

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with a prayer.

The following members were present: Pamela Mertes, Stanley Sommers, Susan Share, Amy O’Gara, Pat McGrath, JoAnn Augustine, Anthony Jubinski, Father Tomek Maka, Deacon Kenneth Nowicki, Andrea Taravella

The following members not present: Randy Proctor, Janis Cornwell, Jane Petitpren, Cathy Furtah

Elections: Elections were held for Parish Council President, Vice-President, and Secretary. All members present voted. There was a tie for President. The tie was between Pam Mertes and Susan Share with three votes each. The council determined and the candidates agreed that Pam Mertes would be President and Susan Share would be Vice-President. Andrea Taravella was elected Secretary.

Parish Council Vision/Mission: Father Tomek shared his vision for the Parish Council. He expressed that he would like the council to take ownership and leadership of decisions made. He would like the council to look at all committee reports critically and look at the Parish in a holistic manner. He stated that decisions will come from us and they will be based on what we hear from people within the Parish. He would like the Parish Council members to be more visible in the Parish and at Parish events. He would like each one of us to collect information from individuals within the Parish. He stated that he would like the Parish Council to be heard.

New Agenda Items/Ideas for Council & Committees: Father Tomek asked if the council had any new items for the agenda, since this meeting had no set agenda. He also asked if members had any new ideas for the committees. Pam stated that she had examples of what Parish should and shouldn’t consider during events. Pam asked which committee organized the Tastefest. Father Tomek answered “Stewardship.” Pam stated that she had a concern about alcohol being served because the event has an open bar. Pam proposed the solution of offering two drink tickets as opposed to “all you can drink.” Father Tomek stated that this would not be possible for this year, but he could pass that along and it would be impossible to eliminate alcohol completely. Pam suggested having some kind of signage for alcohol awareness posted at the event. Sue agreed for signage on the table. Pat stated that the workers are good about serving drinks, etc. Joann stated that the Tastefest was mostly about food. Stan stated that the reminder signs would be good. Susan stated that it may not be a good idea to limit the tickets. Father Tomek stated that they would have signs posted and he would pass this decision on to Stewardship. Amy stated that the staff always keeps an eye out for attendees that have had too much. Father Tomek said that they have escorted people out. Anthony suggested that the art teacher should have the students make substance abuse posters. Father Tomek noted that we do not have to find the solutions to all of the situations and that we could pass it on to Stewardship for them to iron out the details for the signage.

Joann asked how far we were from our CSA goal. Father Tomek responded that he would be discussing this in the Pastor’s report.

Sue asked if the Evangelization Committee could work with the Career support ministry. Deacon Ken stated that the program hasn’t been completed, so it can’t be addressed at this time.

Amy questioned why the IC Youth Group was the only group not to participate in the Vicariate programs. Father Tomek indicated that he would pass it on to the Youth Minister.

Pam asked about the Flower Ministry, why we do not have flowers available for purchase for anniversary, birthday, and other celebrations. Father Tomek stated that it needed to be a standardized offering and that all of the flowers had to match for each week. Pam stated that person didn’t buy flowers, they just donated the money. Father Tomek stated that if we did do this then the details needed to be worked out so that the flowers do not go to waste. Pam suggested having a sign up sheet on a 1st come, 1st serve basis and the rest of the money would be there when

nobody has donated. Father Tomek asked Pam to collect more information from the Parish she does this at to see if we can learn from it.

School Advisory Report: No one from this committee was present to give report minutes submitted by Kathy Steele:

Old Business

Library- Approximately 200 books removed, approximately 150 books were added (all were AR books & include non fiction additions). Total value \$5,000. Two volumes of Saints for Today.

Next steps – sort through teacher resource shelves.

Tech committee update- School is internet wired through lower elementary. Network still needs to be updated; cost estimate \$8,000-\$9,000; could be added to PTC wish list. Student stations in classrooms need to be updated to accommodate software. School sponsored websites (Perch Festival, Tastefest etc) are being updated to be accessed through the IC school site as the primary link. IC is still looking into utilizing Twitter or Facebook for communication to parents and alumni- this would not be used for any student communication. Sean will get information from De La Salle on their current usage policy. School would like to move to more electronic communication & less paper.

Continuing School Improvement

Enrollment – school is staying strong, down just 9 students from 2008-2009. There is still financial assistance available for families that are interested. 193 students are currently enrolled (includes preschool).

SAC – there is still an opening for a seat with the School Advisory Committee. There are some applications on file. The Spotlight will list the opening and welcome new families as well as existing to apply for the position.

Back to School Night- General meeting will be at 6:30. PTC, SAC, the Athletic Director and scouts will all be introduced. At 7pm the teachers will be introduced & the individual classroom presentations will follow. K-5 will take place from 7:05-7:20, and upper el will start @ 7:25 and parents can rotate through the classes.

SAC terms – Current **2009-2010 status** (6 IC school parents and 3 church members/without a student at IC)

Term 1- Year 1 (open position for school parent)

Term 1- Year 2: S Mattina, D Vigneron

Term 1- Year 3: C Gabryel

Term 2 Year 1: K Lovati, S Stawiasz

Term 2 Year 2: A Malik

Term 2 Year 3: S Lisica, M Kilgore

New Business

Chairpersons 2009-2010 Kelley Lovati, Reporter to Parish Council Diane Vigneron

Meeting dates - 2009-2010 SAC meeting schedule Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1, Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 2, April 13, May 4, June 1

Christian Service Report Given By JoAnn Augustine:

The following are the minutes from their September 8, 2009 meeting:

- Del Haskin report – 27 cards sent since may
- Rosary makers – will meet after 10 am mass this Sunday
- Funeral lunch report – ten funeral lunches since may
- Cope (Christian Outreach Program Endeavor) – elderly woman needed someone to stay with her for a couple hours on Fridays, drove elderly to an appointment
- Handcrafter's ministry -Barb Blaz – started back up Sept. 2nd - meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at noon in the parish hall
- Coffee/donut Sunday – September 13th after all masses
- Blood drive will be Sunday, September 27th from 8 am to 2 pm – we need young people to donate – disappointed more do not come especially after 10 am mass which is our largest attended mass
- Flu shot clinic – date is set for Sunday, Oct. 25th – from 9 am to noon reg. Flu shot available – also pneumonia shot will be available
- Hall cleaning – will call august/Sept. Funeral lunch teams to help clean hall Thursday, Sept. 17th at 9 am
- MCREST – received call from St. John Lutheran in New Baltimore – we will provide dinner on Mon., Oct. 19th and Thurs., Oct. 22nd
- Reception for Father Phil on June 14th was very nice – father very much appreciated it – although it did start late
- Next coffee/donuts will be Sunday, October 18, 2009 (note different week than originally scheduled)

Stewardship: See Attached Notes

Committee has question for Parish Council. K of C did charity event at Premier Poker Room, is this something that IC would be interested in looking into for a fundraising event? There are 4 licenses per year: 1 used for Vegas tent which would leave 3 licenses left (each license is 4 nights per license.) The poker rooms are from 6 pm until 2 am. The issue that K of C had was staffing. If Parish Council decides to go this route the Parish would receive the proceeds from the evening. Sue stated that she did one for another organization and they made \$15,000 over 4 nights-done at Plumbrook Charity Poker Room. Usually there are three people per shift and the people would just sell/buy back chips and maintain the paperwork for the evening. This could also be an opportunity for service hours for families. This would have to be put to another committee. Currently Stewardship has 4 fundraisers (Perch Festival, Tastefest, Fish Fry, and Scrip Program.) Deacon Ken was opposed to the idea stating that he does not want the Parish to have that image condoning gambling and especially not during Lent. Pam agreed with not having gambling as a fundraiser. Father Tomek stated that the poker event would not be held at IC. He also stated that technically we should not have alcohol at events (IC sponsor these events) but festival and Tastefest both have alcohol. He also stated that we already have Euchre and Bingo. Andrea stated that the event wouldn't necessarily be advertised and that the proceeds from the evening would go to the Parish. She also stated that poker is very big right now and that this would be a good fundraiser and that the Parish already condoned gambling because we had it at the festival. Pam agreed that if we have it at the Perch Festival that we could not restrict it. Father Tomek stated that there was not a strict policy or explanation given by the Diocese and that it is not stated that it shouldn't be done. Stan stated that poker is a big fad right not as Bingo was years ago and for now it would be a good fundraiser. Council voted to have Stewardship look into the Poker rooms further and report findings to the Parish Council. (Pat-motion/Sue-2nd)

Pastor's Report: Father Tomek expressed some visions and expectations for this year:

- Meetings under 1 ½ hours
- Expect strong leadership
- Don't be afraid to disagree and keep these disagreements at the meetings
- Share idea but do not have to vote at every meeting to make decisions- items can be sent to committees and Parish Council can then critically review their findings
- Stated that we need to identify our needs/resources and possibly adjust (expand or minimize) what we are currently doing
- Need to have vision beyond our terms and need to be able to appoint people who can continue on the mission
- Would like Council to reach out to the community and become more visible in community
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Father Tomek continued report to state that there was a need to clarify/review current policies in place:

- Service hours-change how we give them out. He stated that we are not obligated to give service hours and there are some people who are taking advantage of the current system. The new policy will state that two people can work at an event from one family. These can include parents/legal guardians and grandparents. If someone else wants to work and provide hours to a family this exception will have to be approved by the Pastor. The value on the services hours is \$20 per hour.
- Hall usage-Father Tomek stated that there have been times when the hall has been used and the lights have been left on and the doors unlocked. There have been many break-ins in the area and there are renters that are making it easy for items to get stolen/damaged
- General-some policies will eliminate freedoms but it will benefit the church, the policies need to be clearly spelled out which will help everyone to make decisions

(Sue asked how everyone will know about the new policies. Father Tomek stated that they will be brought to the legislative bodies and they will communicate them to the parishioners. They will communicate this through the bulletins. Father Tomek stated that the policies need to be reviewed to make them flexible and written beyond dates. He stated that these policies are not necessarily being changed; rather, they will be published so that everyone can obtain them. Pam stated that it would be a great idea to have these policies in print because sometimes people have things in their head and it is not the correct way.)

- **Agenda Items/ Announcements:** Father Tomek stated that submission agenda items would need to be two weeks prior to the meeting and announcements should be one week prior. Father Tomek had one

announcement that Deacon Ken had an extension for another 3 years. He thanked the Deacon for his help (assisting with weddings, ministries, prayers, etc.)

- **School:** Doing well in numbers (they didn't go down.) Annual scholarship helped because some families were on the verge of leaving due to financial reasons and this provided some assistance. They were able to use the previous year's funds this year to accommodate more families.
- **Accomplishments over the summer:**
 - Covers on altar for all seasons (green, white, purple, and maybe red)
 - Cemetery Chapel renewed (repainted, washed, and cleaned) and a dehumidifier was installed-looking to do other improvements such as carpet, etc.
 - Widened and smoothed sidewalk
 - Festival full report will hopefully be in soon-next year stated that he would like the official numbers for the 1st Stewardship meeting after the festival (early August)
 - Painted radiators, parking lot, logo on garage
 - Fixed roof-insurance to cover
 - Marketing committee will have more items available for purchase at coffee/donut Sundays
 - Begin having 1 daily mass in the evening-tonight was 1st one and there were about 40 people
 - Parish Office was reorganized, changed hours to accommodate families
 - Scrip is now a volunteer program
 - Budget now meets quarterly and reports to Stewardship rather than yearly this will allow us to critically look at the numbers and make adjustment before its too late, they are trying to keep spending to limits
 - Gym project has new bid for \$3,900 which includes a second coat and a power wash and this cannot be claimed on insurance because it was the choice of the Parish to go with the cheaper solution when built. This will have to be redone every 3-5 years (paint, wash, etc.) Hopefully their will be a stage in the gym later to solve some of this problem
 - IT has not worked on details yet for keeping technology up to date but it will soon be completed
- **Church Support:** have been collecting info for what we have currently (plates, etc.) so that we can start using resources better. This will allow us to keep a count rather than just buy when we don't necessarily need to
- **CSA:** is better than last year and we have 50% are what is pledged
- Refraining from doing a Parish wide debt appeal because we will not be able to do it again for a few years. The debt has to be paid. Last year we paid \$45,000 and we have only paid \$80,000 in the last year
- **New Rectory:** The diocese does not have money this year to loan to the Parish, but it may have something next year. Father Tomek looked at the house next to the cemetery, but it will need a great deal of improvements (addition, new kitchen, etc.) The house is on 3 ½ acres directly adjacent to the cemetery. The seller is asking \$215,000, which is unreasonable considering the condition of the house. The other option would be to have an internal loan and pay it back (ex. from the cemetery fund.) Pam asked if the property could of use to the cemetery too. Father Tomek stated yes but it had to be divided and currently the cemetery has enough land to sustain for 10-15 years. He stated that the house will have to go at some point and that we should not pay any more than \$150,000 for the house.
- **E-Giving:** Currently working on this program to have parishioners donate online
- **Tuition:** Working on having bank directly withdraw tuition from the families bank acct
- **Statistics on Parish:** working on demographics of the Parish to determine the Parish needs as well as have a better understanding of who make up the Parish. Andrea will be working on this project
- **Bring People Back:** Father Tomek stated that there may be a possibility to have "bring a friend" Sunday and make the guests recognized in the Church. He would like to show guests who we are and he is targeting those who are luke-warm about Parish, those who don't go to church, divorced individuals, etc. He indicated that some people need a nudge to attend mass and this would give them an opportunity to come back. Stan stated that at a Church in Mio, the priest asked for the visitors to stand or raise their hand. Father Tomek doesn't like to do this too often because he tries to keep things in the correct perspective. Sue stated that at Our Lady of Sorrow the stood and greeted each other before the start of mass. Father Tomek stated that this is not a part of the liturgy and that this violates the diocese recommendations of preventing H1N1.
- **Sunday School for Kids:** Starts Sunday with 3-, 4-, 5-year-olds at the school for 10 a.m. mass and it would be day-care and age-appropriate religion mixed

- **Altar Servers:** Training at the end of the month, 3rd graders who have made communion will be invited to join. They will spend the 1st year observing, with the low number of vocation we need to have more young people around the altar (so that it is comfortable for them)
- **Painting of the Church:** Patched the wall, but the entire area needs to be repainted so we will be taking a look at that this year

Open Forum: Discussion among council members.

The meeting closed at 9:55 p.m. with a prayer.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea Taravella.