



Immaculate Conception Parish Council March Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2014
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: Parish Hall

Member Name	Present	Absent	Position
Fr. Joe Esper	X		Pastor
Deacon Ken Nowicki	X		Evangelization Rep.
Nicole Tomaszynski	X		Chairperson
Bill Gilmore		Absent	Vice Chair
Pat McGrath	X		Council Member
Kathleen Grimm	X		Council Member, VPC Rep.
Lori Stefani	X		Council Member
Bob Tharrett	X		Council Member
Tom Dunn	X		Council Member
Ted Stawiasz	X		Council Member
Mary Kot	X		Worship Representative
Anni Adkins	X		Council Member
Pam Mertes	X		Long Term Planning Rep. (Rotational)
			Christian Service Rep.

Meeting opened with a prayer at 7:17 PM

Minutes of the February 4, 2014 meeting were approved with no changes.

PASTORS REPORT:

- Fr. Joe reported that the Sunday offertory collections have been about \$15,000 below budget – which is contributing to a possible \$80,000 or more budget shortfall by the end of the fiscal year. Other factors include higher than expected costs, such as heating (with a parish heating bill of \$8,211 last month).
- The CSA collection is a bright spot, with pledges for over \$75,000 - \$3,000 over our target (though not all pledges have been paid yet). This is very impressive, considering it coincided with the *Changing Lives Together* capital campaign.
- *Changing Lives Together* is about \$41,000 short of our goal (not \$23,000 as reported in the bulletin – some pledges were withdrawn). The rate of payment of pledges is below where we'd like it to be. As Fr. Joe mentioned in his homily, CLT has enabled us to proceed with all the work necessary on the church, but it may be some time before we're able to start on the second project of upgrading the school entrances.
- Along with Fr. Joe's talk on parish finances and stewardship, a special insert on tithing was included in the bulletin this past Sunday; we are hoping many people will consider taking the tithing challenge for one month.
- Our follow-up meeting on parish fundraisers will be held on Tuesday, March 18 after the 6:30 P.M. Mass; we're looking at several different ideas, and at that meeting hope to recruit chairpersons and workers for some of them. All parishioners (especially parish council members) are welcome.

- The vicariate school subsidy program for this coming fiscal year, I.C.'s projected contribution is \$27,000; in return, we'll receive about \$37,900 for our school.
- A metal recycling bin will once again be in our parking lot from March 17-28.
- A new door is being installed at the parish office, due to the severe winter weather. (Frozen ground caused the concrete to rise up at the doorstep, severely damaging the old door.)
- The winter also took its toll on some of the rectory plumbing; an upstairs bathroom has to be remodeled as a result (though Long-Term Planning Committee members and other volunteers are doing the work, so we'll only be paying for the cost of the materials – and some of these might be donated).
- As always, some of our school students (grades 5-8) took part in the annual Blue Water Academic Olympics, and once again did very well. Our young people were particularly impressive in forensics, taking 11 out of 16 possible first-place ribbons.
- The school's open house and pancake breakfast on Sunday February 23 was well-attended and seemed very successful.
- Congratulations to the school's PTC for a fun and successful Winter Wine Down event this past Saturday.
- We will be hosting a diaconate formation retreat in our parish hall this coming Saturday; as you know, one of our parishioners, Rick Rhein, is studying to be ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese.
- The first segment of the ChristLife program, "Discovering Christ," finished up this past Thursday, and there have been many favorable remarks; we're expecting most of the 170 or so participants to take part in the next segment, "Following Christ," which begins this coming Thursday.

FINANCE COUNCIL: - Minutes from February and March provided.

Additional comments:

- Sunday collections have been fluctuating – possibly due to the weather.
- There is an upcoming fundraiser meeting scheduled for March 18th.
- E-giving articles will continue to appear in *The Spotlight*.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Worship Commission – Minutes from February meeting provided - Fr. Joe and Mary Kot reported.

Additional comments:

- Lent begins tomorrow with Ash Wednesday.
- The Worship Commission decided we will have a Lenten and Easter theme this year: "Preparing for a New Pentecost" (deliberately linking it to Archbishop Vigneron's request that Catholics in the Archdiocese observe a year of prayer for a New Pentecost). The lector will include this theme in the introduction at all the weekend Masses.
- The Rite of Election will be held at the 10 A.M. Mass this Sunday.
- All lectors and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist have been invited to a special review session, to be held after the 6:30 P.M. Mass on Tuesday, March 11.
- Next week, Fr. Joe will be interviewing the 60 or so young people preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation (which will be administered here by Bishop Cepeda on Wednesday April 30).
- The Worship Commission has been discussing the possibility of replacing the candles of the current votive light stand with electronic candles, so as to prevent smoke stains on the newly-repainted walls of the church. However, the cost of doing so is higher than we first expected, so we are looking at different alternatives.
- Worship Commission is looking into providing additional handicap/wheelchair space in church. Several options are being reviewed.

Christian Service Commission – Minutes from February meeting provided – no representative.

Education Commission – Minutes not provided – Nicole Tomaszynski reported.

Additional comments:

- The Education Commission is in need of new members and is currently accepting recommendations.
- A Christian parenting class had its first session. Parents who had a baby baptized here at Immaculate Conception in the last 5 years were invited.

Long Term Planning (LTP) – No February meeting minutes – Pamela Mertes reported.

Additional comments:

- A church exterior painting proposal was reviewed. It was recommended that the steeple be included and council was in agreement.
- Several projects are waiting for spring weather. These include: outside church doors; handicap parking; repainting parking lines in the church lot; painting of church exterior gutters/down spouts, exposed wood, railings, etc.
- We are going ahead with campus security improvements and adding additional cameras. Partial funding for this project is being graciously donated by PTC and the school athletic budget.
- Necessary rectory improvements will be handled by some members of the Long Term Planning Committee. They are working on getting some of the materials donated, as stated in the Pastors Report above.
- Monitoring of the gym walls continues. We are considering the installation of ceiling fans.

VICARIATE PASTORAL COUNCIL (VPC) – Minutes of February meeting provided – Kathleen Grimm reported.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Changing Lives Together – No report submitted.

Evangelization – No report submitted.

Additional comments:

- The ChristLife program successfully concluded the first segment, “Discovering Christ”. See attached evaluation comments.

Festival Committee – No report submitted.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Fr. Joe handed out Expenses Related to I.C. Church repairs sheet, see attached.
- Council discussed a proposal to refinish the wooden floor in the church. The pews will not be removed during this process as they are old and may not hold up to removal.
- A question arose about whether or not the integrity of the steeple will be checked during the painting process; it will.
- A council member inquired as to whether the LTPC looked at the cost effectiveness of vinyl siding for the exterior wood of the church. The LTP representative will bring that question back to the committee.
- Fr. Joe presented a list of projects that have been completed since July of 2012 (list is attached). In addition to things not mentioned, such as new hymnals for church and the addition of a small food pantry, the list is quite impressive

- Fr. Joe reported that our current paper recycling company will suspend their rebates as of March 1st. He asked if we would like to continue to have the paper collection boxes on the property as a community service, or have them removed as they no longer provide income. Council agreed that for the time being, the boxes will remain to encourage community recycling.

OLD BUSINESS: - None

OPEN FORUM:

- It was mentioned that the Lenten Fish Dinners were in great need of help.
- A question was raised about the *ChristLife* series and would the second session follow the same format as the first session. It was thought that it will follow that same format.
- Deacon Ken reiterated his thanks for his Christmas gift. He had sent a thank you but was not sure if everyone had seen it, so he wanted to mention his gratitude in person.

Meeting closed with a prayer at 8:40 P.M.

Next Meeting: April 1, 2014 following the 6:30 pm Mass.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted: Amy O’Gara, Recording Secretary

Expenses Related to I/C Church Repairs

Detroit Spectrum Painting interior/statues	\$33,210.00
Russell Plastering Company	\$8,940.00
Royal Oak & Birmingham Awnings:	\$1,630.00
Thompson-Phelan – Roof-Rough Carpentry:	\$9,290.00
Thompson-Phelan Consulting Work:	\$2,677.54
Reasonable Roofing – Roof:	\$33,407.00
New Church Roof Permit:	<u>\$75.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$89,229.54

To Come:

Interior Floors – Detroit Spectrum:	\$5,900.00 est.
Exterior Church & Steeple:	\$15,800.00 est.
Doors – Man Door and Hurrican door	<u>\$4,775.00 est.</u>
TOTAL:	\$26,475.00 est.

Insurance Claims (Payments):

Loss one:	\$5,842.01
Loss two:	<u>\$7,004.85</u>
TOTAL:	\$12,846.86

(Rev. 03-04-2014 G.Eichorn)

Projects done from 7-12 thru 3-14

1. Removed old garage and built new one.
2. Installed a sidewalk around the garage
3. Built a dumpster enclosure.
4. Resolved moisture problem in church and repaired interior.
5. Church painting (interior) & statues
6. Upgraded the interior lights in the main body in church, doubling the brightness.
7. Rebuilt the two flat roofs into hip roofs and added ventilation, new church roof and new gutters
8. Remove dead trees & stumps
9. Replaced awnings (handi-cap ramp) and add two new ones(sacristy door& office door)
10. Installed an asphalt walk from Parish Office to the School
11. Removed hedges (opened up area) at grotto.
12. Put in a foot path by hall and grotto to parking lot.
13. Repaired two catch basins at school
14. Installed a drain along the exterior wall of the Gym/Activity Center.
15. Installed alarm system in the Church, Parish Hall and Parish Office.
16. Installed camera system (church, office, hall)
17. Installing camera system in the school(in progress)
18. Installing keyless entry for church & hall (started)
19. Re-plumbing waste line in rectory basement
20. Purchased a snow blower
21. Renovating father's bathroom(in progress)

DISCOVERING CHRIST EVALUATION COMMENTS

Each participant was asked to complete an evaluation form. The program received very high rating on presentations, hospitality, music/prayer, handouts and small group sharing. The following are excerpts from some of the evaluation.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE COURSE?

Meeting new people in the parish

Meeting new people and listening to them share their faith.

Having the chance to become a member of a larger group and family

The love and commitment from all of us to grow in Christ

The meeting and fellowship of our group and the reinforcing the way to become closer to our Lord and the Spirit

The chance to meet and enter into discussions with wonderful people, most of whom I did not know before

Community and the meeting of new friends...watching and being part of other people's growth in Christ

The community...I have seen most of these people in church every week and did not know them, Now I Do!

The spiritual recharge – Lump

"Nothing you could ever do could ever make me love you less." How blessed am I!

HOW COULD DISCOVERING CHRIST BE IMPROVED?

Rotate groups after each seven week session for different perspectives

Nothing!

Speakers on the DVD could be more dynamic and powerful

Spirituality of table leaders and their knowledge of the Church kind of low. The Mass for retreat day should have been mandatory.

Retreat speaker – not DVD

Would like to spend a few minutes before the next session recapping the most important points to refresh everyone's mind making sure they didn't forget anything and internalize the most important points.

Maybe tables could be set-up with a little more discernment

Rotate people weekly from table to table so they can get to meet more people

More witness

Perhaps an open discussion "question of the week question" that all would be invited to share after small group.

More real life videos like "LUMP"

Less tables with more people grouped together

Disappointed that we won't be sharing a meal next time. I think it helps with the group building

DID ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT HAPPEN TO YOU DURING DISCOVERING CHRIST RETREAT?

Retreat day was awesome! I felt such peace.

Friendships were formed

I felt a peace in my heart. It lasted a few days. Two special things happened to me following the event.

Powerful message

The prayers were powerful

An overall feeling of becoming much more connected to my fellow parishioners and my own faith

The retreat was an eye-opening, great experience...it was an important part to this course and my spiritual growth

I feel stronger and more open and confident.

Felt closer to the Holy Spirit

During the retreat while being prayed over...I felt a tingle spread all over my body and an experience of warmth of love like I have never felt before. I thank God for that experience.

It was just overwhelming. Such a great parish. I'm from St. Mary's Q of C.

A lot of AH HA MOMENTS!

I realized that I need to make more of an effort to have a commitment with God

I came to know that I am doing exactly what God wants me to do. I wasn't sure what I was supposed to be doing and now I know I am a caregiver to my 93 year-old mother.

My wife and I were in the middle of a spiritual transition – leaving another church. We had preconceived notions about Catholicism. Our experience was delightful – thank you. We will be back!

Just getting back to the basics in relationship with Christ was refreshing

I'm on a high!

True sense of peace!

I liked being prayed over – it was a first!

Opened up my heart and mind more.

I had not been to confession since my son's reconciliation. It was great having the opportunity to go back. The process was simple.

I truly enjoyed the feeling of joy and love I felt at the retreat.

I felt so much forgiveness and renewed strength in my faith.

A new awareness of the Holy Spirit

I felt lighter and happier!

Realization that we can't do this ourselves!

The talk that our parishioner, Randy Proctor, gave was very powerful

My life would be empty without my faith and community

Everything was significant in furthering my conversion to Christ and understanding Christ.

I went to confession and I had the best priest from Marine City (warm, compassionate and helpful). I grew deeper in my faith and learned more about the faith.