

## Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Council Notes

**Date:** Thursday, February 6, 2025

### Notes

Attendance: Erin Fontaine, Tim Vaughn, Arline Argentati, Betsy Waldeck, Jim Stemann, Chuck Smith, Donna Weber, Joyce Thomas

Staff: Heather Wagner, Gwenda Laney, Bill Dirr, Emmy Fontaine, Fr. Tharp, Jose Martinez

Absent: Kathy Middendorf, Mike Wolf, Frank Vitale, Mark Conese, Dan Schindler

#### St. Ann Reports

- School Report
  - Catholic Schools week went well.
  - Service Project with Badin seniors is ongoing. The service project is called Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds for kids who do not have beds at home. The total donation is \$1,054.
  - Open House went well. A lot of younger student families attended.
- New Business
  - Altar steps
    - M. Wolf wanted to raise the possibility of having a hand rail near the ambo. B. Dirr is going research possibilities.
  - Is there a policy on people observing Parish Council meetings? Per Fr. Tharp, there isn't an official policy but as long as the Council isn't in Executive Session, it is permitted.
    - If this begins to happen, Parish Council should draft a policy or guidelines that could be shared with parishioners. The observers would be unable to present any items, unless prior approval is obtained by a Parish Council member.
  - St. Ann is having a festival this summer.

#### Sacred Heart Reports

- School Report
  - Open House went well. 88 admission applications were received. Anyone going into grades 4-8 will be interviewed and evaluated. K-3 will be screened in March. 56 spots in K, 64 applications. There will not be enough space for all applicants.
  - H. Wagner would like the school to have more of a presence in the Fairfield community.
    - One idea would be to have a booth at the festival.
- New Business
  - K of C meeting on April 2
    - Requesting use of Fellowship Hall for a chapter meeting. Attendees include delegates from Councils in the region and state officers.
    - **Motion: To approve the use of Fellowship Hall. J. Stemann made the motion. A. Argentati seconded. Motion passed.**
  - K of C Mother's Day Collection – May 10 and 11
    - Would like to have people at both Parishes to do the collection for Pregnancy Centers.
    - **Motion: J. Thomas made the motion. D. Weber seconded. Motion passed.**

#### Director of Administration Update

- Financials were provided.
- St. Ann has set tuition at \$6k as that is the maximum amount the school can receive from EdChoice. 97% of the school receives EdChoice.
- Sacred Heart Education Commission was reluctant to move to \$6k as this will hurt those who have high income status.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fr. Tharp wrote a letter explaining why SH is increasing to the \$6k amount.</li> </ul>
<p>Director of Evangelization Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jose Martinez would like to bring more awareness to the religious education program. One idea is to hang saint projects in the narthex at Sacred Heart. A parent night is being held next Monday for parents to interact with their kids during the program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joelle Martinez has done training in special education sacrament training. At this point, there are three kids in the REP program who need those accommodations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Seven catechumens who are coming into the church on Easter.</li> <li>• Beginning on March 12, as a Lenten project, there will be a marriage workshop on Wednesday nights for seven weeks.</li> <li>• Staff development is ongoing for spiritual formation.</li> <li>• H. Wagner mentioned a state law recently passed that will require state schools to allow students for religious education.</li> <li>• Confirmation will be in 2026 at one location (Sacred Heart). 7<sup>th</sup> grade at SH then 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Ann.</li> </ul>
<p>Director of Property Management Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B. Dirr provided an itemized list of projects.</li> <li>• St. Ann <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A standalone boiler will not be feasible due to the cost.</li> <li>○ The City of Hamilton sent a letter to St. Ann saying the sidewalks need replaced. When the coalbin gets replaced, it would be a good time to repair the sidewalk. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The contractor has to be approved by the City, but the City will not do the work for you.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ B. Dirr thinks the AC only for the school cafeteria is the best option.</li> <li>○ The new building on the grounds of the old convent. B. Dirr is waiting on bids from Saurber Construction and from another company based in Middletown.</li> <li>○ <b>Motion: For B. Dirr to move forward the AC units in the cafeteria with the lowest and best bid. J. Stemann made motion. T. Vaughn seconded. Motion passed.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sacred Heart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is a 10-12 week lead time for the aaron units. By the end of February, the company needs to be under contract.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Pastor Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of Worship update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Ministry Fair Worship Commission will have a table in the narthex at Sacred Heart on Feb 15-16 and Mar 1-2.</li> <li>○ Lent and Holy Week will have the same schedule as previous years.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Beacons of Light <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In early January, Fr. Tharp sent a letter to the Archbishop for the canonical merger to occur on July 1, 2025. The AoC Finance Office said the canonical merger would be too difficult and proposed a new method due to the software not being sufficient. The Finance Office said they were looking into new software as there are three other families in the Archdiocese who are wanting to do the same thing as us. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Finance Office offered to come assist K. Middendorf for a temporary solution in the old system until the new system is available.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution, Membership, Voting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion around the Constitution being combined now prior to the new priest, which includes discussing membership and voting.</li> <li>○ E. Fontaine will send out the St. Ann Constitution to the group and can send the Sacred</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Heart Constitution to the group if a SH member can send via email.

- A SH parishioner approached Jose Martinez and B. Dirr about a closet at Sacred Heart that is cluttered.
  - The only problem right now is that there are financial documents in there that need shredded before others can go in and clean out the closet. Nothing should occur before the documents are shredded.

**2025 Meeting Schedule - ALL MEETINGS ARE ON FIRST THURSDAYS AT 7:00PM**

**Next Meeting: March 6 at Sacred Heart**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 3	St. Ann	September 4	St. Ann
May 1	Sacred Heart	October 2	Sacred Heart
June 5	St. Ann	November 6	St. Ann
July	Summer Break	December 4	Sacred Heart
August 7	Sacred Heart		