

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception
Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
February 14, 2017

The meeting started at 6:35 pm.

Present: Father David Burgard, Father Louis Lapeyre, Donna Banker, Gay Criscio (Chair), Fred Fedorowicz, Heather Hall, Jack Ready (representing Lorie Holden/finance council), Frank McAuliffe, Anne Zochowski, Hugh Acosta, Richard Janssens

Absent: Tim Anteau, Lorie Bronson, Lorie Holden, Doug Kuras, Bernie Smith, Jim Peltier

Mission Statement: St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, a Catholic community of faith, proclaims Jesus Christ through prayer, worship, celebration of the sacraments, ongoing care for those in need, lifelong faith formation and stewardship of our time, talents and treasures.

Vision Statement: To Welcome. To Inspire. To Transform. To Serve.

Gay read the Mission and the Vision statements.

Opening Prayer: Anne Zochowski

Opening Prayer for March Meeting: Anne Zochowski

Minutes: The January 10, 2017 minutes were approved via email on January 30, 2017

Formation/Enrichment:

Father David gave an overview of the IPF enrichment that he received over the past three years in Mundelein, IL. He spoke of the completion of his commitment and what it meant to him and of his training as a spiritual director. He reflected on the blessings that he received every time he attended the training whether it was for retreat or training. There were many gifts through prayer, conversation, leadership/guidance, sharing, and an everlasting bonding with the other participants. The overall personal experience was continuously full of blessings and growth. The last two days were filled with a profound sharing of graces by all 70 participants, who each told how God touched them internally, through this experience. This was a renewal and transformation for Father David and he is looking forward to the many ways the gifts will be used through him. Father David is planning to schedule a session overview of the IPF enrichment, for anyone who would like to hear about his experiences.

Vicariate or Archdiocesan Report:

Vicariate: Fred reported that he is now appointed as the treasurer. He also reported that the person who has been working on the peace and justice portion of the program passed away and they will be looking for a replacement.

Synod Update: No updates at this point.

Commission Reports:

Worship: No questions

Finance: No questions

Old Business:

Parish Council responsibilities: Gay distributed an overview of the responsibilities/expectations of the parish council, which also showed a comparison to the role of parish administration and finance council. The meaning of “agreement by consensus” was addressed and it was explained that this is a process where all are allowed an opinion and respected for their opinion, and then asked if a decision can be made as “a decision that I may not fully agree with, but can ‘live’ with.” Gay stressed that once a consensus has been reached on a topic, it is each council member’s responsibility to support that decision.

Speaker Demo: There will be a demonstration, by Phillips, of a speaker option for the church on Tuesday March 7 @ 3:00 pm. Father David asked if the speakers will be compared side by side, so that there can be a fair comparison of the current system versus the new option. Jack addressed this and said that he will check on this option.

Hugh provided comparison information on the microphones by Shure that he spoke of at the January meeting versus the current microphone being used. He shared that the Shure microphone was designed specifically for church environments and is compatible to the current sound system by Shure, which is currently in the church. He also shared that the current microphone that is in use has a much lower rating.

***Action Items:** Jack check on side-by-side comparison options.

Father David will share the microphone information, provided by Hugh, with the Finance council.

Social Hall Water Sample: Monroe will only test water that is from a well and are not set up to test anything that is city provided. They did indicate that they would be happy to come to the address and do an analysis. Hugh checked on a “do-it-yourself” water testing kit and found two options. He suggested using a test kit to check the water, or that a plumber that is a member of the church might be consulted and see what they recommend.

***Action Item:** Jack will take the water concerns to the finance council.

Children’s Offertory Envelopes – Father David stated that the church could order children’s envelopes in a small supply and give the children the opportunity to use them. The worship commission will discuss the process of distribution for the envelopes.

***Action Item:** Father David will order a small supply and then speak to the worship commission about the options for the distribution of the envelopes.

Remembrance Garden: As soon as spring arrives, Hugh will begin to put a plan into action. He is currently researching and planning and once done with this stage, he will speak to landscaping services to see what they have available. Jack has the property lines and will provide those to Hugh so that he can begin to form the blueprints for the garden. Hugh stated that he anticipates breaking ground on the garden by late summer and completion hopefully by late next summer, but cautioned that this project could

very well take much more time to complete. The timeline is still undetermined and Hugh will continue to update the PPC.

***Action Items:** Jack will provide property line blue prints.

Order of Mass/Mass Aids: No consensus or a plan of action to report.

Ad Promoting Catholic Schools: Father David spoke to Alicia Marting and she told him that most of the ads for Catholic school open houses are already in and it is too late for an addition to the current insert on Catholic Schools. They will be getting an ad in closer to the MCS open house in March.

Church Door Renderings: No updated information at this time.

Appreciation Dinner: The appreciation dinner will be held on February 25 after 4:30 mass

Vision Skit: There are 5 actors who will present the vision as a 10-minute skit. This will be performed for the first time at the appreciation dinner and is intended as the first introduction of the Vision Statement to the church membership. The Vision skit was written by, Brad Bowman.

Catechists website update: in discussion

Youth Ministry: The first meeting for adults interested in helping was not well attended. Fred suggested to Nancy, that she have another meeting and make sure that it was more widely advertised. It was stated that the initial attendance at the youth night was well attended considering it was on Super Bowl Sunday.

New Business:

Security system on church doors: Anne reported that she contacted the other parishes in the area about their alarm systems and only heard a response from St. Johns at this point. They stated that they do not have a very enhanced system beyond a dead bolt and barring system. Anne shared that she is concerned about the number of doors on the church and the possibility of someone breaking in. Anne asked the council if they are comfortable with the new doors and the current locks. Father David said that he has a concern with the current doors and the fact that they are not made very well and appear susceptible to break-ins. That being said, the current plan to replace the front doors and put strong locks on would provide a significant increase in security. Anne requested that the hinges, frames and locking mechanisms are of quality that will provide high-level security and be sufficient for the size and strength of the doors. Hugh suggested that a locksmith be consulted to evaluate the current doors and locks and make appropriate corrections while the new doors are being discussed and approved and completed.

***Action Item:** The finance council will discuss consulting a locksmith about appropriate locks for the current doors on the church.

Member comments/concerns:

Richard stated that he would like to make sure that the sound system is at the top of the list of expenditures for the finance council and Jack stated that it is at the very top of the list.

Anne commented that people are parking in the area of grass along the Marion Garden and are causing damage to the grass, and creating a disrespectful appearance to the area. Different options to prevent damage were discussed, but no decision was made.

Father David spoke of the presentation given on January 19th, about being more welcoming and aware of people with disabilities. Father will be gathering some of the handouts and provide those to the council so that we can address the concerns and needs of those with disabilities. Father David also shared that Bishop Battersby is the new auxiliary bishop of the south region and will be doing our confirmation at St. Mary's. Also, the church will be mailing out the next issue of the Recording Angel and will include a write up on the vision statement. The early roll out of CSA was discussed and Father David stated that we are doing a good job of reaching our CSA goals through the early roll out and therefore will continue with this process. Father David complimented Mike and his crew, who have been working incredibly hard on making improvements to the church and campus, making sure things are getting done and stated that they continue to take diligent care of our church.

Fred suggested that for the prayers of the faithful, a prayer be included pertaining to an increase of parish member participation in all aspects of church service. Father David agreed and said that he will be adding that prayer intermittently, as well as more prayer for lay leaders in the church.

Father Louis suggested that in any of the ministries that there is a type of shadowing to learn/train people and give them an opportunity to see what different service opportunities are like.

Richard asked about Deacon Ingalls and the level of involvement he is able to provide to the parish. Father David responded that he is welcome to serve any time and he leads scripture discussion and takes communion to people. He is currently doing what he is able to do, and Father David leaves it up to him to choose how he wants/can serve the parish.

Richard informed the PPC that Monroe County is celebrating its 200th anniversary as a county and shared that there is a committee that is collaborating on plans for this. Richard suggested that the church consider taking a role in the celebration, which is being held throughout the year and suggested that possibly a county wide church choir could be formed to sing at a statue dedication. Richard stated that this is still in the very early planning stages and he will share future information about this celebration.

Next meeting: March 21, 2017

Closing: Father David said the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by: Donna Banker, Recording Secretary