



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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

Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

February 9, 2022

Beth Mahler called the meeting to order about 7:35 PM and Frank Copeland led the members in an opening prayer.

Attendees: Deacon Campbell, Frank Copeland, Dan Costello, Lisa Galden, Father Matt Hoover, Mike Julian, Alison King, Beth Mahler, Sarah Moore, Matt Stratton and Janet Wilks.

Council unanimously passed the resolution to add "Action Items" to the minutes when they are merited.

The Faith Formation Commission reported the RCIA for Catholics program is being targeted for September.

The review of the IC Triduum was largely positive and efforts will be made for it to continue to grow in coming years. Father Matt pointed out that the Eucharistic Adoration portion of the celebration lagged behind other aspects in participation and that it deserves greater promotion.

Name Tags for greeters, ushers and those manning the welcome desk were discussed. A tag clearly stating the person's first and last name along with the IC emblem was deemed best.

3 Commissions - 1-2 Minute Reports

Faith Formation and Spiritual Life Commission - Janet Wilks reported that the commission is supporting Beth Mahler and Elizabeth DeLuca's leadership in reviving Vacation Bible School. Already plans are being made for IC Triduum 10 months from now. The commission is also promoting the Women's retreat in an ongoing out reach effort to women. Restoring the bringing up of the gifts at the offertory is another project the commission is focusing on.

Parish and Community Life Commission - Alison King reported on efforts to set up a nursery (0-2) and Sunday preschool (3-5) for our youngest children. Jacob Lammers may send out an email to gauge how much interest there is in restarting this ministry.

Social Concerns Commission - Dan Costello reported that the Open Shelter Ministry is up and running on the Parsons Avenue location. Similarly Andrea Carrier told the group that the YWCA Homeless Ministry is operating closer to pre Covid conditions. Erin Cordle from the diocese may come and speak about IC's efforts to help Mommies Matter.

Beth reminded council that the 2023-2025 Pastoral Council and New Representative Nominees are due and a Vice President is needed. She asked that all current parish council members prayerfully consider this.

Pastor Announcements

Father gave statistics on Christmas Mass attendance from 2017 to 2021 along with the October counts for each of those years. The decline in most all areas ranged from steady to precipitous. He also shared Sunday Mass attendance for each weekend from December 4/5 to this past weekend February 5/6. Again the numbers seemed to be generally in decline with exception of Catholic Schools Week kickoff, when student incentives were offered for Mass attendance.

In regard to Real Presence Real Future, Father Matt expressed the inevitability that churches are going to close. "People are voting with their feet."

The Evangelical Catholic Pilot Program is still scheduled and needs the support of all parishioners, especially members of parish council.

Father questioned why some parish ministries should be supported if they are not putting God first and supporting the mission of the Church. A wide ranging discussion followed.

Deanery Report

Mike Julian reported that the same decline in numbers across the deanery that Father cited for IC. He said a significant amount of Sunday Mass attendance is siphoned off by the Newman Center and St. Patrick's. He also noted that Sunday evening Masses, like the one St. Christopher offers, are popular. The bereavement group is still thriving and has a waiting list; "rewarding, but hard work."

Adjourn

Council closed with an Our Father and a Hail Mary and adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next meeting: March 9, 2022, Commissions start at 6:30pm in Marian Hall, All parishioners are welcome.

Meeting minutes drafted and submitted by Frank Copeland, Parish Pastoral Council Secretary.