



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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

Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting June 5, 2024

Lisa Galden called the Parish Council meeting to order at 7:53pm; Rich Viertel led the members in an opening prayer.

Attendees: Fr. Matt Hoover, Deacon Chris Campbell, Godfrey SSebikyu, Principal Colleen Kent, Lisa Galden, Rich Viertel, Sarah Berlin Moore, Kendra Girardot, Paula Mong, Janet Wilks, and Julie Clemens.

Not present: Jim Emley

Debrief from Prayer Time

Council and Commissions members met before the meetings to pray, asking Our Lord to reveal His Plan for IC. The specific prompts for prayer were: (1) What is our biggest “need” (wound) here at IC? (i.e., Where do we need Jesus to heal us?) and (2) Jesus, how are you calling me to lead the people? (i.e., Where are you inviting me to grow? What is my “mission work?”)

Council members debriefed one another on their insights from prayer. Four members shared the words that had come to each of them individually. They were “restore,” “unity,” “heal the schisms,” and “love.” The person who heard the word “unity” also saw an image of many individual windsurfers darting about in the water with a sailboat close by; she heard “all in the boat.” Fr. Matt responded that at an earlier time in the week an IC staff member had also shared a message from prayer of “stay in the boat, all together as a church.” Another person had thoughts during prayer about what to do when everyone is in the sailboat, but the wind dies, i.e., is this the time to rest and be with God or to find some oars?

In response to the question of how Jesus is calling us to lead, a member shared that “teach them how to pray” is a consistent message being heard. Another person received a message from prayer to follow the model of the sailboat at more than just the church and community levels but at the family level. It may feel hard and uncomfortable to pray with your family, but it is important to take that first step of praying together. Another person remembered that growing up they were taught prayers to memorize and recite, and not shown how to listen during prayer. It was added that when you ask Catholic couples whether they pray together, very few answer yes.

Fr. Matt encouraged everyone to continue to pray about what they had heard during the prayer time. He said that sometimes it can feel overwhelming, and solutions do not come right away but to keep praying into it. Jesus will show us the way.

Old Business

Nominations Parish Pastoral Council

Three nominations have been received and another one is expected. The council discussed the nomination requests and accepted all three of them. Rich will let the nominees know that they have been approved to serve a 3-year term.

New Parishioner Welcome Gathering

The New Parishioner Welcome Gathering will be held in between the regularly scheduled Masses on Sunday, September 15th. An invitation will be sent with a request to RSVP.

New Business

DMI Survey Results

The DMI survey results will be coming out soon. IC Staff will be trained on how to read the results during the week of 6/10. Communication about the survey results will be provided to parishioners before Fr. Matt leaves for sabbatical. Council will be involved extensively in analyzing the data to create an action plan for future parish needs and initiatives. It will be important to communicate with the parish when action is taken from the survey results. One member shared a helpful reminder that “you can never over communicate.”

Meet and Greet

The Parish Council meet and greet will be held in August. Rich will be in touch with members to schedule and Janet will host the event at her house.

Three Commissions: 1-2 minute Reports

The Faith Formation & Spiritual Life Commission will be hosting a summer viewing party of The Chosen. They also agreed to speak during the council’s break to plan the Triduum.

The Parish & Community Life Commission’s hosting of the Corpus Christi Sunday parishioner picnic was a success with about 120 people in attendance. Next year, greater attention will be given to aiding parishioners who are hindered from walking. Also, the garden ministry will be working at IC this Saturday (6/8).

The Social Concerns Commission’s St. Vincent de Paul donation truck was filled and overflowing, with items remaining in the IC garage that will be transported to the donation

center. Mary Ann Grossman submitted a proposal for a bone marrow cheek-swab event that will run parallel to the blood drive on August 12th, and it was approved.

Closing and Next Meeting

The council thanked Lisa for her 3-year service to council and for serving as President. They also thanked Sarah and Jim (in his absence) for their 3-year service to the council. Fr. Matt gave the council a blessing. Lisa called the meeting to a close at 8:50pm. The next meeting will be in September.

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