

Immaculate Conception Church & School
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. The Council members began the meeting by praying the Hail Mary.

Members in attendance: Father John Mitchell, Kathy Fraser, Kathy Johnson, Stacy McVary, Dave Kellner, and Sandy Sichak.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: The Council approved the Minutes of August 24, 2017.

Financial/Administration Report: Copies of the Profit and Loss Summary, July 2016 – June 2017, were handed out and discussed. The year ended \$67,654.46 over budget which was due to an increase in costs and a decrease in contributions.

The parish has not received a rebate from the Archdiocese Appeal because the contribution goal assigned to our parish by the Archdiocese has not been met.

The audit as required by the Archdiocese was conducted on Sept. 25 and 26. The accounting firm will issue its' report in 2-3 weeks.

Discipleship Ministry Report: Members of the Discipleship committee attended a luncheon in St. Paul sponsored by the Archdiocese on the Street Evangelization Project.

A discussion was held regarding information on Discipleship, upcoming witness talks and the idea of having IC parish yard signs available for parishioners to display in their yards.

Liturgy Ministry Report: The Organ Recital, presented by Father John Mitchell and Dr. Ray Bannon held last Sunday went very well and was very well attended.

Faith Formation Ministry Report: Today four children (2 sets of twins) who attend IC School, were baptized at the morning school Mass.

There are 18 children in the RCIC program and they will receive First Communion next spring. There are also 8 weddings planned for next year. It was noted that people are coming to our parish for the sacraments which could lead to membership growth.

Capital Campaign Report: Installation of the new doors is complete and the doors have now been painted. There has been a request to replace the doors on the north side of the church but to date no money has been allocated to that project.

Steve Smith is in the process of finalizing the bids for the replacement of the parking lots.

Growth and Development Report: The October Fest Celebration will be held the evening of October 7th.

Other Business: The council welcomed Charles Karanja as a visitor to the meeting and as a potential new council member.

Next Sunday the ushers will begin counting the number of people attending each of the weekend Masses. This counting is done each October as required by the Archdiocese.

Assignment of Council liaisons to the various ministries are as follows: Liturgy Ministries – Kathy Johnson; Pastoral Ministries – Sandy Sichak; Growth and Development – Stacy McVary; Faith Formation – Dave Kellner; and School/Education – Marcus Paulson. Each liaison will be contacting their ministry leaders prior to council meetings and report on information gathered to the council.

Discussion was held on how to promote IC Church and School to people who will be moving into the new residential development, the Legends. Stacy McVary will coordinate with Mary Beth Pfiefer on the best way to contact the residents.

At the last council meeting, council members were asked to discuss with their ministry leaders how their ministries promote the parish mission statement. The ministry leaders gave the following responses:

School/Education: Jane Bona:

The Mission Statement of the Parish focuses on discipleship and that we intentionally respond to being disciples and calling others to be disciples as well.

The school Mission Statement reads:

'The School of the Immaculate Conception is a Catholic community ministering to the children within the parish and throughout the surrounding neighborhoods. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are dedicated to fostering academic excellence, spiritual growth, and a strong commitment to living Gospel values.'

The School Mission Statement and Core Values support/promote the parish mission in many ways. Our three tenets we are founded on are Faith, Academics and Service. Through teaching the faith, the religion curriculum, *Alive in Christ*, teaches the Catholic faith and the concept of discipleship.

We have given students service opportunities in and outside of school. Examples of how the students serve are: visiting Crest View residents once per week, volunteering at school and parish events, going to Feed My Starving Children, and church servants (cleaning the church after the school Mass.)

The school teaches religion class each day. Through these experiences this religion class each day, the students learn about their faith and prepare for sacraments. Today, we had the blessing of having four of our second graders baptized at the school Mass. This was very exciting for us to know that our evangelization is speaking to the families. As we assessed our Catholic Identity as part of an accreditation process, we chose to expand the service component for our students so we have introduced formal service hours this year. We also determined that we wanted to expand the opportunities for students to go to Reconciliation once per quarter. The students are provided an Examination of Conscience.

We display artwork and pieces of Faith throughout the entire school. It has been a priority for us to ensure there are Crucifixes, statues of Mary and many items to support us all on our faith journey.

Children are offered many ways to participate in the faith by beginning each day and class session with prayer, asking for intentions from classmates on what to pray for, and closing the school day in prayer as well.

Liturgy Ministries: Dr. Ray Bannon:

It is in relationship with others and sharing the Good News that we are formed and fulfill our mission as disciples. When it comes to our lives of faith we need the assurance of a stable, faithful, and thriving community that provides both support for living for Christ and opportunities to share Him. The coming together of God's people to praise, worship and serve Him in the liturgy provides the foundation for our lives to bear fruit for God and celebrate our Lord as we share our time in prayer— at Mass, Adoration, and in our homes. The liturgical ministries allow us to share our gifts in creating the environment, enabling and enhancing sung and spoken prayer, welcoming the newcomer, proclaiming the Word, and preparing for the Eucharistic banquet that proclaims and celebrates our Lord in our midst.

Pastoral Ministries: Vicki Bazille:

Pastoral care and Social Justice promote our mission statement through prayer and by recognizing God's call to serve Him through giving of time, treasure and talents.

Those who serve in Pastoral Ministry bring Communion and the heart of Jesus to homebound, hospitalized and those who are living in care centers. They are trained in the art of Christian listening and reminded that visits are sacred and confidentiality is what builds trust in relationship.

Those who volunteer with funeral lunches work hard to provide a comfortable setting for families in a very difficult time. They pray together before they begin all the preparations. Through that focus they understand that what they do, they do a ministry not just kitchen service. We also have a sacristan and 2 ushers for each Funeral Mass.

Our Social Justice Committee's Mission Statement speaks for itself: 'The Social Justice Committee of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is committed to following Jesus' message of unconditional love by promoting the dignity of all human persons.'

Those who serve on this committee are committed to serving many charitable events throughout the year. We are also working to promote Justice by honoring Life during the month of October. There will be information and handouts throughout October available in the Narthex. For the third year we will be involved in 40 days for life; a time for parishioners to commit to one hour of peaceful prayer at Planned Parenthood. Our church commits to 12 hours. We will sponsor an evening for our community to learn more about Immigration laws on October 12th.

As a group one of our goals is to expand our personal knowledge of Catholic teachings on the many social issues that are in the forefront of the media today. We have a community that is extremely generous on the charity end of Social Justice however we all agree that when it comes to the other foot "which is Justice" we have much to learn and are in the process of expanding on that. Our plan is to grow in this area and share what we learn with our community.

I believe that all volunteers that I serve with in Pastoral Care and Social Justice live the Mission Statement of this parish. I believe holiness looks different on all people and is always a work in progress.

The next Parish Council meeting is set for Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 6pm in the St. Clare Room in the school.