeting will be Tues. April 13, 2010
- Next coffee/donuts will be April 18, 2010

Christian Worship Report Given By Father Tomek:

- Next Meeting will be March 25th
- Music: Reported silent exit doesn't work well because there is no transition, so they decided there will be Lenten hymns at the end of mass. They will maybe try some silent entrances instead
- Liturgical Ministries: There will be training again at the end of the school year
- Altar Cloths: they have matching sets for Easter, Christmas, etc. Sandy, Carol & Mary will make more matching sets for use
- Loving Hands: People volunteered to help and did not show up. The individuals who have been cleaning the Church have been doing a wonderful job, but they are still looking to volunteers to help, but those who will show up
- Church Décor: Jeff & Carol have changed the setting and there will be no flowers in Church during Lent (Father Tomek informed them that there should not be flowers in the church during Lent.) The new decorations are simple yet beautiful and there will be Easter lilies for Easter Masses
- Lent: Reconciliation will be this Thursday March 11th, Faith Formation has reconciliation on March 1st, on Palm Sunday there will be a procession at the 10 am Mass beginning at the grotto
- Holy Week: will be the same schedule from last year-see the bulletin for details
- Ordered more palms for Palm Sunday so we do not have to run to St. Mary's for more
- Feast of St Joseph is March 19th and St Patrick's Day is March 17th and they will be celebrated as any other Feast Day
- The main theme for the Fish Fry that Friday March 19th will be St Patrick's Day and there will be the regular 8:30 am Mass celebrating Feast of St Joseph
- Divine Mercy Sunday-Father Constance pass away so they will have 4 Masses and there will be no extra confessions
- Guest book table: had for a while but no one was signing and they decided to stop doing it
- New Infant of Prague was given to the Church by Adele Rennie, clothing is being made for it, and the old one will be placed in the school
- Rosary was taken down of the Statue of Mary (it was not stolen)-Father Tomek researched to see if there was any Grace attached to it (if there was something like this then it should be recorded) but Father Tomek found that there wasn't, so it was taken down and returned to the person because they wanted it back. Father Tomek doesn't think that things should be hung from a Statue "just because" and that there should be special documented situations if it is approved to be hung.
- Working on replacing Baptismal fountain: the current one was made with love, but they would like to update it and create something permanent and something that will match the architecture of the Church

Christian Formation Report Given By Jane Petitpren:

- Catechist Formation will happen at I.C. on Saturday, March 13th with Jane Petitpren teaching Topic 17 and Carolyn Bissett teaching Flex Topic E.

- The 7th Grade retreat on Discipleship will be held on Saturday, March 20th from 10:00am to 1:00pm. This three-hour retreat is part of our parish two-year preparation for Confirmation.
- RCIA – are well prepared for Easter Vigil. They will meet for a retreat on Saturday, March 27th from 1:00pm to 5:30pm.
- Confirmation interviews with Fr. Tomek will be held the week of March 22nd. The candidates will then write their letters to Fr. Tim Hogan who will be our celebrant for Confirmation this year.
- I am attending a conference with Cindy Ameel on Partnering with Parents on Wednesday, April 24th as part of our parish forming a “parent to parent” gathering to share our Catholic faith and teach young parents how to instill Catholic traditions and prayer in the home. This new program will start in the fall.
- The Good Friday Journey will be held on Friday, April 2nd from 12:00 Noon to 3:00pm. We have plenty of adult and teen helpers with over 100 children registered.

Stewardship: No one present to report, but Pat McGrath was given the draft of the meeting minutes and read them to the council. It should be noted that Father Tomek stressed that they were not approved minutes and there were some incorrect statements in the minutes. The minutes that were read are attached with hand written corrections verbalized by Father Tomek.

- Pam mentioned to use gym wall on outside of the building for advertisement for the school and this could possibly be brought to Stewardship. Father Tomek state that nothing was done yet with this because of the issues they have been having inside the wall.
- Amy state that the vicariate website has stewardship information on CSA to get pledges and that the program is already in place.
- Amy also stated that all of the garage doors are open for festival so the painting on the doors would not be seen.
- Janis state that she called St Mary’s and they have a nice telephone answering system and that we should look at updating our own. Father Tomek said we have an older system that only has two recordings one for the day and one for the night

Evangelization Given By Deacon Ken: Nothing to report

Vicariate Report Given By Amy O’Gara:

- The meeting consisted mostly of housekeeping pertaining to the new Vicar and bringing him up to speed as to activities in the Blue Water Vicariate. The only significant news was that the Blue Water Vicariate Newsletter, *The Drift* will, in fact, become a 4 page monthly publication

Old Business:

- Handouts were given and should be reviewed
- Update regarding Father’s concern of the need to clarify/review policies in place. Include handout of current Parish Mission Statement
- Pam stated that the mission statement should be reviewed yearly and that the council members need to look at them for the next meeting to make any changes to the mission statement
- Commissions should have policies in writing and Pam asked all commissions to look to see what is already in writing and what needs to be documented
- Diane was unsure about which policies that were already in place and Father Tomek responded with the By-laws and other policies that have already been put in writing over and above the general guidelines from the diocese to avoid any confusions in the future about what is allowed
- Once the commissions have gathered all of the policies that are already written, they are to be brought to the next Parish Council meeting so that they can be compiled
- Follow-up regarding Father’s visions and expectations for this year. Includes handouts.
- Pam stated that there were questions on having the commission reports sent prior to the meeting so that Council Members had an opportunity to read them and come ready with their questions-she asked if there were any objections to this policy-there were No objections and everyone at the meeting liked the idea. Father also added that there should be a time limit on those who were giving reports and Pat McGrath stated that we should be careful about giving limits.

- It was then affirmed that all Reports as well as prior minutes should be sent to Andrea for distribution and that they should be sent to her no later than Thursday night or Friday morning at the latest of the week before the Parish Council Meeting. Andrea stated that she would send out a reminder email earlier in the week before they are due.

New Business: None

Open Forum:

- Festival has a mascot who will be in the parade and around the festival
- There will be a covered walkway from the tent to the school
- It was asked about doing a Girl Scout Sunday after Lent and Janis state she would take care of that

Pastor's Report:

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: we cannot have perpetual Adoration if there is no one to fill the time slots. Father Tomek encouraged the Parish Council Members to sign up for slots if they could come. There must be someone in the Church at all times during the Adoration. There was a suggestion to have the Worship Committee to create a sub-committee to do this so that there is always a full schedule. Diane suggested doing the schedule alphabetically so that they have an appointed time. Amy asked which times were usually open and Father stated that they usually did not have people from 10 to Noon and around 2 pm.
- Long-term Planning Committee: Inviting new and old people to review the plan and start with soft and hard goals. This should be ongoing. He stated that Parish Council needed to be the leaders and be involved. We need to create the vision of the Parish and not just to react to what is happening (each committee should have homework after the meetings.) Our Debt is \$268,777.53 currently. A Capital Campaign should be started for Phase I and Phase II. Long-term planning will be reviewing this. Father Tomek stated that we cannot count of freebie from the AOD in the future and they will be cracking down on Parishes as we are with tuition.
- Father Tomek wanted all Council Members to have ideas ready for the Open Forum for next month's meeting on how to address tithing and giving of time & treasure as well as Debt Reduction. If you do have a new idea- come with how it should be implemented, finances, etc.
- Agenda: Father Tomek stated again that there should be a time limit on each section of the agenda. The commissions should have 5 minutes each for a total of 40 minutes and that we can ask questions at the end of their reports, not during. Old business should just be old business and have a 20 minute time limit. And if there was no New Business in the previous meeting, then there shouldn't be any Old Business on the agenda. The Open Forum should be about things that are attached to the Parish. We should feel that we did something productive at the meetings and they should last only 1 ½ hours. Jane asked for the Agenda to be sent in advance like the reports will be. The Council was reminded by Father Tomek that agenda items should be noted one week prior to the meeting and all reports to Andrea by the Friday before the meeting.
- Budget: the committee is working very hard and they are on track
- Father Tomek reminded that all items should be brought to Parish Council and that there should be no side lobbying on issues.

The meeting closed at 9:50 p.m. with a prayer

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea Taravella.