

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FROM November 10, 2009

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

The following members were present: Pamela Mertes, Diane Vigneron, Cathy Furtah, Stan Sommers, Mary Kot, Susan Share, Jane Petitpren, Janis Cornwell, Sarah Cornwell, Amy O’Gara, Tim Messing

The following members were not present: Randy Proctor, Andrea Taravella, Pat McGrath

Introduction of Sarah Cornwell, Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Given by Sarah Cornwell:

- Attending march for life in Washington D. C. on January 21st-24th, 2010
- Collected money this past Sunday for the March
- Also attending Rainbow 28 on January 30-31st 2009
- Bake sale this Sunday for Rainbow XXV111

School Advisory Report Given By Diane Vigneron:

- Tech committee: More work needs to be done, would like to see it done more quickly
- Gym walls: Leakage; group taking a look at this
- Flu problem: 14-15 students absent each day
- Lockers, looking into purchasing lockers as a way to prevent lice problem like we had last yr.
- Cougar Beat: Heather Morrison & Kelley Lovati, will be coming out soon
- “Go Green” club: soon starting up
- Teachers Attended MANNS conference

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tuition Plans: working on; contacting schools
- Ladies Night: November 12, 2009
- Horn of Plenty: November 21st
- Turkey Trot: Tuesday morning of conferences
- Turkey feast: Friday, November 20th
- Rich Maagian with religious perspective
- PTC meets Tuesdays

Christian Service Report Given By JoAnn Augustine:

Nothing to report

Christian Formation Report Given By Jane Petitpren:

- 24 young people participating on Sunday Mornings
- 1st -6th and 7th-8th full house for participants of catechism
- Many involved with catechism
- Presentation of candidates for communion
- April 22, 2010 with Bishop Plores (SP?) for confirmation
- Angel Bible Study: over fifty people, many people from different parishes participating
- Baptism classes every other month

- Catholic Identity session will be new and taught by couples – in February
- Penny drive is doing well- Collected over \$1,000
- Problems with script for catechism, working it out
- New Bibles and books purchased

Stewardship Given by Mary Kot:

- Teresa submitted report and offertory are under budget by \$12,000
- \$39,000 collected up to now for CSA
- \$2,000 under budget for festival
- High School will be changed to \$300 subsidy per student
- Dianne commented on gym walls
- \$8500 for furnace in school
- Issues on cleaning surfaces before janitors arrive
- \$600 repair of tractor and paid by cemetery funds
- Resetting thermostat at 62 degrees in church
- Cemetery-no report
- Rectory Committee headed by Jean Corbat includes Bob Clancy, Pam Mertes, Ron Vigneron and Jeff Wooten, has been formed.
- Plaques for those contributing to building-donated by Carol Johns-nothing determined on this yet
- Shortage in pledges for CSA
- Create awareness that we have cut expenses as far as possible
- Brainstorm to help people understand participant numbers
- Custodial routes need to be reviewed

Janis Cornwell questioned the routes

Pamela Mertes and Jane Petitpren had questions regarding the furnace problem in school.

Evangelization Given By Deacon Ken:

Nothing to Report

Vicariate Report Given By Amy O’Gara:

- Father Joe is the new Vicar
- Presentation: Red and Company: at St. Mary’s in New Baltimore and Port Huron. Has been a huge success. Can goods and free will donations accepted
- Classes available for stewardship
- Asked as vicariate to pick a church to partner with in case of emergency. Not to cluster but to cooperate with. Need to decide, St. Mary’s in New Baltimore:
- Father commented on this topic- waiting to hear from Archdiocese.
- Jane Petitpren commented on it-doesn’t need to be within the vicariate, but within the Archdiocese.
- Janis Cornwell questioned how Father Tomek could cover for another parish, while still covering here at I.C.
- Need to wait for criteria of decision
- Cardinal Mooney discussed pros and cons of chaplains

- Proposed that new associate at Holy Cross could be Chaplain. Supposed to be assigned by Archdiocese.
- Discussed the cost for a wedding at a church, choir, facility, etc.
- Father commented by saying no fee, suggested fees, but no sure fee.
- \$300 for standard rental parish hall
- Parishes are training funeral vigil teams November 12th at St Augustine
- Ministry and Vigil teams helping with those unemployed. Perhaps meet once a month. Need people to work on committee.
- Jane Petitpren commented on unemployment program – working with vicariate – not just our parish
- Programs for unemployed provide classes on resume, etc., pooling of resources, and seminars

Old Business:

Pamela Mertes discussed Christmas Pot Luck w/Parish Council and commission representatives. Father said the December 1, 2009 after the 6:30 Mass. It was decided the just Parish council members would participate in the pot luck.

Pam Mertes stated that Susan Share had questioned whether or not the 'alcohol awareness signs' that had been agree upon at a previous meeting had been in place at the Tastefest. Pam did not think that they were, and a discussion began about having those signs at any I.C. event that serves alcohol. Jane Petitpren questioned the reasoning behind the signs. Father Tomek stated that it brings awareness and respect. It was mentioned that the signs would be made by I.C. students.

New Business:

Pamela Mertes stated that she had offered the option for commission representatives to leave before the end of the meeting, after giving their report. Some members were in favor of this, and others were not. Pam stated that it does have its drawbacks, and that this would not be practiced except for special circumstances.

Pastor's Report:

- Attendance and representation at Parish Council, representations and other committees, sub-committees. etc.
- Keep the meetings moving, more talk at open forum rather than during reports.
- Parish Rectory- Different problems, taken care of under sub-committees and committees. Jeff Wooten is on the grounds committee.
- A lot of calls for girl and boy scouts, campfire girls, etc.
Need to make a schedule
Jane Petitpren will take care of this, under faith formation.
Including usage of the halls for meetings and ceremonies.
- Better schedule of altar servers.
Teresa Wolack is working to put a shadow with each Mass. Shadows are not to be called for substitutes.
- Talk to parish on behalf of Parish Council to share thoughts and get ideas. Have four Masses, each with a different Parish Council member as a speaker.
- E-Giving in the final stages undertaken by Robert Gafa
- \$12,000 under-will have to make an adjustment to budget. Consider our contributions to community-parish.

- Computers for offices. They are “dinosaurs”, Need 5-7 computers including one for youth ministry.
- \$63,000 - CSA goal \$64,000 already pledged
- Regarding computers, Tim Messing mentioned that the Knights of Columbus is looking at buying computer. Perhaps we could work together to get a better price. We can’t even exchange computers because they are so ancient.
- Sue Share brought up the idea of writing letters to companies asking for the donation of computers.

Open Forum:

- Susan Share: More volunteers for career transition (unemployment) program are needed. She further stated:
- Survey had been passed around
- Sue expressed that her role in this was supposed to educate herself and work on this within our parish.
- Confidentiality is also a factor
- We need experienced people- Teachers, counselors, and doctors that are professionals to work on this program
- Career ministry within I.C. is listed in Ira Twp. not Anchorville

Discussed New Families and Jane mentioned the possibility of putting together a parish welcome DVD to include music, Father, School, Youth group. Father mentioned the possibility of an information booklet. Sue Share mentioned having coffee and doughnuts w/ new families. Jane Petitpren mentioned that it would be a good idea to have names of new families in the bulletin, welcoming them. Pam Mertes presented a booklet from another parish. Discussed the need to have our own book with information about our parish, and the need to have better communication with new families. Committee: Jane Petitpren, Janis Cornwell, Amy O’Gara, Sarah Cornwell as possible Welcoming Committee members.

Janis Cornwell mentioned that on November 21st. at 6:00 a.m. in St. Joan of Arc, there will be a Mass with Archbishop Vigneron. Walk 6 blocks to St. Veronica past two abortion clinics, and then go back to St. Joan for benediction and reception.

H1N1—At church, it depends on the Pastor as to what to do regarding handshaking and drinking of the cup.

The meeting closed at p.m. with a prayer.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Pam Mertes/Andrea Taravella (compiled)