

COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES
Thursday, November 17, 2011
IC Education Center Conference Room – 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Cernohous, Stephanie Schleicher, Tim Scanlon, Fr. Jim, Ragna Raasch, Jo Germain, Dominic Rutledge and Dave Nelson (Trustee). **Members Absent:** Dave Crosby, Annie Rud and Debbie Calleja

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ragna Raasch and prayer was led by Fr. Jim. October minutes were accepted by consensus with two corrections: Dominic Rutledge was present at the meeting (Sorry about that) and minutes of the Catechesis & Faith Formation were missing due to a mix up. They will be sent out by email for approval.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

Finance and Administration: Dave Crosby - Terri Montpetit was welcomed as a new member to the Finance Ministry. Jo Germain provided an update the financial picture as of September 30, 2011 and reviewed information for all five cost centers. Year-to-date actual for the parish is (\$19,782.23). We are not doing as well as we had planned. Last year at this time, parishioner giving was behind \$10,000 vs. \$23,000 this year. In addition, Christmas falls on a Sunday so we will not have an extra day of giving. Ideas were discussed for asking parish members to contribute more money to help us make up this budget gap. Brainstorming included letters, postcards, Christmas cards. A motion carried by ministry to send out a Christmas card to each parish member asking for additional gift. Message will wish them Merry Christmas/Blessings of the Season, thank them for what they have given, and ask if they could help with a little more. (remind them it will be tax deductible). Jo will work to get the Finance Ministry's monthly year-to-date reports in a more timely manner. The reports will be sent to ministry members via email. If decisions need to be made, everyone should be more prepared to act quickly. The new garage is complete. Jo has received final costs and will bring them for review at a future meeting. 88 man hours were donated toward this project. Status of endowment investments was reviewed. Three new members have joined the Endowment Ministry: Paul Mayer, Jim Tilly and Derril Yerigan. Jo Germain recently attended a workshop regarding the audits that the diocese will be conducting in 2012. Jo will meet with the people who take care of counting collections to make sure they are following the correct procedures for audit purposes.

Stewardship: Jo Germain – Last weekend was Stewardship Renewal Weekend, tied to the Outreach and Social, thanking volunteers for all that they do for our church/school/Catholic Formation programs. The blessed stewardship renewal commitments were placed below the ambo until Advent. Stewardship has one new member, and now working on two more. After the turn of the year, will have a meeting to in-service on Stewardship as a way of life and what is hoped to be accomplished from year to year.

Worship & Spiritual Life: Audrey Cernohous – “The Book”, Rediscover Catholicism by Matthew Kelly was discussed. Books can be purchased in the Church office, St. Mary’s School and after all the weekend Masses in different areas of the Church. CDs are also available. In January, there will be small groups set up for a series of 7 meetings to discuss “The Book”. Instead of a “Christmas Fair” this Advent, there will be a “Viva St. Nicholas” celebration to get reacquainted with St. Nicholas rather than the secular Santa Claus. This will be on December 3 and 4. There will be lots of things to do and see. December 3 there will be a card party and light lunch starting at 6:30 PM. December 4 there will be a pancake breakfast after the 9:00AM Mass and pictures taken with St. Nicholas. Lamplight books, videos, music and gifts will be for sale. Also, the new St. Joseph’s Missal and Olivewood Religious handicrafts will be on hand for sale. Final plans for implementation of the new wording for the Mass parts were discussed.

Catechesis & Faith Formation: Stephanie Schleicher – Workcamp and Tory are working on a St. Nickolas day on December 4. Workcamp will provide a breakfast and Catholic Formation department will provide pictures with St. Nickolas. The Great Adventure Bible Study: This bible study will be held on Monday’s from 10:00 to 12:00 and is going very well. 14 people have registered. Bishop Christensen is beginning a three year God campaign. Catholic Lighthouse Audio CDs have been well received. The Advent CDs have been ordered along with The New Mass Translation and Truth. CF registration is going very well. Registration numbers are about the same as last year; around 300 students. We have all of our Catechists. All but 2 have BASE certified and we are in compliance with the Diocese. Tory is adjusting nicely to her new position. She seems to be enjoying it very much. Confirmation celebration went very well. 30 young adults were confirmed. Much excitement is coming about over “Something Great is about to happen”.

Education: Tim Scanlan – St. Mary’s School was responsible for doing a Viability Study mandated by the Diocese of Superior under Bishop Christensen’s jurisdiction. Our Viability Study was completed and submitted by the Viability Study Committee in April, 2010. One of the ongoing parts of the study was to design a 5 yr. Action Plan which the Ministry of Ed is responsible for reviewing on a yearly basis. The Action Plan is part of a bigger task which is taking place this school year. We are in the process of completing what is called a Self Study Year. During this school year, the faculty along with Ministry of Ed, reviews our school’s mission which includes curriculum, Catholic Identity, textbooks, instructional supplies, budget, marketing, and many other facets. WRISA, Wisconsin Religious Independent Schools Assn., our state of WI accreditation organization, mandates that this study takes place every six years. This study prepares us for the following school year when a team, chosen by our superintendent of schools, visits us to affirm the strengths and areas of improvement that are documented during the Self Study Year. Ministry of Ed started the Self Study process in September and is fully aware that the Viability Study’s Annual Plan is an integral part of the process. Ministry of Ed will review the Annual Plan along with all other documentation associated with the Self Study throughout the remainder of the school year. Under the supervision of the principal, it will meet all expectations.

Buildings & Grounds: Fr. Jim Brinkman – The leaves on the parish grounds have been picked up several times, as some trees are late. Fitzgerald Lawn Care has been contracted again this year for snow removal under the same contract from last year. The gravel has been put down in front of the new garage as well as the new back road connecting the two driveways. All the landscaping is done and grass seed has been put down to hopefully grow next spring. The electrical will wait until next spring and the removal of the old garage will wait until after school is out in June, this is being done for safety reasons. Whether we like it or not, winter is upon us and we are ready for it when it arrives. Fr. Jim has his snow shovels ready to go! We are anticipating a five percent reduction in natural gas prices this year as there is a surplus on the market, providing we do not have too cold a winter.

Outreach: Annie Rud – (report combined with Parish Social)

Parish Social: Ragna Raasch – The Volunteer Appreciation Event was held on Sunday, November 13th. Homemade Apple Crisp and other treats were served. The Stewardship Committee also hosted two social events on the weekend and served Apple Crisp provided by the Outreach Committee. Special Thanks go to the Stewardship members for their help. All events were very successful. The Outreach and Social Committees met to review the new members and plan a welcome event for them. The new members will be contacted and interviewed as to their experience since joining Immaculate Conception Church. Any questions will be addressed. The committee is planning to provide a “Soup and Sandwich Meal” in January as the Welcome Event.

Parish at Large: Dominic Rutledge & Deborah Calleja – No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: By consensus it was decided to begin any Constitution revisions in January. Fr. Jim asked about feedback for his Christmas homily vs. Christmas story. The consensus was to do the Christmas story at the Christmas Eve 4pm Mass and a Christmas homily at the other Masses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Fr. Jim. There is no December meeting and the next meeting is January 26, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., Education Center Conference Room

Respectfully submitted
Theresa Skramstad - Secretary