



# Immaculate Conception Pastoral Council MINUTES

OF THE MEETING HELD

**November 15, 2010**

7:00 to 9:20 pm - Library

## Members attending:

Fr. William Feeney, Maureen Baker, Elena Blyth, Sandy Dames, Don Detts, Denise Dudik, Celia Jaykumar, Lynne Loesch, Ron McGinnis, Mack Picknick, Holly Poach Kathi Rush, Jim Stark, Tom Uram

## Support staff attending:

Sr. Margaretta Nussbaumer, Fr. Michael Ruffalo,

## Members not attending:

, Lynn DeHaven, Frank Moyer, Janet Schneider

Guests Danielle Marchesi- Youth Ministry; Peggy Donley, RCIA;  
Carolyn Zoeller, Worship Committee

**OPENING PRAYER** – Father Feeney welcomed all to the meeting. After introductions, Kathy Rush led the opening song, “For The Beauty Of The Earth.” Father Feeney led all in prayer and Lynne Loesch was the reader.

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** – Jim briefly reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and explained how the committee got to the current status.

## PARISH PLAN

Denise distributed the 6 goals and broke the council into three teams.

**Team 1** focused on Notes from Pastoral Council meeting of 10/18/10, Education group meeting

Education group meeting

Participants: Peggy Donnelly, Denise Dudik, Maureen Baker, Carolyn Zoeller

## Goal #3 discussion:

We spoke to Peggy Donnelly, who is the Adult Education Coordinator and leader of RCIA, about adult education opportunities at IC. Peggy said that every fall season, she plans an adult education event, usually a series of meetings that involve reading and discussing a book or books on a specific theme. She usually only has about six to eight people that show interest and participate, and they are often the same people that have participated in the past. This small show of interest happens regardless of advertising. Peggy does stock the pamphlet rack also, and feels that people take advantage of the reading material that is in it.

We also briefly discussed Goal #4 with Peggy, since she had arranged for a Tazá service in the past. The Tazá service is a service with quiet music that is designed to promote introspection. Carolyn Zoeller joined us for this part of our discussion and said that the Worship Committee could work with Peggy on this type of service.

Peggy suggested that the Called by Name committee consider instituting a program that is similar to RCIA to bring people back to the church.

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**Team 2** consisted of Sr. Margaretta Nussbaumer, Don Detts, Celia Jaykumar, Lynne Loesch, Ron McGinnis and Carolyn Zoeller of the Worship Committee.

We discussed goal#4 - Worship Enhance worship opportunities in the parish.

Sr. Margaretta Nussbaumer and Carolyn updated us on some of the recent activities of the worship committee. Past attempts to encourage attendance at 40-hour devotions have had very sparse attendance. Even one-hour devotions are not popular. There was discussion on TCE conflicting with students attending mass. Sr. Margaretta Nussbaumer said each grade is now attending mass once a month as a class instead of instruction. Family worship, the bedrock of many of our catholic backgrounds needs emphasized and encouraged. Moving the time for TCE or adjusting Mass times should be considered as ways to better accommodate family worship.

Yugo sent word that he would welcome expanded types of music. The bell choir is being reformed as well as a children`s choir. There are 3 gospel masses scheduled as well. He was open to other suggestions as well. Sr. Margaretta Nussbaumer suggested violin and flute volunteer musicians as well.

The upcoming changes in the dialog of mass were discussed. The Education committee will be putting together a timeline for the implementation of changes and Worship Committee will be sponsoring an evening of reflection with Fr. Jim Gretz.

Ron McGinnis suggested the revitalization of a bereavement committee to soothe our grieving parishioners. We discussed the development of a parish center to host families after burials as other churches do.

In regard to goal#6, Yugo also sent word that he was planning a multi-denominational service to observe the 10th anniversary of 9/11. He saw that as an opening move in developing ecumenical choir opportunities. The choir loft was in serious need of renovation. The choir has doubled in size and the seating configuration is woefully inadequate according to Ron McGinnis, and Carolyn Zoeller.

**TEAM 3** focused on Goal 6 - Stewardship - Develop plan for maintaining what we have and planning for the future.

This team was comprised of Danielle Marchesi, Fr. William Feeney, Mack Picknick, Kathi Rush, Tom Uram, and Jim Stark, .

Danielle Marchesi discussed goals of the youth ministry. This outreach activity is designed to continue moral development for youth by promoting service to others both locally and the extended community. Danielle does an excellent job of staying in touch with the youth via text messaging and Facebook. It is open to all within the age groups. Current developments are promoting the youth ministry in grades 6, 7, and 8 with a focus on Christian values and moral choices. The local mission activities performed by the Youth Group include packing boxes for the food pantry and packing bags for shut-ins. The clothing sales designed to provide funding for remote mission trips, also serve the local mission activities with unsold clothing going to Catholic Charities, St Vincent DePaul, and interfaith outreach. The Mission trips are primarily focused toward the youth, but adult volunteers are essential in it activities. All volunteers must have training in Protecting Gods Children. This activity is audited regularly by the diocese of Pittsburgh to ensure compliance.

Goal 4 - Worship – There is a need for contingency plans for fewer priests, and providing coverage in case of illness. As part of such plans coordination and approval of the diocese is necessary prior to adjusting mass schedules.

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Goal #6 Stewardship – Develop plan for maintaining what we have, and planning for the future.

Tome Uram suggested that the plan include direct deposit, automatic transfer, and credit cards be included to achieve a more stable cash flow.

### **CURRENT EVENTS**

Bishop Wuerl's will be elevated to Cardinal 11/20/2010 with a Pittsburgh contingency heading to Rome. The Diocese is using listening sessions to establish consistent personnel policies. The resources of Notre Dame are being employed in the Pittsburgh Diocese to strengthen school planning and Catholic education. A mailing is scheduled for next week to encourage Christmas donations and provide information on Mass times

### **MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be January 17, 2011. We hope to have at the end of this meeting, a complete plan with realistic dates established. Plans for submission to the Diocese and publication to the parish will need to formulation. A new schedule for upcoming meetings will be discussed & established.

Concluding Prayer