



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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

Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting May 8, 2024

Lisa Galden called the Parish Council meeting to order at 7:35pm; Paula Mong led the members in an opening prayer.

Attendees: Fr. Matt Hoover, Deacon Chris Campbell, Principal Colleen Kent, Lisa Galden, Kendra Girardot, Paula Mong, Janet Wilks, and Julie Clemens.

Not present: Rich Viertel, Sarah Berlin Moore, and Jim Emley

Staff Retreat (continued from Commission Meeting)

Fr. Matt shared about a staff retreat that introduced a method for implementing an Apostolic Mission in today's world. To use this method, before taking any action as a parish, parishioners must ask through prayer and carefully discern God's plan for them (i.e., rather than asking God for what we want, we should be asking Him to tell us what He wants for us).

In the process of discerning God's future path for IC, it will be important to not only pray about it together but to make space for the Holy Spirit to work within the group. For example, as the Parish Council, members would pray together about how to guide future parish programs and pastoral strategies. Using a "sailboat model," council would pray to God for guidance and allow the Holy Spirit to blow into the sail to move the "boat of IC." Council members would be involved in many other "boating activities" such as raising the sails, but they would allow only God to "move the boat" in the direction He desires. Through prayer, council could ask God how to grow closer together as a team and identify the greatest needs of where the Lord wants to heal and lead the IC parish.

Council members expressed excitement over the information shared by Fr. Matt. They also had concerns about how to put the model into practice and agreed it would not be easy to move away from the way things have been done in the past. Fr. Matt explained that we can have confidence in God and His plan for IC—that whatever comes from God is going to last.

Council members agreed to give this method a try before the next meeting on June 5th. They will meet at 6:00pm in the church to pray (further instructions will be provided before the meeting).

Old Business

Nominations Parish Pastoral Council

Lisa handed out a chart of IC Parish Pastoral Council Members & Term Assignments through 2026. For the 2024-2025 year, spaces are available in each of the three Parish Commissions. One person is needed for Faith Formation & Spiritual Life; two people are needed for Parish & Community Life; and two people are needed for Social Concerns. The positions of Vice President and Secretary are also vacant. Lisa asked council to pray for nominees for next year.

Parish Picnic on Corpus Christi Sunday (June 2, after 11am mass)

It is anticipated that approximately 100 parishioners could attend the picnic. Paula discussed a food and inventory list that Rich created. Janet volunteered to make the side dishes. Paula will check with the Women's Club for assistance with desserts. Council members discussed how to advertise the picnic. Fr. Matt will have Megan promote it through the bulletin and website. It was agreed that in addition to this it would be beneficial to stand at the doors before and after Masses to personally invite parishioners. Council also discussed having some sort of mixer game/s, primarily for the sake of giving people an opportunity to interact and get to know each other better. Lisa asked for any other ideas or suggestions to be sent to her.

New Parishioner Welcome Gathering

Paula asked Fr. Matt about whether the Welcome Gathering should be postponed until he returns from sabbatical. Fr. Matt advised Paula to host it in September as previously planned. Paula and the Parish & Community Life Commission will move forward in planning the event.

Three Commissions: 1-2 minute Reports

To adjourn on time, Lisa asked to skip the Commission reports and council agreed.

Closing and Next Meeting

Lisa called the Council meeting to a close. The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm. The next Council meeting will be on June 5, 2024. This will be the final meeting before summer break.

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