

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH**

**Leading People to Jesus Through Worship, Community, Service and Devotion to Mary**

Immaculate Conception Parish Council and Commissions Meeting

October 14, 2020

MaryAnn Grossman called the Parish Council meeting to order via Zoom at 7:39pm; Beth Mahler led the members in an opening prayer.

Attendees: Deacon Chris Campbell, Frank Copeland, Dan Costello, Nathan DeDino, MaryAnn Grossman, Father Matt Hoover, Alison King, Beth Mahler, Bobbie Mitch, and Janet Wilks were in attendance.

*De-brief of Heather MacKinnon’s Presentation on the January Millennial Church Conference*

Council members briefly reflected on and discussed Heather’s presentation on outreach to millennials and how it could apply in the Immaculate Conception parish for both millennials and other age groups. Father Matt informed the council that the Columbus diocese will be conducting a survey in the coming months of inactive Catholics to learn more about why these Catholics are no longer actively participating. Council and commission members and parishioners will be encouraged to share this survey with inactive Catholics they know when the survey is made available. The survey will be anonymous.

If council or commission members have resources related to outreach and evangelization, please share them with MaryAnn and Beth.

*Pastor Updates and Announcements*

* Father Matt expressed his appreciation for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of his ordination.
* He informed members of a recent deanery meeting that included Father Adam Streitenberger, the diocese’s Coordinator for Evangelization. Next autumn, the diocese anticipates beginning a three year evangelization program. One focus will include how parishes can work together in this effort with neighboring parishes.
* Father Matt highlighted that, in 2019, 14 women entered discernment for religious life in the Columbus diocese.
* He asked council members to begin thinking about how Immaculate Conception parish can best accommodate parishioners celebrating Christmas given COVID-19 pandemic restrictions like social distancing and sanitization. Father Matt underscored that Christmas 2020 will not look like past years. For example, in 2019, the 4:00pm Christmas Eve mass alone had as many attendees as the total typical October weekend attendance, approximately 900 persons. Reduced church capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions will not allow this level of attendance at a single mass. In the lead up to the November council and commissions meetings, Father Matt asked all members to begin thinking of creative and practical ways to celebrate the Christmas liturgies this year. Some of the initial questions discussed included the number of Christmas masses needed, whether to survey parishioners to learn more about their plans, how tickets might be used to determine attendance, whether the school was available for overflow, and how a greater emphasis on the Octave of Christmas might accommodate parishioner attendance.

*Giving Tuesday*

Dan Costello shared the results of his canvassing of council and commission members about suitable Giving Tuesday recipients. Members were asked to rank their top three choices and share with Dan. Catholic Social Services had the greatest number of first choices, particularly due to a concern about food scarcity. The Women’s Health Center had the second greatest number of first choices.

*Closing and Next Meeting*

The October meeting adjourned at 8:41pm. The next meeting will be November 11, 2020, at 6:30pm, via Zoom. Commissions and council will discuss logistics for the safe celebration of Christmas masses. All parishioners are welcome.

*Meeting minutes drafted and submitted by Nathan DeDino, Parish Council Secretary.*