

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2007**

Fr. David opened the meeting with a prayer at 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Father David, Chris Ameel, Anthony Jubinski, Pieter Winne, Eileen Gretkierewicz, Jim Ruemenapp, Lisa DiMaggio, JoAnn Augustine, Patty Klecha, Theresa Austin, Deacon Ken Nowicki, Debie Hauer, Pat McGrath, Sean Stawiasz and Liz Koerber.

NOT PRESENT: Karen Monsur. Elaine Abraham

MINUTES OF March 13, 2007 Accepted. (After revision to the Christian Service next meeting date to be changed from Tuesday April 17th to Wednesday, May 16th.)

COMMISSION REPORTS

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

- No report. Next meeting is May 16th.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

- No report.

SCHOOL ADVISORY/PTC

Old Business

- Minutes – April meeting minutes were approved.

Continuing School Improvements

- **Marketing**
 - **Postcards** - Approximately 3000 postcards advertising Immaculate Conception school were mailed out to the following zip code areas 48047, 48023, and 49801. These postcards will target homes with parent's ages 29-49 that have children ages 3-10 years of age.
 - **New Ideas** - The committee tabled ideas for advertising the school at our parish festival. Water bottles and neck coolers with the I.C. logo were two suggestions. These suggestions were presented to Jane Petitpren for further discussion with the festival chairpersons.
- **Open Teaching Position**
 - Mrs. Blaz our fifth grade teacher will retire at the end of this school year. Her position has been posted on the website. Resumes have been received and reviewed. Mrs. Steele is currently selecting applicants for interviews.

SCHOOL ADVISORY/PTC - CONT.

- **Child Care/Latchkey**
 - Mrs. Steele is currently talking with potential latchkey care providers. Plans are in place to hold latchkey in the multi-purpose room during after school hours. The registration fee will be \$25. The childcare fee has not yet been determined.
- **S.A.C. Position**
 - The School Advisory Committee is still in need of one more members for the 2007-2008 school year. The open position is for a parish member who does not currently have a child enrolled in the school.
- **P.T.C. Officers**
 - The current P.T.C. officers will remain in their current positions for the 2007-2008 school year.
- **Tuition Booklets**
 - The committee agreed that it would be helpful to give each family a payment booklet to help keep track for paying tuition in a timely manner.
- **P.T.C. Report**
 - Plans are in place to complete the computer program. This includes purchasing a smart board and further software. The P.T.C. also plans on adding new microscopes for the science lab.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

- Faith formation classes have concluded for the junior high on April 30th and K through 6 on May 7th.
- There were beautiful celebrations of Confirmation (52 students) on May 2nd and First Communions (72 students) on May 5th. Four older students will make their First Communion Sunday, May 13th at the 10:00 am Mass.
- Eight graders have been invited to high school youth ministry gatherings beginning April 29th. Plans are for an end of the year trip to West Virginia at the end of June.
- Meeting for the newly initiated at the Vigil have come to an end. The end of year dinner will be on May 21st.
- We are already compiling a list of people interested in the RCIA for 2007-2008. Jane plans to have monthly meetings in the summer with the people to bring them together and keep in touch with them until regular meetings begin in September.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2007

Patty Klecha stated that a few appointments of Stewardship Subcommittee's have taken place and others are in the works.

Regarding CSA, Patty indicated that \$4,300 has been pledged to date. The mailing was sent on Thursday and pledges are due thru May and are payable over a year period.

There was a review of the pledge process and Patty indicated that any funds not donated would be deducted from the budget. She indicated that Father David would

STEWARDSHIP - CONT.

reaffirm the need for contribution to this program at mass and that there would be a follow-up, sometime in June, of those not returning pledge cards back.

Patty Klecha stated that since her arrival here, two months ago, things were progressing well. Staff and parishioners appear to be positive in their feedback and accepting of her position within the church. She also indicated that clean up of the offices went well and that additional cleaning would be had in the church on Mondays and Fridays to make it presentable for masses. Other matters would be addressed as the need arises.

Patty addressed the envelope process at IC. She indicated that envelopes prepared for 2008 would be mailed to parishioners quarterly instead of pickup as previously had. This would, hopefully, avoid envelopes never being picked up and wrong numbers being given to parishioners. She indicated the cost factor would be the same or minimal and deletions/changes on the parishioner role would be made based on the returns.

Building improvement and pledges for Phase I envelopes were discussed, in addition to how these funds were reported in the Sunday bulletin. After much discussion on this matter it was decided that this would be a task for the future Communication Subcommittee and would be reviewed after their recommendations.

Further discussion followed regarding the Phase I debt funded through "line of credit" loan from the Archdiocese at 5% and payment being made on the loan. The Business Manager was of the opinion that funds received (in particularly CSA funds returned to IC of \$15,000) over the interest amount would be paid toward the principal. As funds borrowed on the loan were at 5% and that was greater than what the bank now pays on savings (4%), Patty felt it was appropriate to pay on the principal. As the loan was based on a payment required only on interest, the principal would not require repayment at this time.

Norm Augustine inquired about using the balance of the loan amount to complete Phase I items. And discussion was had about Phase II use on the Phase I loan and also what the Phase II cost factors would be. It was apparent to all the members that the cost goes up daily with a declining economy. Norm pointed out that this was also a factor in Phase I planning. The original loan was for \$400,000 and approx. \$324,000 has been used. Norm requested Patty inquire about the use of the remaining difference, approx. \$75,000 to complete Phase I items not done, i.e. landscaping, parking lot improvements, etc. A review was offered by Norm and Chris on the previous plans to expand into Phase III. These included the school facilities, road connections of facilities, new fields for the school, storage buildings, etc.

The proposed 2007/2008 budget was presented to the committee for approval. Patty indicated that there have been some changes and overall there was a \$6,992 deficit reflected in the budget. She reviewed the changes in how the budget is now being prepared according to updated Archdiocese guidelines. The amount collected in the offertory reflects lower than previously indicated on the last budget, and this is due to the way the previous calculations were done. Additionally, some areas were based of actual amounts provided by fundraising groups (Festival) and others were based on this year's

STEWARDSHIP - CONT.

gross income. Additionally, the parish would address the need for parents receiving a parishioner tuition discount participate more fully in offertory contributions. Most of the proposed budget amounts are assumptions that will be addressed regularly in reviews by the new budget subcommittee. The Business Manager requested either the committee's approval or a period of time for the Stewardship committee to review the figures. She indicated that two members of Stewardship have been assigned to the budget subcommittee and worked on this budget with she and Father.

It was motioned by Daisy Colone that the budget be approved and seconded by Pat McGrath and the Committee approved as submitted the proposed budget that will be given to Parish Council.

Theresa Austin presented on behalf of the Vicariate Council. Before her presentation she indicated that the hand bells were in need of refurbishing, which is done every five years. Her brother, Pat Austin, music director, requested she submit to the committee a request of \$1,000 to cover this cost. Matter taken under advisement by the committee.

Theresa indicated that she and Debie Hauer attended the last Vicariate meeting as representatives from IC. They have signed up to be on the Vicariate Stewardship Committee. Their top priorities for presentation as members of this committee are: together in faith, youth and young adults, and multi-cultural and social justice. Meeting presentations will be sometime in early fall and will be made to parishes within the vicariate.

The heating for the office building was discussed. Options presented were: Gas space heaters that use natural gas (which is presently within the building). These would require an easy installation and could be recycled to other areas when not needed in the office. Craig indicated that he would forward info via email.

Another alternative provided by Chris Ameal, would be electric PTC units, costing approx. \$400 to 700 per unit. Matter should be referred to the maintenance committee to investigate insurance issues in respect to either of these installations.

Meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m. with prayers by Father David.

VICARIATE REPORT

DRE report

Ida Johns from the AOD talked to the DRE's about a program called Ministry to Youth in Detention. They are looking at a 5-week training program to offer for people interested in this ministry.

The DRE's are looking at revamping Catechetical Faith Formation days at their next meeting.

Youth Ministry

There was a "NET" retreat at St. Mary's in St. Clair for the youth in the Blue Water Vicariate. They had 85 youth in attendance. NET stands for National Evangelical Team. It is youth ministering to youth. A van full of teens came and ran the retreat. Our area

VICARIATE REPORT – Cont.

teens loved it! The Blue Water Vicariate Youth Ministers intend to have a vicariate wide retreat twice a year now, one in the spring and again in the fall.

Next year is World Youth Day in Australia. Our Vicariate Youth Ministers are talking about taking our teens to Sydney Ohio where they will join many other teens for a “World Youth Day at Home”.

Cardinal Mooney

7th graders visited in April from area grade schools and picked classes to attend. Next years tuition was approved at \$5,900.00. Graduation is May 20th. Everyone is welcome to attend. Mass is at 2pm followed by the baccalaureate.

Clusters

All Saints, St. Philip Neri and Holy Rosary. Their new parish will be called Holy Family. They are still merging committees. Commissions have been put together. Combined Stewardship met April 17 for first time.

The Port Huron Cluster voted for their name. Holy Trinity won by a huge margin. They have not yet received approval.

Our Lady on the River Parish - St. Catherine, Holy Cross and St. Marks combined voting on a new bulletin with a fundraiser for their youth by voting with your dollar. Their Seminarian, David Beechill, graduates this June.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Emmet, Sacred Heart in Yale and Sacred Heart in Brown City will be clustered in July. Fr Paul Ward will be their Associate Pastor beginning in July.

Christian Service

Christian Service needs a rep to VPC. It was suggested one of the paid Christian Service Staff people be the rep.

Old Business

The following budget was allowed by the priest who attended the March Vicariate Priest meeting:

Young Adult/ Youth -\$10,000.00
Part Time Secretary - \$5,000.00
Stewardship - \$1,000.00
Web Site - \$500.00
Printing and Post office supplies - \$500.00
Multi-cultural - \$500.00
Cat. Formation & Leadership conference - \$500.00
Total - \$18,000.00
Currently there is \$3000.00 in the account

New Business

A suggestion was made to discuss the possibility of an agenda and minutes being emailed 2 weeks before meeting. Also posted on the web site.

Next meeting is May 9th. We will have election of officers at that time.

EVANGELIZATION

No further information to report to date.

OLD BUSINESS

- The overhead and screen for the Parish Hall is still in the discussion stage.

NEW BUSINESS

- New members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be selected on May 26th. Father David will check with the three parishioners from 2006 who were not selected to see if they might still have an interest. We need to encouraged those we think would be good candidates for council to submit their names if they are interested..

PASTOR'S COMMENTS

- Father David's "State of the Parish Address" this year will be in the form of a written statement published in the spotlight and also on our web site.
- Father David will have a small faith gathering on May 31st. Lisa DiMaggio has volunteered to host the gathering at her house.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2007, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Koerber