

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 6, 2007**

The meeting opened at 8:40 p.m.

The minutes from October 10, 2007 were read by the members and approved by Pat McGrath and Chris Ameel.

The following members and guests were present: Liz Koerber, Amy O'Gara, Lisa DiMaggio, Eileen Gretkierewicz, Jane Petitpren, Patty Klecha, Chris Ameel, Fr. David Burgard, Pam Mertes, Tony McPherson, Sean Stawiasz, Pat McGrath, Deacon Ken Nowicki, Elaine Abraham, Debbie Hauer, Stanley Sommers, Jim Charbonneau, Connie Denys, Katie Cyr, Carole Gafa, Colleen Wooten.

SCHOOL ADVISORY REPORT GIVEN BY SEAN STAWIASZ FROM MEETING ON 11/06/07:

A: The M-29 stoplight update.

The initial traffic study was completed on 13 Sept 2007 by Gary from the MDOT at St. Clair County. The traffic count was as follows: 212 vehicles at 4:00pm 176 vehicles at 8:00am and 122 vehicles at 12:00pm. The study was bi-directional, no tri-directional. The preliminary traffic study, along with incident reports for the last five years are being forwarded to Lansing for final determination. I requested a supplement be added that stipulates the extensive car traffic for student drop off and pick up during the week, and the increased traffic for Sunday masses. I further requested that we are requesting an upgrade in hardware at the corner from flashing amber to a traffic signal with programmable timer.

B: SAC feedback regarding the evangelization presentation.

The members of the SAC were hesitant with making comments regarding the feedback of the speech we witnessed. The first member to finally speak said only one word "interesting". There seems to be a negative connotation to evangelization, and a workshop on marketing/evangelization be used to help the SAC overcome common apprehension to go forward and spread the word.

New Business:

A: Blue Water Athletics

Greatly received once again, with considerable success with our current teams. Some of the biggest problems we are facing are with new personnel (coaches) understanding scheduling and conflicts of schedules between various activities.

Horn of Plenty is planned for Saturday 20 November 2007. Great participation, and anticipation by athletic and non-athletic families alike.

B: Standardized Testing

1) IOWA Testing - the IOWA test results are in as of today, and at first glance puts our students in the top third to top quarter nationwide.

The teachers, and principal will be sitting down together to track, and evaluate on a class-by-class basis the progress students as a whole are making. Deficient areas will be addressed, and non-problematic areas will be reviewed to encourage greater growth as well.

2) High School Placement testing will occur 17 November 2007.

C: PTC Report

1) The Sally Foster Fundraiser has just completed. This fundraiser goes toward offsetting book fees for school families. The PTC probably need to better promote this notion of Sally Foster because the newer families to the school don't understand how it works toward paying down book fees, especially those who pay their tuition up-front at the beginning of the school year.

2) Ladies Night will be Thursday, 8 November 2007 and will also be the kick off for the poinsettia sale.

3) Santa's workshop will also be held again in the multi purpose room, and will be Monday, 10 December 2007.

4) PTC has continued with their "Playground Committee", headed by Jeannette Gilewski. They brought in an "expert" in modern playgrounds who is fully versed in rules and regulation for playgrounds in this setting on 9 October 2007. Every option from just spreading new dirt to complete overhaul of equipment is being explored, and somehow priced. PTC has already set aside from last year's monies \$5,000.00 toward getting a new playground that is both safe and fun for our children.

5) The thanksgiving feast is going to be 16 November 2007

6) The turkey Trot is going to be 19 November 2007

D: Wind Power Study

1) There is still an active interest in using wind power to help offset some of our operating costs at the school. There are two unnamed SAC members that are currently working on the project, and the SAC chairman has actively asked them to have the study completed by our next SAC meeting in December including cost, and grant possibilities for presentation to the parish council in order to see if this project is feasible.

E: SAC Vacancy - we need a member from the parish who does not currently have a student in the school. Each of the current SAC members have taken a SAC questionnaire in order to have one ready in the event we find someone interested, or we feel might become interested in helping. Also, Mrs. Steele will include the need in here column in the weekly church bulletin.

F: We will engage in a joint prayer session with SAC, Stewardship, and Parish Council at the conclusion of our meeting, and immediately prior to the beginning of the Parish council meeting.

G: Latch-Key is up and running, and we are having some growing pains with the new program, and we will have this on our agenda for our December meeting.

H: We will also be reviewing the school uniform policy in our December meeting

I: Lunch Program - Healthiness will be reviewed of our current menu, and see where we may be able to improve quality, and everything else.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE: NO MEETING / NO REPORT

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP: NO MEETING / NO REPORT

CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORT GIVEN BY JANE PETITPREN:

There are 335 children K – 8 signed up for Faith Formation, 75 candidates for First Communion, 6 candidates for the older sacramentals, and 46 confirmation candidates.

Last weekend Presentation of the Candidates for Confirmation was held at the noon mass.

An adult tea party is planned for November 13, 2007 in the Parish Hall.

The Confirmation candidates will go shopping for coats and take to the Capuchins on December 8, 2007.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT GIVEN BY TONY MCPHERSON FROM MEETING ON 11/06/07:

Some of our commission members had attended the Leadership Conference in October and brought back the idea that we need to pray for our priests and there is a movement here at I.C. to ask 100 people to pray for Fr. David during this coming year.

Selection of officers for this commission for this season took place. There was some discussion about perhaps a rotating chairmanship but it was decided not to go that route. Positions were filled as follows:

Chairman: Anthony McPherson, beginning in December 2007.

Vice Chairman: Norm Augustine. He was not present at the meeting but it was felt he would again be willing to accept the position.

Secretary: Mary Kot

Craig mentioned that the chairperson is usually **NOT** the representative from this commission for the Parish Council; next meeting we should appoint someone, perhaps he could be the representative for us.

Building & Facilities: Chris reported that the humidifier has been delivered for the gym, is set up and running. It needs to be permanently installed.

Betsy talked about Personnel. In answer to our ad to fill Kathy DeBusschere's position, we had already received 2 resumes and 5 others had called. We would like to have someone in the office Monday evenings during Faith Formation, and on weekends during mass-time, also that we set some evening and weekend hours all year round so people know the office is open. Discussion about all this followed, Betsy said they have had only two meetings and have come a long way already, the position is to be filled by November 30th; someone asked about a party for Kathy!?

Patty reported the CSA is still about \$20,000 short. The second letter that went out to about 115 households brought back responses from about 45. A little extra money came in, but the shortfall will come out of our general fund.

Tastefest made approximately \$19,000 profit but sales tax had not yet been paid out of that amount which could be about \$350. Discussion ensued about how to handle the sales tax, on actual value of article or the donating price. Gross receipts were \$39,790, which included admission, sponsorship, and auction; 983 raffle tickets were sold.

It seems necessary to make the transition from using terms “festival” and “fundraisers”; fundraisers should come under one category – festival is one of the fundraisers. We have service credit policy for festival; service hours worked must be recorded. There are 3 things the fundraisers are to accomplish; (1) Fun, be (2) Family Friendly, and (3) Community Building. We must have the same people sit on all fund raisers, such as entertainment, refreshments, or whatever so we have consistency. PTC is the one exception; they are allowed to do their thing. Craig suggests that Stewardship has certain constraints and we should make the people aware of what fund raisers, PTC, and community building are all about. Each fundraiser should have documentation of what they did, what did they do right and wrong.

We are short \$25,000 in offertory collections in addition to the CSA shortfall of \$20,000, making it \$45,000 total. It is our responsibility to address this problem. Craig assisted in the last financial analysis and gave an explanation of how the budget is planned, where and when the money comes in, impact of school being closed in the summer, preparation of quarterly reports, how we accomplished getting the message across when we had our pledge drive. Craig asked Chris to report on stewardship, most Stewardship Commissions focus on the money aspect, but there are other parts of stewardship. Chris likes using charts to see what the trends are. Business Manager does not have the time to prepare an analysis, Chris, Theresa, Craig, Tony Mc, and Patty to assist in the update.

Patty offered thanks to all who gave their support on her behalf this interesting month.

EVANGELIZATION REPORT GIVEN BY DEACON KEN NOWICKI FROM MEETING 10/25/07:

There will be advertisement starting in December and January before the Parish Mission in March as well as for the formation sessions during April and May of 2008.

VICARIATE REPORT GIVEN BY AMY O'GARA FROM MEETING ON 10/10/07:

Fall formation classes will be held at St. Augustine Parish on Saturday, October 20, 2007. This is free to all parishioners of our Vicariate. A Winter Prayer Day of Reflection will be held on January 19, 2008 at Immaculate Conception from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Vicariate Youth Ministers attended a connections Conference sponsored by the CYO. It was held at the Pontiac Marriott Hotel.

Cardinal Mooney is having an open house on Sunday, November 4, 2007.

A Christian Service Vicariate Representative is needed.

Social Justice/Multi-Cultural: Lory reported that they will have to reassign people to the subcommittee on VPC.

Our Lady on the River has a new Associate Pastor.

Holy Family held closing ceremonies for Holy Rosary.

An ad has been ordered to thank our Senior Priests in the Michigan Catholic on October 28th.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Pam Mertes talked about this and handed out folders with information on it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jane Petitpren attended the Women's Conference with other members of the parish. She stated that they had great speakers and it was worth the time and energy. The Men's Conference will be held in April of 2008.

Jim Charbonneau spoke and read a letter he wrote about his concerns about the Tastefest. He stated that that this fundraiser was a success and a disappointment. Ticket sales were up 70% and raffle tickets were down 40%. He stated there was a lack of support from the parish office and he felt he was not treated with respect. He and did not find out the profit amount until tonight and he was upset about that. He also stated that this would be the last Tastefest he will work and that he and his family are going to leave the parish and that other families he has worked with might leave the parish as well. Discussion was held amongst the committee members with the Tastefest volunteers and it was highly suggested by Parish Council that they reconsider their idea about leaving the parish and to stay and work it out.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

OPEN FORUM: NONE

PASTOR'S REPORT: FR. DAVID SPOKE AND/PRAYED BEFORE MEETING TO PARISH COUNCIL, STEWARDSHIP, AND SCHOOL ADVISORY.

The meeting closed at 10:20 p.m.

December 11, 2007, the Parish Council will meet at Father David's house at 6:30 then will proceed for the Parish Council dinner/social gathering.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa DiMaggio.