

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

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

The minutes from January 13, 2009 were read by the members and accepted by Jane Petitpren and Cathy Furtah.

The following members were present: Jane Petitpren, Pam Mertes, Eileen Gretkierewicz, Lisa DiMaggio, Father Tomek Maka, Deacon Kenneth Nowicki, Cathy Furtah, JoAnn Augustine Janis Cornwell, and Theresa Austin.

The following members were not present: Anthony Jubinski, Randy Proctor, Amy O'Gara, Pat McGrath, Stanley Sommers, and Susan Share.

SCHOOL ADVISORY REPORT: No one from this committee was present to give report:

CHRISTIAN SERVICE REPORT GIVEN BY JOANN AUGUSTINE:

The following are the minutes from their February 10, 2009 meeting:

- DEL HASKIN REPORT – NO REPORT
- ROSARY MAKERS – KATHY BECKER – WILL MEET AFTER 10 MASS THIS SUN.
- FUNERAL LUNCH REPORT – 2 IN JANUARY
- COPE (CHRISTIAN OUTREACH PROGRAM ENDEAVOR) – ONE OF OUR VOL. DRIVERS TAKES AN ELDERLY MAN TO VISIT HIS WIFE IN A NURSING HOME IN STERLING HGTS.
- HANDCRAFTER'S GUILD-BARB BLAZ – MEETS THE 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH AT NOON STARTING JANUARY 7TH
- COFFEE/DONUTS WILL BE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH AFTER ALL MASSES
- RECEPTION FOR ARCHBISHOP VIGNERON – SUN., FEB. 1ST – WE HAD APPROX. 300-350 PEOPLE – IT WENT VERY WELL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED AND/OR DONATED FOOD. WE RECEIVED MANY MANY COMPLIMENTS
- I.C. STAFF LUNCHEON – TUES., FEB. 24TH – NEED HELP FROM 1:30 TO APPROX. 4 PM TO PREPARE A SIMPLE MEAL FOR ALL STAFF MEMBER OF I.C. – APPROX. 30-35 PEOPLE
- ST. JOSEPH LAYETTE – FEB. 22ND THROUGH MARCH 15TH – ADS WILL GO IN SPOTLIGHT STARTING FEB. 22ND – BASSINET WILL BE SET UP IN CHURCH TO RECEIVE DONATED ITEMS FROM PARISHIONERS – SORTING DATE –TUES., MARCH 24TH- 9 AM
- ANNIVERSARY MASS & RECEPTION-10 AM MASS – SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH – WILL DISCUSS MORE AT MARCH MEETING
- BLOOD DRIVE IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH – IN THE PARISH HALL
- LENTEN FISH FRIES START FRI., FEB. 27TH – HELP IS NEEDED ON THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS AS WELL AS DONATED DESSERTS
- SOCIAL EVENTS COMING UP – ST. PATRICK PARTY – SAT., MARCH 7TH IN PARISH HALL FLYERS WITH INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT COFFEE/DONUTS
- TENTATIVE K OF C BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY – SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND WILL INCLUDE EASTER EGG HUNT (WEATHER PERMITTING)

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP REPORT GIVEN BY FATHER TOMEK: Their meeting was held January 15th. Discussion was held regarding the Celebrations. It was summed up what to do differently and what to keep the same. The Christmas Celebration flowers were well liked. Ava Robinson is stepping down from helping with church decorations. Jeff Wooten and Carol

Gafa will continue on with the church decorating and will look for others to help. Greg Knoche is going to install the panic bar. Money has been donated for a processional cross. The liturgy was planned for our Archbishop. Father Tomek was happy and grateful for everyone's help. The ushers liked having name tags at the mass for our Archbishop; subsequently, it was discussed whether or not to keep the name tags for all masses for the ushers. It is also a possibility to have collars for the ushers to wear during mass so that parishioners can spot them out. The schedule for Lent was discussed. There have been no complaints on the new EME process but it still seems confusing. Father is looking to move to having two lectors instead of one per mass. Currently, we use four altar servers but usually only three show up. Father wants to continue having four to give more opportunity for the children to serve. Confessions for Faith Formation will be held March 16th, grade school on March 12th and 26th, and March 19th will be the parish penance service. Holy week schedule will remain the same. The Stations of the Cross will be announced at the fish fry dinners.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORT GIVEN BY JANE PETITPREN:

Reconciliation and First Communion parent gathering went well. There will be a book reading group starting March 23rd. The book featured will be Healthy Traits of Spirituality. March 7th is the 7th grade retreat. March 14th will be First Communion pictures. March 15th is the potluck for First Communion. March 28th will be the Rite of Election held at the Cathedral. February 21st and 22nd Lent books will be available.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT GIVEN BY THERESA AUSTIN: See attached minutes from their February 2 2009 meeting.

EVANGELIZATION REPORT GIVEN BY DEACON KENNETH NOWICKI: No official report. Men's Conference was held at Our Lady of Good Council.

VICARIATE REPORT GIVEN BY THERESA AUSTIN:

The following are the minutes from their January 14, 2009 meeting:

- The Food Depot in Port Huron collected about \$10,000 in cash, which turned into around \$100,000 of food. Referrals can come from any parish in the county.
- Angel Food Ministries is a joint effort of Holy Family and two other churches in Memphis and the food pick-up is at the Methodist Church on Bordman. There are also sites in Port Huron and Algonac. For more information, the website is www.Angelfoodministries.com.
- Vicariate representatives will meet with the tracking committee on Tuesday, February 24th at ---Sacred Heart Seminary for an update on the progress of the goals identified from the Together in Faith process.
- Discussion was held on the future cluster/merger partners that were identified at a previous meeting. These are not mandatory pairings and are only for planning purposes. Our partner would be St. Mary Queen of Creation in New Baltimore.
- Cardinal Mooney Annual Auction will be held in the activities center on Saturday, April 25th, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, followed by the Auction at 5 p.m.
- Cardinal Mooney High School addition construction officially began on December 15th after 5 years of fundraising.

ENRICHMENT: Father Tomek presented the Holy Land trip. He strongly encouraged us to look into the geographical understanding of this area. He wants us to prepare ourselves and to understand that culture.

OLD BUSINESS: Jane Petitpren announced the festival's first gathering will be held February 17th. We have had a few people who have volunteered to put together the parish calendar/photos. Father Tomek asked not to pass around the photos of the Archbishop's installation

NEW BUSINESS: Pam Mertes talked about David Ramsey and the eight-week program that he offers that is scripture based to help people with their finances. Jane Petitpren stated that she has already purchased the program. Father Tomek talked about the possibility of making announcements in our Spotlight for job offerings. Pam Mertes asked if we are going to have extra envelopes available for the building fund. Father Tomek answered that there are envelopes already available for this in the back of the church. Theresa Austin asked if the financial program that was mentioned above is available Vicariately? Jane Petitpren answered no.

OPEN FORUM: Eileen Gretkierewicz stated Father Tomek handled the lecture pew situation very well (having people move from it). It was suggested putting a reserved banner next to the lecture banner. Father Tomek thought that maybe a wider banner or two banners would be better. Deacon Ken asked how parishes and the Vicariate help families in these bad economic times. Different counties have help but it was noted that North Macomb and St. Clair County do not. It was suggested and used in other parishes in our Vicariate that business owners make it known that they are hiring to people in their parish to help fellow parishioners. Deacon Ken will keep us informed on this idea. It is noted that Father Nick responded that St. Mary's in New Baltimore has it in their budget to help people in financial need. Jane Petitpren knows parishes that put 1% of their income away for people who need financial help. Jane Petitpren stated that in the Sunday paper there was an advertisement from Erb Lumbar that they have set up a fund to be able to donate money to non profit organizations. They will not give for religious purposes but will give to religious organizations. Pam Mertes said she witnessed an unhappy mass attendee at the installation for our Archbishop. It had to do with seats being reserved. Pam Mertes suggested making donations at Easter possibly in the form of Easter baskets for families that could use the help. Jane Petitpren stated that Faith Formation already does this. In case we decide to move forward to make more Easter baskets, there is an Easter tree that is available for this. Deacon Ken discussed making available tickets for the Lenten fish fry dinners for parishioners that could use them. He is going to email Colleen Wooten with this suggestion.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Working on improvements of the parish as well as school safety. Long Term Planning committee promised to meet with Parish Council members at the March meeting. Mike Denys and Tim VerVaecke will be the ones to present where we are with this planning. Father asked if we can set it in stone the regular dates and times for our Parish Council meetings. It was agreed to have them the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

The Church Support group will start having regular meetings. Father asked if members know of anyone who could potentially become Parish Council members. Please let Father know if we do. The Perch and Taste Fest committees met and will work together regarding major advertisers.

Budget is doing well. Weekly income is going up. Looking at expenses of mailings, etc. Trying to get in agreement with a local bank that will do electronic withdrawals. A lot of people are coming to our parish's food bank. Scrip is growing. Volunteers are handling this now. Had the Open House last week and had more people than last year possibly due to better weather and the pancake breakfast that was offered. The people that do the sewing/embroidering are looking at colored covers for the altar and side table for when mass is not in progress. Jane Petitpren suggested using old vestments for other purposes. We are thinking about having curtains placed in the parish hall.

The meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa DiMaggio.