

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Parish Council, Minutes of the Meeting

April 26, 2017

**ATTENDEES:** Father Jason, Father Binil, Jerry Caoile, Ann Griffith, Emerson Georgeto, Frank Bautista, Russ Whited, John Flinn, Anne Snyder, Marilyn Luengo, Jennifer Mayen, Fe Ancheta, Christy Warren

**NOT PRESENT:** Deacon Jose Mayen, Deacon Daniel McNerny, Deacon John Murphy, Deacon Larry Roberts, Amy Guerry, and Juan Avila.

**EXCUSED :** None

**OPENING PRAYER:** Father Jason led the “Hail Mary.”

**GUEST:** Adorno Superior General Raffaele Mandolesi

**CORRECTIONS TO MARCH MINUTES:** On Page 4, the wording was changed from “overflow” to “over capacity,” per Russ Whited’s request.

March 22, 2017 Minutes of the Meeting were approved as changed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Education**—In Amy Guerry’s absence, Father Jason reported that Confirmation was successful with 80 candidates being confirmed. Bishop Guglielmone was highly pleased, stated Father Jason. We are the second largest group in the diocese. If our candidates number over 80 next year, the Bishop wants Confirmation into two nights. The Bishop would also like the Confirmation students’ group pictures to be divided into two or possibly three group photos.

First Holy Communion children number 54 for English on May 13, 2017; Spanish-speaking will have their own First Holy Communion on May 20, 2017 with 114 students!

Christy Warren said that there is a practice before First Communion. She further stated that she is working on VBS.

**Parish Life**—Frank Bautista reports:

- **AOH, Ancient Order of the Hibernians**, has been dissolved but will continue to support our church via a new group (in the planning stages) - “Celtic Warriors” - for both men and women, a social group performing service work for our church.
- **Ladies’ Guild** served dinner for 80 Confirmation candidates and their guests. Also attending were Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone, Father Jason, Father Gerry, Father Binil, Father Ryan and a guest priest from the Diocese, Deacon Dan, Deacon Larry, Deacon Jose, and the CCD teachers.
- **Ladies’ Guild** is making desserts for sale during Taste of Goose Creek.

Parish Life Cont'd.

- **Catholic Daughters of the Americas** made Rosaries on April 23 for Divine Mercy Sunday and for distribution to parishioners. Members also get together to make Rosaries in their homes so that there is a supply of Rosaries on hand for the Vestibule.
  - **CDA** will sell water and soda during Taste of Goose Creek.
- **Knights of Columbus #11991** need at least one-week's notice if the Honor Guard is needed; Steve Gearhart is the contact person.
  - Hosted Easter Service Sunday.
  - Community Appreciation Social was April 20
  - Special Olympics Field Day was held on April 21 at Fort Dorchester High School with John Flinn and Steve Gearhart as teacher aides. A plaque was presented to the Council for their donation of \$7,120.
  - A Tootsie Roll drive was held on April 21—23 at Wal-Mart.
  - Sunday breakfast is April 23 from 8:30—11:30 am.
  - O & D meeting is April 27 at 7 pm.
  - Cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for Taste of Goose Creek.
  - Pack the Van Drive after all Masses to benefit Helping Hands of Goose Creek is April 29-30.
  - Bulletin Board glass covers are underway; the glass materials were ordered from Charleston Glass Company. Total cost of the glass and locks on one board is \$742.21. Other materials and labor are free, courtesy of Rolly Gaza, the carpenter. Jerry Caoile thanked Frank Bautista and Fe Ancheta for their time and efforts on the bulletin boards in our parish hallways. Their efforts are appreciated.

**Spiritual Life**—Fe Ancheta reports:

- April 8—Charleston 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil at the Abortion Facility; we were joined by Marian Society, Respect-Life Committee, parishioners, and parishioners from other churches.
- April 14, Good Friday, Charleston Pro Life Action Ministries—Minister praying every 20 minutes from 7 am—12 noon, Fuseler Road.
- Novena of the Divine Mercy Chaplet—9-day Novena beginning on Good Friday at 10 am and 3 pm inside the church.
- Divine Mercy/The Diary of St. Faustina group study held every Wednesday, 10 am, AMC, Room 7 or 8, led by Teri Harrington.
- April 23—Feast of the Divine Mercy—Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, 1:30 – 2:45 pm. Confessions were heard; prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet, led by Teri Harrington, Tim Kenefick, Divine Mercy members, and parishioners. Procession of the Holy Eucharist. Fellowship followed afterward.
- Daily Adoration /Rosary—morning and evening prayer at the Adoration Chapel. Rosary at 7:45 am; Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hour at 8 am. Evening Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hour, 6 pm.
- April 27—Prayerfully Protest for Planned Parenthood's 100 Years Anniversary Gala
- April 29—2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Day of Prayer against Planned Parenthood, Rutledge Avenue, Charleston, 9—10:30 am. Our Pro-Life Committee may be heading there to pray.

Spiritual Life Cont'd.

- May 5, First Friday of the Month; Mass at 6:30 pm, followed by devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.  
May 13—100 Year Anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima.
  - Pilgrimage to Our Lady of South Carolina Shrine in Kingstree, Marian Society. Depart after 8:30 am Mass. Car pool.
  - May 14, Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary
  - Mother's Day, Flowers for May Procession
- May 27, Feast of Our Lady of Manaoag, Phillipines
  - 9 Day Novena; they are in the 5<sup>th</sup> day now. Novena being held at AMC.
  - There will be a service Mass—time and presiding priest still unknown
  - Reception will be held at Community Center—everyone is invited!
  - June 18, Corpus Christi Sunday—Eucharistic Procession at 11:30 am Mass, followed by Parish picnic.

**RCIA:** No report.

**Building & Grounds:** No report.

**Brazilian:** Emerson Georgeto reported that two Catechumens did not participate in their RCIA special day; all the paperwork was complete. He needs to meet with them.

Emerson stated that the Brazilian community is somewhat “down” because of losing their priest the end of December 2016. The priest will NOT be available in August 2017. The Diocese is still looking for a Brazilian priest, stated Father Jason. He has discussed this need with the Bishop. The Bishop understands that the Brazilian community is growing. The Brazilian community is encouraged to attend the Spanish Mass.

**Hispanic Community:** Jennifer Mayen reported that Women's Spanish Emmaus Retreat is the last week of May; the English Women's Emmaus Retreat is the last week of August.

**Finance Committee**—Anne Snyder reports:

- Finance Council met on April 25, 2017.
- The new organ has been making beautiful music, thanks to Mylene!
- Final payments for the organ have been made to Fox Music.
- The bells in memory of Father Jason's father have been ordered.
- If you or anyone you know is interested in purchasing a Columbarium niche, please contact Steve Ekhaml in the office. Some niches are still available.
- Work on the back of the church is scheduled to begin Monday, May 1, 2017, and will take 3—4 weeks; there may be weather delays. A large lift will be in the back of the church while this work is being done.
- Next Finance Council meeting is in July 2017.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Deacon Larry made a request at our last meeting about needing help with an education program to get parents involved. Jerry Caoile stated that he has been in programs at other churches where parents are in the Confirmation program WITH their teens. Is this a possibility? We need our parents to get involved.

Christy Warren stated that the QUEST program, ran by Joe Schepisi, is at 8:15—9:15 am and 10:15—11:15 am on Sundays.

Jennifer Mayen asked about progress in getting a diaper-changing station in the Community Center. Father Jason said that a station is needed and that that Steve Ekhaml and Ron Macaspac are trying to figure out where to safely put a diaper-changing station. Jennifer asked if it could be put in the storage room area. A portable baby-changing station may be a possibility.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

John Flinn asked about leftover Confirmation decorations in the Community Center as a wood decoration on the wall fell down during breakfast in the stage area. No one was there and no one was injured.

He also said that the sticky wall hooks are taking the paint off the walls.

Father Jason would like people and businesses to get permission from the office before placing items on the hallway bulletin boards in the church. Inappropriate items have been placed on the bulletin boards in the past. This will be monitored weekly.

Jennifer Mayen asked if there would be more Spanish involvement next year during Holy Week, in addition to the Living Stations of the Cross.

Father Jason said that Veneration of the Cross is very, very important, too, and that the 3 pm Good Friday service is the most important event during Holy Week. Many Spanish parishioners do not attend these; he doesn't know how to impart to the Spanish community their importance. Language is a barrier, sadly. We need more teaching to the Spanish community about this.

Possibly next year some part of the Procession might be in Spanish.

Father Jason said it is difficult to do the Passion in two languages; it can be done in only one language.

Fe Ancheta said that she and Frank Bautista were talking about an Easter Egg Hunt next year after the 11:30 am Mass. Father Jason is agreeable to this if the groups are divided into appropriate ages. There could also be prizes, etc.

Jerry Caoile said that we need more participation in the 6:30 pm Mass and asked if the commentators could encourage people to attend 6:30 pm Mass. Father Jason agreed as this is our 7<sup>th</sup> month of 6:30 pm Masses and participation is not good. This is a one-year experiment. Russ Whited asked if the 6:30 pm time is difficult for people. Father Jason said that Mass needs to be at that time as most meetings begin at 7 pm. And there are many activities going on in our church. John Flinn feels communication is a barrier as many people do not read the bulletin.

Christy Warren asked about having Confirmation students and their parents attend the Mass before their classes.

**New Business Cont'd.**

Marilyn Luengo asked about letting other churches know of our 6:30 pm Mass; Father Jason is not comfortable with this.

Morning Mass attendance has increased greatly!

Jerry Caoile invites us to read about the "Social Action Committee in our Constitution and Bylaws. If you are not on a committee, you are invited to join the Social Action Committee.

Jerry Caoile reports that he has been hearing from the Diocese and other parishes what a great church we have with its many activities in a very active parish. Other churches see us as "shining"! He encourages everyone to support our clergy - priests and deacons, religious ministry leaders, staff, and volunteers. Fe Ancheta remarked that Air Force base personnel love coming to Immaculate Conception Church.

Marilyn Luengo asked about having a separate Spanish Confirmation, but Father Jason said, "No". "There is a Spanish Communion; this is a time for them to come together and the teens prefer English."

**CELEBRATION:**

The Adorno Fathers recently celebrated 100 years in existence at a gala celebration in Lodi, NJ. The delegation consisted of 380!

Father Jason translated for the Adorno Superior General Raffaele Mandolesi who came here for a visit and will then go to Spartanburg and then on to Rome. This is not an official visit! He was very pleased to be a guest at our Parish Council meeting. He is pleased to see the open talk and open debate. This signifies that everyone is active in the parish and that our church is not run by one group. He said that some churches still do not have a Parish Council because the laity doesn't care or the parish priest wants to be the boss! "I am very happy to be a part of this evening"! He further stated, "He who stops is lost." Our enthusiasm will go up and will remain there!

Superior General Raffaele Mandolsi said that next year another Superior General will be elected.

Our next meeting is May 24, 2017; everyone is encouraged to please attend the 6:30 pm Mass before our meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Father Jason led the closing prayer, "The Glory Be."

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Griffith, Secretary