

**Parish Council Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2008**

The Immaculate Conception Church Parish Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 in the church hall. Council President Duane Cekalla called the meeting to order at 7pm. Members present were Duane Cekalla, Sandy Saldana, Greg Frank, Sandy Durant, Francis Januschka, Michele Hiscock, Scott Beierman, and Fr. Tim Wenzel. Jackie Wruck was excused, and Jessica Friedrich was absent. Fr. Tim led an Opening Prayer.

The agenda was approved as printed on a motion by Francis and second by Scott. The minutes of the August 26 and September 21 meetings were approved with one change to the August 26 minutes: Bill Rauch noted that he oversaw the air-conditioning project, so this will be duly noted in the minutes. The motion was made by Sandy S. and seconded by Sandy D. to approve the minutes with this change.

Committee reports included the following:

Finance Council: Greg and Sandy S. reported that Finance Council will be meeting on November 18th. Francis Januschka asked where the church's savings accounts are housed; \$90,000 in savings are divided between the chancery loan account and Bremer Bank.

Maintenance Committee: Bill Rauch reported that he received a letter in early September from the MN Department of Labor and Industry informing the church that it is required to have an elevator permit and ongoing inspections to be kept up to code; the paperwork and \$100 permit fee have been submitted. The church has a monthly maintenance agreement, and the inspector reports to Bill. Bill advised the council on emergency opening of the elevator. Scott asked Bill to contact the Rice Fire Department and invite them to the church to review the procedures. Bill has also installed a laminate floor in one of the downstairs classrooms (former kitchen area). Bill was thanked for coming to the meeting.

Liturgy Committee: Pat Spence reported that the committee has met twice since the council's last meeting. Anna Marie's Shelter was chosen for this year's Advent charity. Parishioners will be invited to donate items or money for the shelter. They serve 2,000 women and children annually and house approximately 200 women and children annually. Celebration of World Priesthood Sunday went well, and there was good participation in the socials. Children's Liturgy of the Word will be led on the second Sunday of each month by Peggy Kerestes; when Jennifer Bailey is able to do so, she will lead it on the fourth Sunday. Pat also asked the council members for input on recruiting more men and boys for the choirs. The council asked Father Tim to speak in a homily about the importance of singing (prayer) and to encourage the males to participate.

Faith Formation Committee: Pat reported that the committee met in September. The first Baptism Class was attended by six couples; it was a good experience to see the couples meeting each other and doing the class together with Mayhew Lake couples. RCIA class has seven members; meetings have been going well. The council members affirmed the positive aspect of doing these classes together between our two parishes. Pat reported that about 100 adults and 138 children participated in the first Faith Formation session. There was good feedback on the speaker. Fr. Tim will be the speaker on November 5th: "Introduction to St. Paul."

Follow-Up Committee: Duane reported on the October 22nd meeting. There is concern that envelope donations for "Find Us Faithful" have not been meeting the monthly payment. There was a \$4,800 shortfall during the past 11 months. The difference needed to be met with fundraising proceeds. Duane said that the committee will have an annual report, both written and verbal, for the parish on November 22nd and 23rd Masses. If it is safe to do so, parishioners will be invited to tour the classroom area in the basement to generate interest in making donations for this project. The committee also discussed encouraging families to go together to sponsor a classroom; donation plaques with their names would be outside each classroom door. Also, a donation plaque with the names of all donors over a certain amount will be hung in the gathering space. There will be a joint meeting of Follow-Up Committee members and all interested in helping with Fundraising on November 16th at 7pm in the church hall. The council was invited to come. Sandy D. stressed the importance of getting new people involved, so that we don't burn out the good volunteers that we have now.

Old Business included these items:

Skim coating of the walls and the opening and support of the wall for the ductwork are completed. Bill Rauch commented that he would like to have skim coating on the lower portion of the walls in the fellowship hall; this would protect them. He will get a price for the materials; the contractor will donate his time. Pat said that Nick Preusser, Ray Thompson and Jim Schlangen have donated considerable time on the project. Sandy D. asked if further volunteers are needed. Fr. Tim will announce the need for more volunteers when Nick is ready for it. Pat said that there is another week needed for the concrete to dry before Nick can move ahead.

Bathroom signage is not up yet. Duane asked Bill to call Boser's and order the signs. They are to be hung on the pillars that separate the hall from the gathering space. Purpose is to make it easier for people to find the bathrooms.

The new parish directory will be an agenda item for the joint parish council meeting with Annunciation. Duane Wentland has contacted the companies, and it appears that Olan Mills is available to work on one next spring. The new directory will have a section for each parish.

A new convection oven has been purchased with funds from the Christian Women, Knights of Columbus, and sale of the current range. This will be used for fundraising (pie baking, caramel rolls, breakfasts, etc). The Christian Women and Knights were thanked for their generous contributions.

New business included:

Fr. Tim gave his Pastor's Report. All Saints Day Mass is Saturday, November 1st at 9am at Immaculate Conception. For Thanksgiving, our parish will host the Ecumenical Service for all five Rice-Area churches. It will be at 7pm on Wednesday, November 26th. The council members will help serve the refreshments at the social which follows. We will have joint adult and children's choirs as part of the service. The Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at 8:30am at Mayhew Lake. Christmas Mass Schedule will be 5pm at Rice, 8:30pm at Mayhew Lake, and 11pm at Rice for Christmas Eve and 8:30am at Rice and 10:30am at Mayhew Lake on Christmas Day. This is the same schedule as last year. New Year's Eve Mass will be at 5pm at Rice; New Year's Day Masses will be 8:30am at Rice and 10:30am at Mayhew Lake.

Mary Ann Schlangen has resigned as the kitchen manager for health reasons. Sandy D. suggested that rather than having one manager, the church have a team of three. One person could be responsible for maintaining supplies and others could help cover the duties related to the events when a kitchen manager is needed. The council discussed some potential candidates for the team. Father Tim stressed the importance of knowing the duties are carried out. Mary Ann was thanked for her service.

Fr. Tim told the council about the Parish Mission, which will be November 1-5, 2009. Fr. Peter Schavitz, a Redemptorist priest, will be the mission leader. He will also be present for the Masses on the preceding weekend. We will have the mission with Mayhew Lake and share in the cost, which will be to cover Fr. Peter's travel expenses. A freewill collection is also taken the last evening at the Mass. Fr. said that he hoped the parish council would take an active role in preparing for the mission. All agreed that this would be a good experience for the two parishes. This will be a joint parish council agenda item.

The next fundraiser for the parish is the Christmas Cooky/Candy/Gift sale. We are still looking for volunteers to lead this.

Carole Garlock wishes to give a donation to light the statue of Mary on the east wall of the church. We are waiting for an estimate of the cost for the electrical work. The council encouraged estimate to be obtained from all the electricians that advertise on the back of the bulletin.

The next parish council meeting will be the Joint Meeting with the Annunciation Church Council at 8pm on Tuesday, November 11th. The council will not meet in December; the next regular meeting will be February 24th at 7pm unless Fr. Tim feels there is need for a meeting before that time.

Greg made a motion, which was seconded by Scott, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Motion passed. The Council closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence