



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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

Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting October 8, 2025

Julie Clemens called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. Jack Griffin led the opening prayer.

Attendees: Paula Mong, David Lyons, Jack Griffin, Janet Wilks, Matt Hummer, Bob Bevilacqua, Principal Colleen Kent, Fr. Matthew Hoover, Deacon Chris Campbell, and Julie Clemens.

Not present: Rich Viertel, Jackie Curtis, Kendra Girardot, and Max Herath.

Announcements – Julie Clemens

- **New Parish Council Members:** Council welcomed Matt Hummer as a new member. Council also welcomed Bob Bevilacqua, who has agreed to be a provisional member.
- **IC Campus Art Display:** The artwork project in Marian Hall (pictures and corresponding storyboards) is complete.
- **2025 Triduum Planning:** IC's Triduum will be held Dec 7-9. Sunday, 12/7, will feature a program designed by Sr. Theresa Samson (who was recommended through a contact with the Diocese). There will be a meeting with Sr. Samson to discuss the event and build Sunday's program. Mass services for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be held on Monday, 12/8. On Tuesday, 12/9, a Vesper Service will begin at 6:15pm, followed by Daily Mass and a recital of the Rosary. The statue of Mother Mary and prayer jar will be set up at the church entrance by members of That Man Is You on Saturday, 12/6. Council will continue to work on programming for the event to have it completed in adequate time for promotion to the parish.
- **2025 Christmas Eve Mass Communication Plan:** Overflow for the 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve will be set up in Marian Hall with Mass being live streamed on screen. Parish announcements of this will be made beginning in late October. To demonstrate Council's consideration of prior year Christmas Mass attendance and evaluation of options to accommodate the large number of people at 4pm, Parish Council will make pulpit announcements 1-2 weeks prior to the Overflow Mass.
 - David Lyons volunteered to make Pulpit Announcements and assist on Christmas Eve in redirecting people to Marian Hall once church capacity has been met.
- **Parish Council Secretary position open:** Bob Bevilacqua volunteered to be Secretary. Julie offered to complete the minutes for October's meeting and will give Bob the resources he will need to begin as Secretary in November.
- **October is Diocese Cybersecurity Awareness Month:** Rich received an email from Haley Caldwell at the Diocese about Cybersecurity Awareness. Council members were asked to be cautious of emails from unfamiliar sources and to double-check with Rich before acting on any suspicious requests.

Old Business

- **Engage@IC 2025 version review:** Council members conveyed their feedback on the new format for Engage@IC. They liked the retractable banner and other promotional materials and agreed the new structure was an efficient use of time. They would like to know, however, how many parishioners registered for ministries.
 - Rich and Julie will collect the total number from the sign-up sheets and check with Tom to see whether people used the QR Code to register for ministries.
 - Council requested that follow-up email messages be sent from Parish Council to those who signed up to make sure they have been contacted by their ministry of interest. Julie volunteered to send the email messages.
 - Council also expressed interest in putting up the retractable banner during additional times throughout the year. For example, the banner could be set up in the Gathering Space once per quarter or in Marian Hall during Hospitality Sundays.

New Business

- **Christmas Tree Lighting Proposal:** David Lippencott and Mike Schulte shared their proposal for a manger/tree blessing and lighting ceremony to be held after Saturday Mass on 12/6. The ceremony would include Christmas music, food, and drinks.
 - Council considered the proposal, seeking to answer why the ceremony would be beneficial to the parish and how it could be sustained.
 - Council agreed the best date for the event is on 12/6, so it can be partnered with HASA's Christmas Boutique. They believe HASA could link this event to their Christmas Boutique and sustain it over time. Council also liked the idea of having the ceremony after Mass as it might draw more people to attend IC's Saturday Mass. In addition, this year, the ceremony would be held on the Feast Day of St. Nicholas.
 - Council thought that perhaps the Knights of Columbus could coordinate decorating the tree with putting up the manger scene. Bob offered that the Scouts he works with could help set up the tree. The Garden Ministry could possibly coordinate their decorating plans with the Tree/Manger scenes.
 - Council agreed that in addition to having cocoa and cider, wine or mulled wine should be offered.
 - Council had many suggestions for how to add to the program in coming years, including: inviting those in the neighborhood to the event; using Luminaries to lead and guide people to the event (this could be coordinated with the Garden Ministry); and asking IC school students to read Nativity stories during the ceremony.
 - Julie made a motion to approve the proposal. Council members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
- **BREAD "Who is My Neighbor" proposal**
 - Julie conveyed to Council that Rich had followed up with the group through additional conversations and the proposal would no longer be moving forward.

(Please note, see below in the Commission Breakout Meeting Report of Social Concerns that an updated proposal from BREAD was received and will be reviewed.)

A Council member suggested that at the next meeting, Council should review the IC Proposal Process since there are many members who are new to the process.

Pastor's Topics

- Father Matt had no topics to address and advised Council that he needed to leave before they adjourned because of another commitment.

Next Up:

- **Giving Tuesday – Nominations & Recipient Selection Process:** Council reviewed a handout with the timeline for the nomination and selection process. Dan Costello has volunteered to manage the project. He will send a call for nominations to Council and Commission members by 10/17. Members will be given two weeks to submit their nominations. The handout also included a list of previous Giving Tuesday recipients from 2018 to 2024, and a list of the 2024 Giving Tuesday Candidate organizations.
- **Boxes of Joy – Parish Project 100 – start date 10/11; end date 11/2:** Boxes of Joy is a project sponsored by Cross Catholic Outreach with the intent to send shoebox-sized boxes of Christmas gifts to children across the world who typically receive little, if anything, for Christmas.
 - The Parish goal is to fill 100 boxes. IC School has a goal of filling 300 boxes.
 - Julie informed Council the project would be announced and boxes distributed during Masses the weekend of 10/11. Boxes are to be returned by 11/2. Boxes should be filled for boys or girls and for specific age ranges. The boxes should not be sealed because Cross Catholic Outreach adds a Rosary and storybook. Parishioners are asked to pay the \$9 international shipping fee either through personal check or QR code.

Commission Breakout Meeting Reports

- **Faith Formation & Spiritual Life:** Commission members exchanged thoughts on ways to engage other groups in existing activities. For example, in the past, That Man Is You has invited women to attend during specific discussions that would be of interest to them.
- **Social Concerns:** Commission members discussed a Listening Event being sponsored by BREAD on 10/16. This event will allow parishioners to share their suggestions of social problems in our Columbus community that BREAD could address. Commission members also received an update to the “Who Is My Neighbor?” proposal from BREAD. Julie was given a copy of the updated proposal and advised Council she would share it with Rich for next month’s agenda.
- **Parish & Community Life:** Commission members discussed the Women’s Club Potluck, which had 40 participants, and the Garden Ministry cleanup, which was well-attended. The

following events are upcoming: Women's Retreat on 10/11; HASA's Dining Out event at Romeo's Pizza on 10/22; Fall Campus Cleanup on 11/8.

Closing and Next Meeting

Julie called the meeting to a close at 8:40pm. The next Council meeting will be held at 7:30pm on November 12, 2025.

Meeting minutes drafted and submitted by Julie Clemens, Parish Council Vice President and Interim Secretary.