

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH**

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

**Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

**February 21, 2024**

Lisa Galden called the Parish Council meeting to order at 7:30pm; Colleen Kent led the members in an opening prayer.

Attendees: Fr. Matt Hoover, Principal Colleen Kent, Lisa Galden, Jim Emley, Paula Mong, Janet Wilks, and Julie Clemens.

Not present: Deacon Chris Campbell, Rich Viertel, Sarah Berlin Moore, and Kendra Girardot.

**Old Business**

***Feedback Approval of Meeting Minutes***

Lisa reminded members to respond with either an approval or a request for changes to the meeting minutes by the deadline, which is on Wednesday, one week after the council meeting.

***Pizza Party***

A pizza party will be held at the March meeting to welcome parishioners who are interested in the work of the Parish Commissions and Council. Lisa will confirm that Sarah will publish an announcement for it in the bulletin. Rich has a contact for the pizza.The event will convey to participants that the Commissions provide not only an opportunity to become involved in the parish community but also to share any point of view and perspective. The Commissions foster idea-building, which can grow into successful parish programs. Many of the parish’s current activities and programs have come from ideas within the Commissions, before being adopted by the Parish Council and established at IC.

***New Parishioner Welcome Gathering***

Approximately sixty-five new members or families have joined the parish since September 2021. Paula will talk with IC staff about setting a date, but she believes a picnic-theme in June would be a good fit. It is possible that the Knights of Columbus can help with grilling and IC Women’s Club can help with side dishes. Janet agreed to help with the food. Lisa volunteered to help with invitations and an agenda. The agenda could include introductions of ministry leaders and short testimonials from parishioners.

***Parish Commissions Learning from Diverse Voices***

It is important for IC parishioners to learn more about the diverse groups within the IC community and how to better support their needs. Commission members would like to hear perspectives from many groups. Some of the diverse groups at IC are Hispanic or Latino families, as well as families from Africa (e.g., Ghana). Millennial Catholics is an example of another group with specific needs within the parish. The Clintonville Community Resource Center might also have suggestions about how to better serve the needs of diverse groups at IC. Council agreed that one place to begin the conversation is by learning about diverse families who attend IC’s school. Colleen offered to invite Marjorie Prince to identify some of the groups and their potential needs during the Commissions meeting on 4/10, and Council members agreed. Overall, this project is what Pope Francis describes as “Being a Listening Church.”

**New Business**

***Proposal, Sign-up Board for YWCA Family Shelter Dinner***

Council members reviewed a sample white board for parishioners to sign-up when volunteering for the YWCA Family Shelter Dinners. The white board also has a QR code for online sign-up. It will be set-up when appropriate each month and cleaned and removed afterward.

Jim made a motion to approve the proposal and use the sign-up board for the YWCA Shelter Dinner in March. Paula seconded the motion. Council members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Lisa will notify Layton McCallum, who submitted the proposal, and Karen Cannell of its approval.

***Engage@IC Feedback***

Lisa explained that last year Engage@IC was held during IC’s School Supply Sale. The number of people who came to the event was smaller than the previous year. In addition, several ministry leaders missed the event due to summer vacations. She would like Council to think about whether finding a date with fewer distractions and schedule conflicts would be better.

Further discussion of Engage@IC was postponed until the March meeting due to time constraints.

***Parish Commissions’ Reports***

Lisa asked for Commission Updates. The Faith Formation and Spiritual Life Commission discussed a proposal to foster conversations and faith formation during the summer months. They would like to hold something on Saturday mornings, and it would include breakfast. The Parish and Community Life Commission talked about the New Parishioner Welcome gathering and discussed proposing a Parish Trivia Night or something else in its place. The Social Concerns Commission spoke with Stephanie Baird about Springs of Love and the new Foster Care Support Ministry at IC. They also spoke about the work being done by BREAD and the Knights of Columbus. In addition, March 31st is the next Fifth Sunday.

***Closing and Next Meeting***

Lisa called the Council meeting to a close. The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm. The next Council meeting will be on March 20, 2024 (the 3rd Wednesday of March, due to Spring Break).

*Meeting minutes drafted and submitted by Julie Clemens, Parish Council Secretary.*