

## **Incarnation Parish Council**

### Meeting Minutes

*February 12, 2009*

*Present:* Tim Benson, Joe Casey (Secretary), Terri Gannon, Suzanne Holland, Father Kenneth Johnston, John Mirenda, Father Michael Romano, Ann Spross (Vice President), and John Zupko (President). *Not attending:* Michelle Brunner, Chad Brunner, George Buckland and Sharon Tombleson

Also attending: Maria Schaffner

*Next meeting:* March 12, 2009

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#### **I. Opening Prayer**

Father Johnston opened the meeting by leading attendees in a prayer.

#### **II. Call to order/Roll Call**

President John Zupko called the meeting to order and asked for a Roll Call of those present.

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

#### **IV. Pastor's Report**

Father Johnston said that his first written update to the parish will appear in the bulletin for the Masses of 2/14-2/15. His message will note the changes for confessions, as well as reinforce the changes in the Mass schedule as of Ash Wednesday.

The St. Joseph's Room has been modified as a chapel with articles from the Shadow Place Church. The chapel will be used on Wednesdays for Adoration from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The children of the parish, Legion of Mary, are also utilizing the chapel. Those who bring food for the Parish Pantry will be redirected to the kitchen where Sister Denise will keep a bin for donated food items. The minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council will continue to be posted on the bulletin board in the St. Joseph's Room until other arrangements can be made.

Information/literature racks will be placed in the Gathering Area. There will be pamphlets on spiritual issues and Catholic, moral topics.

This year's House of Charity drive begins the week of February 22. Incarnation's Parish goal this year is \$144,000.

Father Johnston's Installation Mass is March 15 at 11 a.m. Parish Pastoral Council members, Trustees and Finance Council Members will be asked to sit in a reserved section as the Bishop will address these members as part of the ceremony. John Zupko, Ann Spross, Maureen Austin and Maria Schaffner will present the gifts.

The Building Committee met and reported that the Topographical Study is underway. A hearing on the plan is being scheduled with the Mantua Township Planning Board in the near future. Some considerations regarding the plan that are being reevaluated include the noise level impact on staff and volunteers; space for staff;

the proximity of the construction trailers to the existing building and the outside facade renovations.

## **V. Vibrant Parish Report**

Maria Schaffner of the St. Vincent dePaul Society provided a presentation on the mission and activities of the Incarnation Parish St. Vincent dePaul Society and how it interacts with other local parishes. Among the activities of the Society: Holiday Baskets for families in need; the Giving Tree which is placed in the Gathering Area each Christmas (the list of recipients for the tags comes from the Thanksgiving Basket effort. Typically children, and a few adults); Support for Evergreen House in Barnsboro; Survival kits for shut-ins (items which supplement Meals on Wheels); Telephone Hotline for utility bills and other assistance; appliances and other emergency purchases; job search, legal advice and other professional services; veteran's and other benefits referrals.

Maria reported that while there is cooperation/support for the Parish Pantry, that program is run by another Ministry as the Society seeks to do visits to the homes of its clients and address all needs from a broader perspective.

Among the sources of support for the Society are the Poor Boxes, individual checks/donations; member donations w/ employer matching gifts; an annual cookie dough fundraiser, and, in 2009, support from the House of Charity fund drive, should Incarnation meet its goal and receive a portion of the funds from the Diocese.

The current economic downturn has meant an increase in requests for assistance. Good cooperation exists with Societies in other local parishes and social services agencies. The Society and others in local parishes often participate in "Twinning" to assist clients when their needs exceed the resources of the local Society (e.g. a \$1,000 utility bill).

There are 25 current members of the St. Vincent dePaul Society at Incarnation. The members are divided into workgroups and offer unique talents. Members come to the Society via calls to the Rectory, sign-ups at Ministry Sunday and word of mouth. The Society provides an Annual Report on its activities to the parish.

Among the ways we can help the Society include financial support for their assistance with client heat/oil bills; promotion of the Society's work in the bulletin and website; and prayers.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

A. Communications: John Mirenda reported that the Committee met during the week of February 2 with Father Johnston. They reviewed the first issue of the newsletter and determined that the newsletter will be published twice per year, Spring and Fall. The planned Spring edition will likely be expanded to six pages.

A new calendar has been posted on the website which is very detailed and a good representation of the vibrancy of the parish.

B. Nominations: Terri Gannon reported that the call for self nominations has been reported in the past two bulletins and has been posted on the website. Some candidates have identified their interest and additional candidates to prepare a ballot are being sought. Council members suggested some candidates. February 27 is the deadline for identifying candidates. **(ACTION)**

Due to the Holy Days in April, the election has been moved forward to the weekend of March 28 & 29.

Balloting and the selection process/options were briefly discussed.

**VII. Old Business**

- A. Council members are encouraged to ask their families to join them in the special reserved section at Father Johnston's Installation Mass.
- B. The Parish Pay program has enjoyed an increase of 63% participation since January. New families participating in the program have been added each month since the fall 2008 launch of the program.

**VIII. New Business**

- A. The Family Fun Day Committee will be expanded for 2009. Tim Benson volunteered to serve on the Committee. Council members are encouraged to notify Ann Spross and Terry Gannon of their interest, or recommendations for non-Council members for the committee. **(ACTION)**

**IX. Closing Prayer/Adjourn**

- A. Father Romano led attendees in a closing prayer.
- B. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.