

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Immaculate Conception Church Pastoral Council Minutes January 24, 2023

Attendance: P=present; A=absent

P	Adams, John (Chair)	P	Gray, Amanda (Member)	P	Thoma, Fr. Steve (Pastor)
P	Barnes, Lisa (Secretary)	P	Gregson, Dave (ICS Principal)	P	Vail, Matt (Member)
A	Christensen, Shea (Staff)	P	Hoeflinger, Tammy (Member)	P	Whitworth, John (Trustee)
P	Colley, Marty (Trustee)	A	Meyer, Jessica (Member)	P	Wienhoff, Hope (Staff)
P	Dell-Hunt, Kara (Staff)	P	Nealon, Sharon (Member)	A	Wuertz, Cheri (Member)
P	Farley, Ray (Member)	P	Simmons, Bill (Vice Chair)	P	Young, Lizanne (Staff)

7:00 Call to Order – John Adams

Introduction/Welcoming of Guests-

Sacred Heart: none

ICS School Board: none

Additional Guests: Larry Stout, Karen Lundy

Opening Prayer and Reflection – Amanda Gray

Approval of Minutes – November 2022 minutes – noted correction: *Bereavement Committee has finished up their meetings for the year.* The minutes were approved with the correction.

Comments from Sacred Heart representative – no representative present

Just Faith “Sacred Air” program update – Karen Lundy and Larry Stout updated the Council on the Just Faith “Sacred Air” program that took place in October and November. They shared about the necessity of respect for God’s creation, the consequences of climate change, and the need for prayer and discernment to discover solutions to problems discovered. They also reported on their plans, some of which include:

- Meeting with Principal Dave Gregson to discuss recycling and environmental curricula
- Increasing awareness through postings in the bulletin, Discipleship Corner topics, and introducing the parish initiative for environmental stewardship
- Heading a community clean-up day
- Investigating the possibility of installing solar panels anywhere on the premises

Welcome School Board Representative

1. School Board Report – no report
2. Principal’s Report – Dave Gregson provided the following updates:
 - Donations in December were made to DayStar-Cairo, Wreaths Across America, St. Raymond’s Parish, toys were donated to Griffin Center. Upcoming plans to participate in Kids Against Hunger
 - Open House will take place on Jan. 29
 - Catholic Schools Week is Jan. 29-Feb. 3. Students will be present at masses on Feb. 4 and 5 to speak and handout thank you cards
 - New field trip scheduled for 7th and 8th grade to Immaculate Conception Church in East St. Louis
 - Knights of Columbus spelling bee had 14 ICS participants, up from 3 last year

- Teacher evaluations are starting
- State accreditation preparation is almost complete. State/Diocesan visit is March 28
- Strategic plan - on track to meet with all groups and then present

Staff Reports

1. Pastor's Report – Fr. Steve Thoma deferred to discussion during the Old Business segment
2. Liturgy Report – Hope Wienhoff reported that Christmas set up and take down was led by the Art and Environment Committee and supported by wonderful volunteers. Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22) will have Masses at 8:05 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and PSR students will be attending the evening Mass as well as serve. This year's Mardi Gras party will not include burning of palm branches. Rules and a timeline for the Stewardship of Charity were also presented. Fr. Steve is hoping that more people will become involved in this committee.
3. Director of Faith Formation – Lizanne Young provided the follow updates:
 - New catechist training modules are available to all parishioners. Council members are invited to sample a class – contact Lizanne for instructions on how to sign up for free.
 - Lenten talks are scheduled for Feb 23 (Fr. Eric Wagner), Feb. 28 (Fr. Carroll Mizicko), and Mar. 16 (Fr. Steve Thoma). The Pastoral Council meeting for February will be rescheduled, as it conflicts with this event.
4. Finance Report – Kara Dell-Hunt reported.
 - Approximately 400 stewardship forms have been returned: 17% for ICC parishioners, 15% PSR families, and 70% ICS families. Reminder emails have been sent to each of these groups.
 - Remaining gross debt on the Catholic Education and Activity Center is \$3.1 million. Net debt after outstanding pledges is \$2.6 million.
 - Next parish workday is Feb. 11 – the last workday had lots of help from teenagers.
 - Tax forms have been sent out and a grant for the school has been applied for in order to get kitchen equipment.

Old Business

1. Conversation on Diocesan Guidelines for Pastoral Councils - Fr. Steve introduced the topic. He researched what diocesan guidelines existed and provided questions to get the Pastoral Council thinking about their current role and the direction they should be heading, i.e., foundationally, what does our pastoral council do? What are we?

The Council discussion included the following items:

- Role is primarily visionary and secondarily overseeing
- It was noted that a strategic plan is mentioned several times in the document
- There used to be a couple of confirmed youth who attended but didn't vote
- The parish has many committees but many don't know who they are and what they do (for example, notes from meetings are published)

Fr. Steve concluded the discussion by encouraging the Council to trust that God's Spirit has been with it and to seek the vision of what God is calling it to be. The Council was asked to continue to prayerfully think on this, and will revisit the document in subsequent meetings.

2. Mission statement summary/discussion - Bill Simmons summarized the responses to the questions introduced regarding the mission statement:
 - How are we promoting the mission statement today? *Welcoming community, active youth, opportunities for participation, emphasis of school mission statement, managing of school/church processes.*

- How are we not promoting the mission statement today? *Collaboration between groups, communication, new parishioner outreach, instruction/teaching during Mass.*
- What can we do to better promote the mission statement? *Communication, parishioner engagement, community service, Mass attendance.*

New Business:

1. Stewardship of Charity update – The parish will have \$42,100 to donate this year. All were asked to encourage charity nominations. Information on rules and timing was passed out.
2. Discernment Committee – John Adams discussed the process and asked for volunteers. Matt Vail, Lisa Barnes and Sharon Nealon agreed to be part of the committee.
3. Items from the floor – a few items were noted:
 - A return to the welcome breakfasts was requested
 - Lenten calendars will once again be available online
 - March 18 is the Sr. Thea Bowman charity auction

Pastoral Council Representatives Reminders –

Parish Council Representatives				
Day	Role	Name February	Name March	Notes
1st Sunday after 9am Mass	Welcoming Rep	n/a		
2nd Tues @ 7pm in SH School Bldg	SH Parish Council	Matt Vail		Give a short summary of what is happening at ICC
3rd Tues @ 7pm in K of C Room	School Board	John Adams	Tammy Hoeflinger	Give a short summary of what is happening at ICC
4th Tues @ 7pm in K of C Room	Prayer/Reflection	Lizanne Young	Marty Colley	

9:00 Closing prayer – Father Steve