**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

**Immaculate Conception Church**

**Mattoon, IL – January 17, 2023**

**In attendance:** Fr. John, Carla Will, Jan Wetzel, June Kriesel, Henry Unkraut, David Skocy, Cheryl Smith, Denise Cooling, Hallie Niemerg, Chris Logue, Rosa Olvera, Zoraida Irizarry, Jeanne Gross

**Absent:** Deacon Gene, Todd Farris, Ella Farris, Garic Lawrence, Dick Considine, Pam Wright, Sheila Record

**Opening Prayer:** Father John

November 2022 Minutes Approved.

**Hospitality**

Social Committee/June Kriesel

* Chili & Soup Supper Cook-Off in the Parish Center on Saturday, February 18th at 5:30 PM.
* Please see upcoming bulletins for details.

CCW (Council of Catholic Women)/Jeanne Gross, Vice President of ICCCW

* Next ICCCW meeting is Tuesday, February 7th in the Lower Level. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend. 11:30 AM Valentine-themed Luncheon in Lower Level.
* Next Mattoon Deanery CCW meeting will be Thursday, March 9th, at Our Sorrowful Mother’s Ministry in Vandalia. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend. Jeanne explained that there are 35 parishes in our Deanery and many parishes take turns hosting. A great opportunity to travel around the deanery and see ladies in their home environment. The day consists of Mass, lunch, meeting, and games. Julie with the Parish Van will provide a ride to Vandalia.

**Prayer**

Spanish Language/Rosa Olvera

* Next Spanish Language event will be Wednesday, February 1st, at 6:00 PM in the Parish Center and have fellowship with the persons who helped with past events.
* Friday, February 24th, is the Fifth Anniversary of the Hispanic Prayer Group at Immaculate Conception Parish. 6:00 PM celebration in the Parish Center.
* Father John reminded everyone that the first Saturday Mass each month is a Bilingual Mass followed by a reception in the Lower Level. All are welcome.
* Cinco de Mayo in Parish Center from 9 AM – 2 PM on Sunday, May 7th.

**Formation**

Inquiry Class/Fr John

* Father John & Deacon Gene’s inquiry class begins Tuesday, January 24th in the Parish Center. Approximately 6 new candidates will participate.

PSR/Family of Faith/Carla Will

* Family of Faith curriculum for January and February are the Ten Commandments. Thank you to Father John for his Family of Faith leadership and thanks to the families for the continued commitment.
* Saturday, January 23rd, at 9 AM, First Reconciliation and Enrollment in the Brown Scapular.
* Families of Faith assembled 200 Luminaries for Life. Luminaries will be on display on the Church Plaza January 21st – 23rd.

Adult Education Offerings/Carla Will

* “A Biblical Walk Through the Mass”- Winter 2023.
* “Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John” – Lent 2023, (Begins February 2nd).
* “Matthew: The King & His Kingdom” – Thursday evening class with Father John, begins January 19th, at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center. 24-week series that will break for summer and resume classes in the fall.
  + The 4th Thursday of each month, this group and any others who are able, will have an opportunity to participate in a work of service by volunteering at the Mattoon Community Food Center. Father John’s conversations with IC parishioner Tony Nicholson and Buck Grove Community Church’s pastor, Joshua Zoppa, led to IC’s participation on the 4th Thursday at the Food Center.

Cana Night

* Saturday, January 21, 2023, “Couples Paint & Sip Evening.” Parish Center doors open at 5:30 PM, with the Knights hosting a Cash Bar and the Social Committee providing appetizers and desserts. Painting from 6-8 PM. Childcare will be provided in the school.

IC High School Youth Group

* Sunday, January 15th, students met for Catechesis and then went bowling.
* HSYG students will put the Luminaries for Life on the Church Plaza at 8:30 AM on Saturday, January 21st.
* Henry Unkraut and friends will remove luminaries from the plaza at 8:00 AM, Monday, January 23rd. All are welcome to help with the luminaries.
* HSYG Mission Trip to Auxier, KY, this summer.

**Service**

St. Vincent De Paul/Cheryl Smith

* Christmas Baskets, distributed the week before Christmas, were very appreciated.
* Cheryl thanked IC & St. C. parishioners for their very generous donations to St. Vincent.
* A significant need at this time to assist people with Ameren, Rent and Water Bills.
* St. Vincent is allowed to assist no more than $600/year for every entity.
* St Vincent continues to meet clients in the Lower Level of Church on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month.
* St. Vincent will provide desserts for the KC Lenten Fish Frys.

Fourth Commandment Project/Cheryl Smith

* Continuing to reach out to long-term and life-long parishioners to conduct interviews about the history of Immaculate Conception.

Knights of Columbus/Fr. John

* Blood Drive is Sunday, February 19th, from 9 AM – 1 PM in the Parish Center. Father is very pleased with our continued partnership with the Impact Life.

St. Mary House / Father John

* No vacancies.
* House guests:
  + Jillian is a single woman moved in the end of November and is now working at County Market.
  + Rachel and her 4-year-old daughter. Daughter now attends Franklin Pre-K.
  + Gina and her 14-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son. Gina is starting a new job at Carriage Crossing in Arcola.
* Father John is very pleased with how compatible the families are in the house.
* A small, but faithful group of volunteers for “On The House.”
* In communication with Christie Borries of Lake Land College to allow students to internship at St. Mary House.
* Sign-up Sheet inside the St. Mary House to sign-up for available volunteer hours.
* No expiration date for House Guests. They meet weekly with their Contact Person.
* Plumbing issue in the house has been fixed.
* July 30, 2023, St. Mary House Breakfast fundraiser in the Parish Center from 9 AM to 1 PM.

**Other Business**

Parish Pictorial Directory/June Kriesel

* Father John shared that this is the best directory he has ever seen.

Lightning Rods/Henry Unkraut

* Lightning rods – wanting to cut down on number of lightning strikes.
* IC has been waiting since the middle of summer for the 150-foot man lift required for the lightning rods.

Diaconate/Dave Skocy

* Dave shared that he is in his first year of diaconate studies. He travels to Villa Maria for classes one weekend per month. His wife, Lissa, has also been attending.
* He has found it to be very fruitful and humbling and is learning more about our Diocese.
* He enjoys and appreciates the support from our parish.

Becoming Eucharistic People

* Parish Council members to read to page 26. Please come prepared for discussion.

Diocesan Year of the Eucharist Traveling Monstrance

* Monstrance will l be here February 3rd & 4th, for our 24 Hour First-Friday Adoration and possible for a Wednesday evening adoration.

**Next Meeting***: Mardi Gras - February* 21st, 2023, @ 6:30 PM in Parish Center.

Prayer Assignment: Chris Logue