

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Parish Council Minutes
August 18, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by chair, Joe Fields.

This meeting is specifically intended for the presentation of the Five-Year Plan to Bishop Donald Kettler.

Members present: Joe Fields, Steve Mullins, Bob Mantei, Randy Kinsey, Annie Dobbs and Phylliss Dixon.

Members absent: Maria Muehlenkamp, Tammy Want, Katrina Yanish.

Visitors present: Bishop Donald Kettler, Robert Hannon, Fr. Zygmunt, Grayce Barnard and Shannon Christiansen.

Staff present: Deacon Bob Barnard, Cindy Fields.

Mullins moved, Kinsey seconded to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Mullins moved, Kinsey seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 21 and special meeting minutes of August 4, 2010. Motion carried.

There were no staff reports for this meeting.

There was no new business scheduled for this meeting. Randy Kinsey did ask that the Knights of Columbus be given permission to keep their meeting flags at ICC since they are meeting here regularly. The council asked that we wait for a decision until our new priests are here before deciding on where the flags would be kept.

Unfinished business

The presentation of the Five-Year Plan to Bishop Kettler was done by sections beginning with Liturgy. Bishop Kettler gave a brief explanation of what might be expected with the implementation of the Sacramentary. He said that several people from the diocese would be attending a conference in September to learn more about the implementation. Beginning in September through February, the local committee would come up with a plan for implementation. There is not a set date for implementation at this time, but Advent 2011 is a date to keep in mind. He also noted that much work would be needed by the implementation committee to come up with two approaches, one for the urban areas and another for rural areas. A February workshop for priests, deacons and perhaps lay leaders is also in the works. Bishop Kettler noted that it was going to be a

challenge to implement the new Sacramentary with changes in music, prayers, etc.

Religious Education: The plan highlights parental expectations for children in the parish religious education programs, the establishment of a preschool program, certification of catechists, on-going goals of the RCIC and RCIA programs, communications about the religious education program to parents and the community and establishment of a viable program for our parish youth.

Randy asked about the certification of catechists. Deacon Bob Barnard explained the process to the council. Bishop Kettler said that while it would be wonderful to have all catechists certified, he would like to have as many certified as possible.

Social and Community Activities: The plan incorporates more parish council involvement in parish activities and fundraisers. Parish council members will be acting as event co-chairs in order to have a liaison between the activity chairperson and the council. Also included in the plan is the expectation that the parish council will be responsible for Mardi Gras, parish picnic and Harvest Festival are held annually and will support other events such as the Seder Meal, Midnight Sun and Golden Days community activities, welcoming and farewells for parishioners and volunteer appreciation events.

Ministry and Service: Training and orientation for all lay leaders is emphasized, with establishment of a regular training program in each ministry for all volunteers. The plan also includes establishment of a program to invite parishioners to become more involved in all ministries of our parish. The plan calls for quarterly retreats and a more visible missionary ministry in countries where we currently have contact: Australia, Africa, Poland and villages in Alaska.

Welcoming and Evangelization: Production of a quarterly parish newsletter beginning in the fall of 2010 is short-term goal, as well as improvement of usher recruitment and training. Goals include recruitment of a newsletter editor, investigation of costs associated with producing a newsletter, recruitment of an usher/greeter coordinator and recruitment of ushers and greeters that are representative of our diverse faith community.

Joe told council members the expectation would be to approve the final plan at the September 15, 2010 plan. He also noted that would give Fr. Zygmunt an opportunity to look over the plan.

Joe also thanked Bishop Kettler and Robert Hannon for attending the meeting and the opportunity to present the council's plan for the coming five years. The Bishop noted that the plan was very ambitious and wished us well in the implementation of the plan.

Bishop Kettler updated the council on several issues concerning salary and benefits of our two new priests. ICC will be paying the costs of one priest; the home diocese of the second priest will pay for their salary and benefits. Also discussed were parish assessments, a new parish census and Fr. Zygmunt's program of outreach to the Catholic community in Fairbanks.

The next meeting of the parish council will take place on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by Phyliss Dixon, secretary.