



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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

Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting October 9, 2024

Rich Viertel called the Parish Council meeting to order at 7:39pm. Paula Mong led the members in an opening prayer.

Attendees: Rich Viertel, Paula Mong, Janet Wilks, David Lyons, Max Herath, Patty Conway, Principal Colleen Kent, Deacon Chris Campbell, Fr. Jerry Rodenfels, and Julie Clemens. Not present: Fr. Matt Hoover and Kendra Girardot.

General Opening Comments – Council members welcomed Fr. Jerry Rodenfels to the meeting. Fr. Jerry expressed appreciation for all the support he has received in his interim administrator role at IC and mentioned that Fr. Matt has completed the El Camino pilgrimage and is now beginning his continuing education program in Rome.

Announcements – Rich Viertel

- **Engage@IC Feedback:** Rich thanked council members for the feedback they provided on the Engage@IC event during September's council meeting and for their detailed discussion of how to increase parishioner engagement. In all, there were 7 parishioners who expressed interest in IC's ministries during Engage@IC. Council's general recommendation is that in the future Engage@IC should not be held on the same day as the School Supply Sale. One member suggested that next year Engage@IC could be held in September on Hospitality Sunday. Fr. Rodenfels encouraged Rich to speak with leadership at the Church of the Resurrection and believes that they may have useful insight about how to increase and maintain participation in parish activities. Rich agreed to contact them and report to council members so they may continue to refine their thoughts on how to foster greater participation.
- **Fall 2024 Faith Formation Activities (see IC bulletin):** Rich reminded council members of the Fall programming for Faith Formation. Specifically, he advised them of the upcoming Women's Conference with Emily Jaminet (75 women have registered).
- **New Parishioner Welcome Packet contents:** Rich confirmed with Karen Cannell in the Parish Office that there is a New Parishioner Welcome Packet and will obtain a sample so that council members can review it and discuss how to increase new parishioner participation in IC events and ministries.

Next Up:

- **Giving Tuesday - Nominations & Recipient Selection Update:** Dan Costello is leading the nomination and selection process for Giving Tuesday. A call for nominations has been sent via email and will remain open through 10/12. Several nominees have been received and Dan has started the vetting process.
- **Triduum Planning – Dec 8-10, 2024:** The programming for the Triduum has been agreed upon and will be as follows:
 - December 8th: Fr. Thomas Blau, O.P. from St. Patrick Parish, will give a presentation to parishioners.
 - December 9th: Mass will be celebrated for the Holy Day of Obligation at 8:30am, 11:30am, and 7:00pm.
 - December 10th: Vespers will begin at 6:15pm, followed by daily Mass.

Fr. Jerry agreed to speak with IC staff about providing music for Vespers on 12/10. Janet will check with Bobbie Mitch about placement of the statue of Mother Mary and availability of the prayer jar, pencils and baskets. Janet will also obtain a copy of last year's promotional materials and update and give them to the parish office for publication (Janet will keep Rich updated on the process). Rich asked that all promotional materials be finished by 11/1, so they can be used in the bulletin scheduled for Sunday, 11/3. In addition, Janet shared with Principal Kent that during the September Commission meeting, the Faith Formation & Spiritual Life members discussed the possibility of creating an event for the December 2025 Triduum that would involve IC students and their mothers and grandmothers (perhaps, a themed activity and breakfast).

Commission Breakout Meeting Reports

- **Faith Formation & Spiritual Life:** Programming for the December Triduum was the topic of discussion (see program schedule above).
- **Social Concerns:** Max inquired about the prevalence of men's groups at IC and expressed interest in establishing a program for young adult men (e.g., young dads) that is simple, repeatable and connected to the work of IC's Social Concerns Commission. Council members discussed That Man is You, the Knights of Columbus, and St. Vincent DePaul. Council members agreed that younger men are looking for social connection and there could be value in establishing a men's group for that age group which incorporates service needs of the parish. Max was advised of the proposal form on IC's website and to begin putting his idea on paper so that it can be further discussed and formulated.
- **Parish & Community Life:** Paula shared that the New Parishioner Welcome breakfast was held on 9/15. Meghan O'Brien from the Parish Office sent an email invitation to all the New Parishioners; The IC Women's Club also mailed personal invitations to everyone. In all, 8 families responded to the invitations. The P&CL members discussed how to increase participation in the next New Parishioner Welcome event. They also discussed how to increase participation in parish activities among new members. One council member advised

fellow members that when the opportunity arises, to ask peers from other churches about what are they doing to encourage participation in activities and volunteering. Principal Kent discussed a new recommendation/expectation being implemented at IC school that will ask families to complete a minimum of 15 hours of service within the parish and school community each academic year. The parents will receive a letter and possible suggestions for areas of interest. Staff will keep track of the hours completed. Principal Kent will follow-up with families in support of our mission at IC. A question was raised about whether this type of program (with a minimum service-hour requirement) has been attempted with parishioners who do not belong to the school. Volunteering with parish ministries has always been encouraged but specific service-hour requirements have never been given. Council members exchanged ideas about how to establish a recommendation like this within the parish.

An inquiry was made about how to request maintenance for the rectory windows. Fr. Jerry asked that the request be submitted to John Bernard in the Parish Office. Fr. Jerry discussed the offertory appeal with the council members.

Closing and Next Meeting

Rich called the meeting to a close at 8:34pm. The next Council meeting will be held on November 13, 2024.

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