



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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

### **Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting March 12, 2025**

Rich Viertel called the Parish Council meeting to order at 7:32pm. Julie Clemens led the members in an opening prayer.

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

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

Fr. Matt opened the meeting by stating that Parish Council, which is a microcosm of the parish, should strive to be attuned to the spiritual direction of IC and work to identify and address the needs of its parishioners.

- **Lenten Activities Card:** Rich conveyed his hope that parishioners will use the card to strengthen their Lenten experiences.
- **Safety & Security at IC:** Fr. Matt is working with many parish groups to review IC's safety and security policies and procedures. His intention is for all key people who are responsible for safety and security to know what to do in a variety of situations. Fr. Matt informed Council that the review will be ongoing, with periodic updates being provided. This agenda item is now complete.
- **IC Campus "Artification" - Placement of artwork from Fr. Matt's pilgrimage/sabbatical in Public Spaces (Marian Hall, Marian Hall Lobby, Gathering Space between Marian Hall & Church, Rectory Rooms A, B & C):** Council discussed where to hang Fr. Matt's artwork to increase the Catholic messaging on IC's campus. One person suggested to use all the pictures in one place to the greatest effect by creating a gallery wall in Marian Hall. Another member liked the gallery wall suggestion but expressed interest in creating large murals of Catholic art to cover the walls in Marian Hall. Another person liked the gallery wall suggestion and expressed that the right artwork and lighting can put people in a good frame of mind. The final recommendation from Council is to consider hanging the artwork in a gallery formation on a wall in Marian Hall.
- **2025 Christmas Mass Scheduling:** Fr. Matt is consulting with various parish constituencies to find a solution to either better accommodate the large number of attendees at the 4pm Christmas Mass or balance the numbers across the other 3 Christmas Masses. Council suggested gathering perspectives from parishioners, perhaps through an announcement about

the situation from the pulpit or an insert in the bulletin. Another person suggested adding special incentives/features to the other Masses to motivate greater attendance at them.

Council members will continue to speak with as many people as possible to gather multiple perspectives on the matter and report back at the next meeting.

- **DMI Survey Findings & Adaptive Planning:** Council will discuss this topic next time.

### **Announcements – Rich Viertel**

- **Parish Council Member Recruiting:** Parish Council has two seats to fill. Please contact Rich or Fr. Matt with your suggestions.
- **Mass Opening/Welcome Message Consistency:** The Welcome Message has been consistently given at the opening of each Mass and seems to be well-received.
- **2025 Triduum:** Rich conveyed that when planning the Triduum, Council should be thinking of mass appeal, i.e., which group or experience would be most adaptive to broader interests. The topic does not need to be focused necessarily on the Immaculate Conception. Council may also want to re-evaluate their expectations for attendance given the time of year. Perhaps a new strategy is to orient it to be more of a retreat experience vs. an “event” with a higher-profile keynote speaker. Religious sisters could be engaged for possible program development. Some of the local groups of religious sisters are the Bridgettines in Columbus, Dominican Sisters of Mary at St. Michael’s, and Children of Mary in Newark. Council will continue to plan with an expectation to have the agenda finalized by August or September.
- **2025 Engage at IC Planning:** A suggestion was made by the Parish & Community Life Commission to consider creating a static display to share information of IC’s ministries rather than holding an Engage@IC event. Another church used a large wooden structure with shelves to hold flyers about their ministries and had two people present to answer questions. Council thought this approach might be a worthwhile strategy for further consideration.

### **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:** Commission members discussed the December Triduum and Engage@IC.

- Social Concerns: Jim Emley distributed a St. Vincent de Paul information packet to all Commission members.
- Parish & Community Life: The Women's Club will be hosting two tables for its members during the Fish Fry on 3/14.

***Closing and Next Meeting***

Rich called the meeting to a close at 8:42pm. The next Council meeting will be held at 7:30pm on April 9, 2025.

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