



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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

### **Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting May 14, 2025**

Rich Viertel called the meeting to order at 7:42pm. Fr. Matt led the opening prayer.

Attendees: Rich Viertel, Max Herath, David Lyons, Paula Mong, Janet Wilks, Fr. Matthew Hoover, Deacon Chris Campbell, Principal Colleen Kent, and Julie Clemens.

Not present: Kendra Girardot.

#### **Opening Comments – Fr. Matthew Hoover**

Fr. Matt announced that Diocesan Ordinations and IC's Spring Family Clean-up Day will be held on Saturday, 5/17. He asked Council members to pray for vocations. In addition, he announced that IC's Summer Seminarian Residency program will begin soon.

#### **Announcements – Rich Viertel**

- **Upgrades on IC's Playground and Campus:** Thanks to generous donations, IC's playground has new basketball hoops and backboards and IC's damaged garage door has been replaced, with upgrades made to the other existing garage doors.
- **IC Campus "Artification:"** Progress is being made on displaying artwork in a gallery formation in Marian Hall, with storyboards in development for each display item. Project completion is planned for September.
- **2025 Christmas Mass Scheduling:** 4:00 Mass overflow will be set up in Marian Hall with Mass being live streamed on screen. A communication plan for announcements to the Parish will be created.
- **May Crowning:** First Communion children participated in the May Crowning held at the Grotto on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Council members set up folding chairs for parishioners who wanted to attend but could not easily stand, and they were used. Chairs will be set up at the Grotto for the upcoming Corpus Christi procession.
- **Seminarian Godfrey SSebiky:** Godfrey was ordained to the transitional diaconate on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Godfrey, of the Diocese of Kiyinda-Mityana, Uganda, has one year remaining at the Josephinum.
- **IC BREAD Team:** The 2025 Nehemiah Action Event was held on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Topics of focus were the effects of predatory landlords on tenants, making rents more affordable for tenants, and the importance of preserving tree canopies in our communities.
- **HASA Food Truck Event:** To be held at IC on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Council members will host a dessert booth, with proceeds earned to benefit HASA.
- **Corpus Christi Picnic – Sunday, June 22 after 11:00 Mass & Processional:** Council members will set up 6-10 folding chairs at the Grotto for parishioners who need them. Fr. Matt will be returning from the IC's Pilgrimage trip to Italy and unable to attend but IC's

visiting seminarian will participate in his absence. After the procession, Council members will host a parishioner picnic, with Janet Wilks making pasta salad and the IC Women's Club supplying desserts. Event preparation and food management will be provided by the Knights of Columbus.

- **Engage at IC** – Council will coordinate a static display to share information of IC's ministries from Sept. 13-21, spanning 2 weekends. **Please note: This topic was skipped on 5/14; to be discussed at the next meeting.**
- **2025 Triduum:** Rich made initial contact with Sister Antoinette Cedrone, FMA, of The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters). Rich and Sister Antoinette plan to speak in more detail soon. Council will continue to plan the event with an expectation to finish the agenda by Aug. or Sept.
- **Parish Council Member Recruiting:** Fr Matt and Rich continue recruitment to fill Council's open seats. They will keep Council members updated.
- **Pastor's Topics: Summer Seminarian Registry; N. Broadway Signage**
  - IC's Summer Seminarian Residency Program will be filled by Absalom Hall. An introduction will be made at the Masses. The summer residency is 10 weeks.
  - Requests have been made to install an electronic sign for the church and school on North Broadway. Fr. Matt is seeking parishioners to research the project's estimated cost and feasibility. He explained to Council that acquiring and installing an electronic sign will be a substantial financial investment. He would like the IC community to prioritize the need for an electronic sign within the list of other major upgrades. One member shared that the cost of buying signs and banners to use when various messages need to be conveyed to the public can add up quickly. An electronic sign would eliminate the need to purchase and hang these signs and banners. Two members raised concerns about whether an electronic sign in front of the church would detract from the beauty of the campus. One member suggested an electronic sign might not be at the top of the list of priorities given the need to update the church's boiler systems, etc. The conversation closed with a reminder to Council members that there will always be requirements for facility repair and maintenance, but new ideas are necessary too—and free!

### **2025 Aspirations:**

- Fill the role of Vice-President for the Council.
- Increase attendance by Parish Commission members to share the plans and insights for their respective ministries. Targeting 15-20 of these Ministries being represented to share their voice.
- Take an incremental step forward in the Engage at IC process to introduce and secure commitment for Parish member participation in our ministries.
- Continue to build on the good work of the Council in furthering the work of our ministries & commissions to increase sharing of plans and programming to identify opportunities to keep our mission in high gear.

### **Commission Breakout Meeting Reports**

- **Faith Formation & Spiritual Life:** IC Faith Formation Staff member Mary Ann Rivera shared ideas for potential upcoming events (summer movie series for families; Visio Divina for IC's women's group) and educational seminars (Bible Basics 101). One commission member suggested a "Leo Study Series" that would examine the history and legacies of prior Popes named Leo. The "That Man is You" men's study group has finished for the summer but for those who are interested, a 7:30AM meeting will be held at the Grotto on Saturday mornings.
- **Social Concerns:** Commission members brainstormed ways to engage parishioners, focusing on events with the school and making bags of food/supplies to be given to the homeless in our community.
- **Parish & Community Life:** Commission members discussed final details for HASA's Food Truck Festival on 5/16. IC's Garden Ministry will host a parish clean-up on Saturday, 5/17.

### ***Closing and Next Meeting***

Rich called the meeting to a close at 8:34pm. The next Council meeting will be held at 7:30pm on June 4, 2025 (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month).

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