

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2007**

The meeting opened at 8:20 p.m. with a prayer.

The following members were present: Liz Koerber, Cathy Furtah, JoAnn Augustine, Amy O’Gara, Lisa DiMaggio, Eileen Gretkierewicz, Jane Petitpren, Patty Klecha, Chris Ameel, Fr. David Burgard, Pam Mertes, Tony McPherson, Sean Stawiasz, Theresa Austin, Pat McGrath, Deacon Ken Nowicki, Elaine Abraham

School Advisory

Report given by Sean Stawiaz from meeting on 9/12/07:

Italian- New teacher Mrs. Taranta. Ms. Stahl is following up on new text. Possible computer program available for English/Italian translation. Mrs. Taranta will be at IC two days a week; Monday & Friday. Kathy will add “free” translation websites to school newsletter.

Over the summer:

Accreditation scheduled for Feb 27, 28 & 29. SAC dinner for visiting school.

Crisis planning grant was awarded to school (\$2,000.) for supplies. Items purchased include: first aid kits, flashlights with batteries, whistles, walkie talkies, food bars, water, band aids defrib pads for children. Kathy to verify if kids’ pads are with all three defibrillators.

New texts for library and English. Plan for 08-09 to replace reading & literature series.

Sr. Mary G presentation on Catholic Culture as spiritual and learning community. Part II- teachers’ role in marketing.

Writing assembly; possible PTC funds to support.

Brochure and Blue Water ads went out this summer. In the future, blanket marketing will be reviewed as option to include all BW schools and highlight academic, athletic etc programs. Mailing brought in 18-19 new families! Ms Lovati volunteered to contact VOICE newspaper to submit frequent articles on IC students & highlight school events, programs etc.

Latchkey- successful start. Approx 20 families enrolled. Eight to ten students first week of school. If enrolment increases, Kathy will review staffing options. Any staff members would have a background check & reference check.

Maintenance-building committee is reviewing moisture issues in school gym to control & prevent further damage.

Go Green- school project. Researching options for windmill at school. Need to determine ROI. Possible benefits to school and surrounding community. Any/all committee members to research. & bring to next meeting. Looking at possible grants through Sam’s, COSTCO & Lowe’s. (Sean).

Oct 3- Student ID’s, photos & kidprint. Kaiser will replace Lifetime as studio. Cost will include yearbook with package.

Sept 17- Flag raising with reading of Constitution (segment).

Morning radio & TV publicity for school. Christine to follow up with radio (WNIC).

PTC report- schedule provided. Playground improvements planned. Meeting time changed this year to 1:30. Software from PTC was installed in addition to other computer updates.

Tastefest-planning is going well.

Open positions:

Chair-Sean

Secretary-Christine G

Parish Council Liaison-Sean & Robbin

Christian Service

Report given by Pat McGrath from meeting on 10/09/07:

Del Haskin Reported 10 cards sent in September and 6 cards sent so far this month.

Rosary Makers – No report this month.

Funeral Lunch Report – No funeral lunches to report.

Coffee & Donut Sunday, October 14th

Blood Drive was held Sunday, September 16th – Goal was 35 units

51 people registered (includes two first timers)

6 could not donate because of medical reasons

45 persons donated one whole unit

The 45 units give 135 hospital patients a chance to enjoy life.

COPE (Christian Outreach Program Endeavor) – Joan T. Report. Only one elderly woman is receiving visits from our volunteers. It was suggested to put another article in the paper asking if anyone would like a visit from our volunteers and also ask for more volunteers.

MCREST – Will be held October 23rd and 25th at St. John's and November 5th at Christ Lutheran in New Baltimore.

Deacon Ken was present to encourage our members to attend the Evangelization meeting October 25th and Jane answered questions from members about the meeting.

Tastefest Dinner & Raffle – Saturday October 6th was very well attended – approx. 400 dinner tickets were sold.

Fallfest Dinner is being considered – would be on Saturday night or Sunday afternoon for parishioners in the parish hall. Perhaps in early November. Minimum cost, potluck.

Stars of Christmas was discussed – We once again have Joyce Bynum and Sharon Neff as coordinators – more information next month.

Next Coffee & Donut Sunday will be November 18th.

Christian Worship

Report given by Fr. David from meeting on 10/2/07.

Youth choir practices were moved from Saturday mornings to Wednesday afternoons. About ten children are participating this year. There was some response to the plea for more hand bell ringers. Pat will keep monitoring the ministry.

Several teens will be trained to be lectors and Eucharistic ministers soon.

We will have a memorial mass for John Terry on Tues, Oct. 30th at 6:30 p.m.

A couple of issues with the church sound system still have to be worked out with the company that installed it.

The revised guidelines for the purification of vessels was discussed, which we have basically already implemented.

Also, members discussed the recent loosening of the rules allowing for offering the 1962 Latin mass. There have been no inquiries made to Fr. David indicating interest in offering this mass here.

Christian Formation

Report given by Jane Petitpren:

Faith Formation: 298 in K-8 program as of 10/08/07

Many older sacramentals and a very large first communion.

RCIA: Seven adults in the program and three for Baptism.

Bible Study: Mark, Large group both Wed. a.m. and p.m. with many participants from outlying parishes.

Stewardship Report

Report given by Tony McPherson from meeting on 10/09/07

Craig asked that we e-mail him at his hotmail address in the future as he is not to be receiving non-work related business correspondence at work anymore. He reminded us of the Parish Leadership

Conference for anyone interested, also, this is the time for our officer selection for the coming year.

Budget Committee Report

Theresa Austin reported:

- (1) Two persons have submitted their resignations, Kathy DeBusschere of our office staff, effective 11/30/07, and Joe Koerber of maintenance, effective 10/16/07. How these openings will be filled is being analyzed and determined
- (2) Last month we talked about the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus using the hall and it has been determined that they will use it when needed. They gave the parish a \$100 donation, contact person Kim Morgan.
- (3) The Boy Scouts have asked to use the hall, the Girl Scouts do, then what about the Cub Scouts. The girls are more into doing crafts, the boys are more service oriented. It was noted that participation in cart racing is a township event. If the girls are allowed to use the hall, then the boys should be also. Discussion about them meeting in school. Patty needs more information and could forward it to us by e-mail.

Building Committee Report

Chris Ameel said we have a website where they post what's going on with attachments and links. Right now it is running on same server as the festival BFSC.ICperch festival.com. Humidifier to be delivered week of October 22 or sooner to solve the problem with the gym, Jeff Wooten and Randy Proctor have offered to help in the installation. Cost of \$2600 includes the pump built into it and they have it figured out how and where to install it. Jeff is an engineer in air quality control, an expert in this field. The gym was originally to have four units but because of money issues we have only two. The heat or air conditioning must be on with the humidifier 24/7.

Evangelization Report

Given by Deacon Ken Nowicki

Judy Maten held the Evangelization presentation tonight for the School Advisory Committee. Oct. 25th the presentation will be given to Christian Service and Christian Worship.
Deacon Ken suggested that a one member from each committee should be on the Evangelization Committee.

Vicariate Report

Given by Theresa Austin from meeting on 9/12/07

As a result of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Sacred Heart in Yale moving to the Thumb vicariate, the Port Huron Catholic schools will lose \$21,000 in funding this year. The impact will be felt in the Blue Water Vicariate when the 2008-2009 school funding agreements are merged.

Bob Weber of St. Mary's in St. Clair suggested the Vicariate Pastoral Council show the retired priests that help out in the Blue Water Vicariate appreciation – perhaps by treating them all to a dinner at the Voyager. After consulting with the retired priests who already meet weekly for lunch, it was decided that the Vicar and Chair of the VPC will treat them to lunch. Also, an ad will be placed in the Michigan Catholic the last weekend of October listing all their names, thanking them for their help.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lisa DiMaggio volunteered to be secretary.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jane Petitpren reported that she read in the Michigan Catholic that the parish properties will now go under the name of the “parish” for legal purposes.

On Oct. 29, 2007 at 5:45 p.m., Faith Formation students will meet in the school, dress like saints, and will be led by Father David.

OPEN FORUM:

JoAnn Augustine reported that a request to be put on the agenda has been made from parents that are concerned with office policies. They want to address the Parish Council on certain issues. It was highly suggested from Patty, Fr. David, and Jane, and other members that the parents should address their issues first with the office staff. JoAnn will notify them to do this.

Deacon Ken Nowicki handed out brochures on the Women's Conference that will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Father David recently attended a Convocation of the Archdiocese of Detroit held up north at Boyne Highlands.

Two-hundred fifty priests attended. Cardinal Maida was also present.

Fr. David acknowledged Amy O'Gara for all her time and hard work put into the website for the school and parish.

He also acknowledged her for her efforts put into making the Spotlight every week.

The meeting closed at 10:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa DiMaggio