

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 13, 2008**

The meeting opened at 8:30 p.m. with a prayer.

The minutes from April 8, 2008 were read by the members and approved by Pat McGrath and Jane Petitpren.

The following members were present: Jane Petitpren, Fr. David Burgard, Pam Mertes, Sean Stawiasz, Pat McGrath, Eileen Gretkierewicz, Stanley Sommers, Benedict B. Ehinack, Amy O'Gara, Debie Hauer, Elaine Abraham, Deacon Kenneth Nowicki, Theresa Austin, Cathy Furtah, Anthony Jubinski, Robbin Bates, and Lisa DiMaggio.

The following members were not present: Liz Koerber, Chris Ameel, and JoAnn Augustine.

***SCHOOL ADVISORY REPORT GIVEN BY SEAN STAWIASZ:***

See Attached Copy.

***CHRISTIAN SERVICE REPORT GIVEN BY PAT MCGRATH:***

Pat McGrath reported there was no meeting. The anniversary mass and luncheon were successful.

***CHRISTIAN WORSHIP REPORT GIVEN BY FATHER DAVID:***

Father David reported there was no meeting. The choirs are finishing up for the season, and in a couple of weeks the Children's Liturgy will be held only at the 10:00 mass.

***CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORT GIVEN BY JANE PETITPREN:***

We had eighty-two first communicants and forty-two confirmed this year. All programs are coming to an end for the school year. Vacation Bible School will be called Planting Gardens of Virtues and will be held June 23 – June 27, 2008. A Protecting God's Children seminar for all adults and a "Called to Serve" seminar for high school teens will be held Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> in the parish hall from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Contacts have been made to be approved to teach Bible Study once a week for one hour at Lighthouse Elementary this fall. It is possible that this may extend to the high school.

***STEWARDSHIP REPORT GIVEN BY ANTHONY JUBINSKI FROM MEETING ON:***

See attached copy.

***EVANGELIZATION REPORT GIVEN BY DEACON KENNETH NOWICKI:***

Presently, we are in our seventh week of formation sessions that have followed our parish mission. Sixty people originally registered, but now we are down to approximately twenty-five people that are attending. There are two more sessions left. Possibly a committee could be formed from these sessions. The AOD would meet with us at no cost to help get the committee started.

***VICARIATE REPORT GIVEN BY AMY O'GARA FROM MEETING MAY 7, 2008:***

Before our regular meeting we had a presentation for visitors from the various parishes including Bishop •Daniel Florez who is now assigned to our vicariate, on the topic of: Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry -

Santiago Fernandez, a representative from the AOD Department of Parish Life & Services facilitated the

presentation. Some of the highlights:

Calls all of the baptized to act together as the One Body of Christ. •

Promotes collaboration among the different cultures and ministries in all dimensions of Christian life. The bishops see Hispanic ministry as an integral part of the life and mission of the Church. •

Talked about the change in the Pastoral Vision at the National Level. •

Talked about Integration vs. Assimilation - Assimilation - where new immigrants are forced to give up their language, culture, values and traditions. Integration - Hispanics are welcomed to our church institutions at all levels.

Reviewed the Hispanic presence in the Archdiocese of Detroit. - Data indicate that every parish/vicariate within the Archdiocese of Detroit includes people of Hispanic origin within its boundaries.

Reviewed the Action Steps: 1) Make support services known and available to pastors and • parishes, 2) Strengthen structures and develop a common vision for Hispanic ministry, 3) Prioritize Hispanic ministry as an integral part of Vicariate Pastoral Planning.

Talked about the Challenges faced in the Hispanic Ministry. •

Regular meeting held after presentation:

Highlights •

Cardinal Mooney High School ground breaking in late August. •

20 youth from our vicariate received the Timothy Award for youth leaders. •

Discussed new officers for Blue Water Vicariate •

Archdiocese is celebrating its 175th Anniversary on May 18th. •

New Vicar to be named. •

Next meeting June 11, 2008. •

### ***ENRICHMENT:***

Deacon Kenneth Nowicki distributed copies of homilies; one from the mass at Yankee Stadium, Bronx, New York, and the other from the mass for the Clergy and Religious, St. Patrick's Cathedral. He also distributed a list of websites for Catholic material, news, and information.

### ***OLD BUSINESS:***

Amy O'Gara did not post the parish mission sound to our website because the bandwidth is not large enough; this avoided a charge to us. A new host will be used soon, and then we will be able to post the sound.

Wish list: Father David reported that there is an interest in replacement of our church carpeting. Also, Greg Knoche has offered to donate his time to install a panic bar on the door in the front of the church. We would pay for the materials.

Debie Hauer asked if we can add a boiler for the parish office to our wish list. There has been discussion from the Building Committee for other options for heating the parish office. Deacon Ken is going to contact Chris Ameel via email to let him know that he is going to contact the AOD regarding acquiring a boiler, perhaps a used one from a potential school closing.

### ***NEW BUSINESS:***

Selection of Parish Council positions will be held at our next meeting.

### ***OPEN FORUM:***

Sean Stawiasz asked why we think there has been a huge growth in population with parishioners.

Debie Hauer answered because she handles new parishioner registrations. She said that Father David is well liked and that we have a great Faith Formation program.

It is possible that a new Planning Committee will be formed; Jane Petitpren is interested in being involved.

Deacon Ken gave an invitation for the informational meeting for men. He said it will be a great way for men to relate to one another regarding their faith, prayer, etc. It will be held Saturday, May 31, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Cost is \$5.00. Immaculate Conception is hosting this Vicariate-wide meeting.

Elaine Abraham asked for permission to display brochures in the church and parish office regarding the Capuchin Retreat House in Washington Township. Father David granted her permission.

Stan Sommers asked if the Eucharistic Minister schedule could be more accurate in the Spotlight weekly bulletin because there have been mistakes made. He was advised to rely on the master Eucharistic Minister schedule because the Spotlight is not going to always be accurate.

### ***PASTOR'S REPORT:***

Father David distributed a sheet from the AOD on Priest Statistics – May 2008.

Also, Father David reported that we got a correspondence from the Ira Township Beautification Committee asking if we would be interested in having them place flowers in planters in front of our

church along Dixie Highway. Four planters cost \$55.00. Volunteers from their committee would place them on May 28, 2008. Parish Council members would like to have this done.

A State of the Parish address will be made at all the masses this coming weekend, May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a selection at masses for new Parish Council members.

Father David informed the Parish Council that Patty Klecha no longer holds position as business manager of our parish. Michelle Meldrum is filling in as the parish bookkeeper on a temporary basis.

The meeting closed at 10:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa DiMaggio.