

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2006**

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

PRESENT: Father David, Chris Ameel, Anthony Jubinski, Pieter Winne, Tony McPherson, Theresa Austin, Jim Ruemenapp, Deacon Ken, Lisa DiMaggio, JoAnn Augustine, Melissa Wright, Jane Petitpren, Karen Monsur, and Liz Koerber.

NOT PRESENT: Eileen Gretkierewicz, Elaine Abraham

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2006 ACCEPTED.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Christian Service

- Meeting was held on October 10, 2006.
- Del Haskin Report- 13 Cards were sent in September - 6 cards in October to date.
- Rosary Makers- Kathy Becker welcomes contributions as well as volunteers to make rosaries. One kit will make 10 rosaries. You can do it while you're watching TV. The military is looking for cord rosaries, which don't make noise like the wire ones.
- Blood Drive was held on September 17. The 40-pint goal was met. Approximately three people were not able to donate.
- Funeral Luncheon Report- Five luncheons were held in September - 19 lunches to date for 2006.
- St Vincent De Paul Report – There will be a complete report next month.
- MCREST is coming up this month.
Tuesday, October 24th at St John in New Baltimore.
Thursday October 26th at St. John New Baltimore.
Monday, November 6th at Good Shepard in Chesterfield.
- Harvestfest will be held on October 14, 2006 – Help is needed in Kitchen and elsewhere.
- Stars of Christmas – Sharon Neff and Joyce Bynum will be the coordinators this year. They will need help sorting which is usually the first week in December.
- Purpose of Christian service - wrote a page listing what we are about and what we do. A copy will be on the tables at Coffee/Donut Sunday.
- Coffee doughnut Sunday will be this weekend – October 15th.
- The next coffee/Donut Sunday – November 19, 2006.
- Next meeting will be on November 14, 2006.

Christian Worship

- Worship commission finalized hosting the next parish mission. Fr. Bob Weiss, a Passionate priest, will lead the mission, which will be from Saturday, March 3rd through Wednesday, March 7, 2007.
- The worship commission had a discussion about Midnight Mass. A recommendation was made to change the mass from 12:00 am to 11:00 pm.
- Jane and Fr. David had refresher meetings with the Eucharistic ministers and lectors in late September.

SCHOOL ADVISORY/PTC

Old Business

- 1 Mrs. Steele asked for volunteers for the positions of chairperson, secretary, and email contact parent.
- 2 Melissa Wright will act as secretary.
- 3 Kelley Lovati will be our email contact parent.
- 4 Currently no one interested in chairperson. Father David and Mrs. Steele will appoint a chairperson prior to the November meeting.

Continuing School Improvement

1 Fundraising

Tastefest – all present that attended agreed that it was a wonderful event. Melissa Wright voiced concern over allowing committee parents into the classrooms to encourage the children to sell raffle tickets. Rosanne VerVaecke commented on the volunteer service credit hour requirements. Mrs. Steele stated that prior to the 07/08 school year, service credit requirements should be standardized.

2 Accreditation

Mrs. Steele informed the committee that superintendent Ann Hall has visited I.C. and we are ready to prepare for accreditation.

- I.C. teachers have been given assignments for committees.
- Accreditation workdays are set for Monday January 15, 2007 and Thursday March 8, 2007. These will be half school days for I.C. students.
- Mrs. Steele talked about our strategic plan elements. Elements to include are enrollment, marketing, curriculum, finances, maintenance, personal development, technology, student life, and safety. We will need to review these areas as well as the Together In Faith document.
- In the fall of 2007 a site team will visit I.C. to inspect the school and review our self-study.

3 Wellness Plan

The plan was reviewed. Healthier food choices are now available in our lunchroom. Blue Water athletics show 75% participation in grades 5-8.

New Business

4 Preschool Welcome

This will become a fall event. It is currently planned for November.

5 P.T.C. Report

Sally Foster fundraiser begins October 12, 2006

Ladies Night Out is Friday October 27, 2006.

6 Other

Sean Stawiasz inquired whether I.C. currently had an educational endowment or trust fund in place to help with technology costs. At present there is not a fund. This is however something to consider.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Faith formation sessions for both elementary and junior high sections have begun.
- High school ministry program had their first meeting on October 8th. Conflicts with homecoming led to a low turnout. The next meeting is Sunday, October 22, 2006.
- RCIA has a large group this year. 3 catechumens (un-baptized) and 11 baptized seeking full communions in the Church. They will begin attending the 10:00 am mass on Sunday, December 3, 2006.

STEWARDSHIP

Meeting opened at 6:20 PM.

Town Hall Meetings

Regarding the Town Hall Meetings' suggestions and comments, a list of these was distributed to the group, which got into a lively discussion about how to respond to our parishioners about them; also the items that were placed in the suggestion box. Some were not of general interest, some were ideas about fund raising, others required specific answers, some were a bit challenging. One suggestion was to categorize the items, then delegate a group to handle the specific problem and/or idea. Anthony McPherson, Craig, and Chris agreed to meet on Monday, 10/16/06 at 6:00 PM to begin this process. Another suggestion was to put a blurb in the Spotlight that all of the above suggestions, etc., are available on our website; also paper copies of these are available in the parish office. It was decided to go with the second suggestion and the Monday, October 16th meeting was cancelled. Anthony McPherson will compile all of the above items, give them to Craig and Fr. David for approval, then put them on our website and in the parish office for parishioners to view, peruse, and respond.

Parishioner Appreciation

Carol said she gave the plaques to Michelle who brought them to last month's meeting. She has not heard from anyone regarding our decision to use or not use.

New Survey (Debt Pay-off, Phase II, Land Purchase)

This item is being tabled temporarily because we are in the process of hiring a Business Manager for the parish which is a priority and critical at this particular time and moment. At this point, a new roster sheet was circulated.

Discernment through Consensus

This group has been exposed to this topic and Chris read several paragraphs from a document he had on the Church's feeling about how meetings should be conducted. That document will be e-mailed and/or made available to all members of this commission.

Chris led a discussion about how do we reach out to parishioners who have special needs of transportation to mass, confession, Eucharist, etc. He showed an example of postcard that could be inserted in plastic holders and placed in pews at church for persons to take to fill out the name(s) of someone they know who has a special need, then mail or turn it in to the office or place in collection basket. The cost of printing the postcards and supplying the plastic holders would initially be about \$400. It was brought up that we must have a plan to handle the needs of these people once we receive their names. This whole program should be done through the Evangelization Committee of which Chris is a member. This could be taken to a staff meeting for input. Suggestion that this could be put in the parish Spotlight to see if there is any response before we spend the \$400.

Tastefest Report

Mike reported on this event saying it was **AWESOME!** Everyone who worked wore tuxedos. Vendors who participated have called with praises of how well it was presented, have thanked us for including them and asked they be a part of next year's event. We will have to sell a limited number of tickets for next year. It was a **CLASS ACT WAY TO GO!** A full report of the profits will be available for next month's meeting.

Parish Council Reporting

Craig has not been a member of Parish Council but has attended the meetings to represent this group and give a report. He asked for volunteers to fill this need -- it is only necessary to be there for the first part of the meeting. Anthony Jubinski and Dennis Cyr agreed to fill this need; however, the meeting immediately following this Stewardship meeting will be attended by Anthony Jubinski and Anthony McPherson.

Festival

Chris passed out a report on the festival, which showed a net figure of \$65,000 after all expenses were paid. Discussion about the kitchen condition and repairs, the cost of dinners, etc., etc. A new kitchen is part of Phase II, which is part of our long term planning.

Business Manager

Two sheets were passed out, 4 pages in all. The first 3 pages are what best describes what Michelle did. The fourth page is a template of what someone else provided. Advertising for a Business Manager was done in the Michigan Catholic for two weeks along with ads in our neighboring parishes' papers, nothing was actually done in our own Spotlight. We received about 26 resumes, Fr. David asked two persons to assist him in sorting through the resumes and eliminating the ones that did not seem to fit. The process narrowed the number down to 12; Fr. David notified those chosen for further consideration giving them a dollar range of what we were offering money wise, asking them to respond by Wednesday, 10/11/06, if still interested; letters were also sent to the unchosen 12 or so thanking them for their interest. Of those 12 chosen, 9 had already responded that they were still interested, a few sent words of thanks.

We are looking for someone with custodial skills for maintenance of parish grounds and buildings, to oversee the custodians and relieve Bob DeBuscherre of those duties so he can concentrate on maintenance, experience with how the church operates, someone with people skills who can relate to the staff and parishioners, someone who is connected to the church who knows that it functions differently than a regular business. Out of the 12 only 2 made specific reference to custodial skills, 4 out of the 12 have had experience with other parishes. We are also asking for references, which all 9 have sent. Craig suggested the references get checked right away, then make phone interview. Discussion followed, another suggestion was that each applicant should be interviewed twice, first interview could be a phone interview that should be done by the **SAME** person asking **ALL** of the same questions on speaker phone that is video taped or recorded with another person listening in and they should do the grading. Background checks will be done on all of these people, it is required by AOD. The interested parties are from Marysville, Warren, Washington Twp., China Twp., Roseville, Ray Twp., and Shelby Twp. Fr. David should draft the questions and prefers person-to-person instead of phone interviews. Fr. David asked for 5 persons from this commission to assist him in this interview process, which will be Carol Johns, Anthony McPherson, Chris Ameal, Mike Denys, and Debie Hauer who will also represent the office staff.

Meeting closed at 8:00 PM.

VICARIATE REPORT

- Meeting was held on September 13, 2006.
- Sr. Mary Barbara Philippart, the Social Justice/Multicultural Committee chair has requested the parish councils identify international, national and state issues they would like the committee to investigate. Only ideas presented through this survey will be considered.
- Fr. Joe Horn shared the Merger Plan. This was presented to 150 parishioners at a town hall meeting and received a positive response. The council endorsed the presentation and will give feedback on the 5-year plan at the October meeting.
- Lory McGlennen passed out what the implementation process encompasses and a sample vicariate budget. In October, Lory will bring the focus areas and each VPC member will join a sub-committee.
- Our Vicariate is setting the standard for school support/funding – the plan is being taken as a model to other Vicariates.
- The next meeting is Wednesday, October 11, 2006.

OLD BUSINESS

The November 14 meeting date has been changed to November 7, 2006.

Festival- No final report yet.

Reviewed and updated action items. (Attached)

The Catholic Book Store will be here in the Parish Hall on October 29th.

NEW BUSINESS

Deacon Ken distributed literature on ‘End of Life Issues’ and provided a short discussion on the issues.

The change in Mass times for Christmas was discussed and approved by Parish Council. Jane suggested that we notify parishioners by mail. It will also be communicated in ‘The Spotlight’.

Jane suggested putting out for sale some of the Christmas items ‘left over’ from the festival at November coffee/donut Sunday.

PASTOR’S COMMENTS

Business Manager Position - Father David indicated that there are currently 9 candidates for the Business Manager position. The goal is to evaluate and interview the remaining candidates and make a selection by November 1, 2006.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Koerber
Karen Monsur, Secretary

