

**Church of the Most Holy Trinity  
Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2011**

- The Parish Council meeting was opened with prayer and a reading from St. Paul to the Apostle.
- The meeting was called to order by Kurt Eyrich.
- It was moved by Barbara Hicks and seconded by Dick Stuhler that the minutes be accepted as submitted.
- Parish Council Committee Reports:
  - **Building and Grounds - Richard Stuhler**
    1. The holly trees, on the west side of the church which had damaged some of the windows, have been cut down and the wood will be recycled. The work was done at no cost to the church by the Knights of Columbus and parishioners of Most Holy Trinity. Work on the church grounds will be continued once each month. Future bulletins will have the work dates.
    2. Two doors have been replaced at the convent on Redwood Drive.
    3. Our church work crew is also repairing the roof at the rectory.
  - **Education - No Report**
  - **Christian Service - No Report**
  - **Liturgy - Father Kavanaugh**
    1. The new Roman Missal which will be effective the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 2011 is not ready yet.
    2. There is no information available as to if or when the Latin Mass will be offered at Most Holy Trinity.
  - **Parish Life - Rebecca Quinn Shelt**
    1. There are still a few tickets available for the Parish Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, January 30 after the 12:30 Mass in St. Patrick Hall.
    2. The Time and Talent Fair will be the weekend of February 5th and 6th in St. Francis Hall.
  - **Stewardship - Francine Bailey**
    1. The purpose and goals of the Stewardship Committee were discussed at the last meeting, January 18, 2011, The next Stewardship event will be the Appreciation-Inspiration-Participation campaign.

2. The goals of the Stewardship Committee are: To develop a Parish Organization Chart and Ministry Directory: To build Community/Engagement: To build church and school relationships.

- **Finance Committee - Kurt Eyrich**

1. Kurt gave a summary of the financial state of the parish.
2. In the future there will be an insert with the budget for our church and school.
3. If there are questions, please email Kurt.

- **Youth - No Report**

- **Ministry Reports**

- **African-American Ministry - Kathie Johnson**

1. The ministry's last meeting was January 15th in St. Francis Hall.
2. Several items were discussed: the addition of more Gospel music at weekend Masses: sponsoring a Wednesday Night Supper during the month of February: and submitting bulletin articles on Saints and other notable African-Americans during Black History Month which is in February.

- **Knights Of Columbus - Richard Stuhler**

1. The K of C is preparing for Fish Fries during Lent. The funds will go back to the parish in the form of various projects and programs. The parish support is needed for the success of the fundraiser in the form of volunteers and purchasers of the meals.

- **Pro-Life - Paul Rowan**

1. Last Saturday, January 22 the participation at the Pro-Life Prayer Service for Roe vs. Wade at Planned Parenthood was well attended.
2. It has been reported that the March for Life in Washington, DC was excellent with many supporters from all over the US.

- **Council of Catholic Women - No Report**

- **Old Business**

- **Call To Holiness - Father Kavanaugh**

1. Father addressed the purpose of the *Call to Holiness* Program which will begin in February 2011. Each month theme will be a different purpose. The *Call to Holiness* will begin with our Parish Mission starting January 31 in the church each evening at 6:00pm. A nursery will be available in St. Francis Hall for parents with children. Our mission speaker will be Deacon Glenn Harmon and his wife. They are from San Diego, California and come highly recommended.

- **New Business/Immaculate Conception School Subsidy Questions and Comments - Father Kavanaugh**

- Sister Rose Mary could not be here tonight for the Parish Council Meeting.
- One of the goals of the Catholic Church is to provide and promote Catholic and Christian education to the church and community through evangelization. The high value in education provided by the church is important to our communities.
- The yearly subsidy to Immaculate Conception has been averaged at \$134,000 for the past decades. The goal of Most Holy Trinity is to reduce the annual deficit so that other debts to the Diocese of Savannah can be reduced. The Immaculate Conception School Board and the Church of the Most Holy Trinity Finance Committee are planning to meet and discuss methods to bring expenses and income in balance.
- The enrollment at Immaculate Conception has increased for 61 students to 104 since the school relocated from Laney-Walker Boulevard.

**Questions from the Parish Council and the parishioners:**

- Richard Stuhler
  - Q. Is there a program in place to ask for help from the Immaculate Conception Alumni with the finances of the school?
  - A. An Alumni Association has been recently been setup.
- Jo Ann Cook
  - 1. An Alumni Association has been setup and the alumni are responding. One of the goals of the association is to have annual and ongoing contributions for planning and budgetary purposes.
  - 2. A car raffle is planned for the spring which will be the group's first big fundraiser.
- Leroy Williams
  - 1. He stated that he was part of the Parish Council when we agreed to relocate Immaculate Conception to its current location. He said that the church and diocese were in full agreement. The school's enrollment has increased and is expected to continue to increase.
- Francine Bailey
  - 1. Since education is one of the missions of the Catholic Church, we should work to improve communications between the school and church.
- Joe Prouty
  - 1. He talked about the importance of keeping Most Holy Trinity unified and the importance of supporting both the church and our school, Immaculate Conception. One solution that can resolve the subsidy to our church is to increase enrollment.
- Barbara Hicks
  - 1. She is a product of a Catholic school system but is concerned that the school is putting a strain on our parish.
- Deacon Butler
  - 1. Deacon Butler suggested that we should pray for unity in our parish and the first thing that can be changed is ourselves and our thought process. He said

that the most important thing in our lives is the Holy Eucharist and we should live accordingly.

- Scott Weinand
  1. He said that the cost to move the Immaculate Conception School was not fully disclosed and that he believed that Bishop Boland was not fully aware of the move. He also said that the finances of the church and school have caused questions among some parishioners.
- Judy Hartney
  1. Father Donahue pondered over moving Immaculate Conception the Parish Center; however, Judy having been present when the decision was made to make the school move, says that everything was done to ensure a secure future for the church and school. Better technological skills through audits, etc. are in place to date to improve bookkeeping. Fear, through gossip, has been instilled in some parishioners and have caused alarm and questions.
- Amy Peduto
  1. Amy likes Immaculate Conception but she doesn't like the strain that has been placed on the church.
- Kurt Eyrich
  1. He said that we will have to compromise for a solution to our financial problems between the church and Immaculate Conception School. Other areas could possibly be cut to continue to subsidize the school in the future.
- Joe Johnson
  1. It is wrong to accuse a Priest of doing something especially when it is not substantiated.
  2. Where were some of our parishioners when the school move was discussed?
  3. It is unfair to put Father Kavanaugh under unnecessary pressure because of rumors.
  4. We have operated with a deficit years even before we had an Immaculate Conception Catholic School deficit.
  5. He has been on the finance committee for seven years and collections have been down every year and the solution is that we must increase our giving.
- Kurt Eyrich
  1. All of us, parishioners and school, must operate with a good conscious for a solution.
- JoEllen Catto
  1. JoEllen was president of the Parish Council when it was announced that Immaculate Conception is a parish school and not Diocesan school. It was designated a parish school in the early 1970s when Immaculate Conception Church was closed.
  2. It was announced in February 2008 that Immaculate Conception Catholic School would be relocated to the Parish Center at 811 Telfair Street and we were all in agreement.

- Monica Anadu
  1. Monica talked about the importance of educating our children here at Immaculate Conception rather than sending them to St. Mary on the Hill like a lot of families have done. She said that it is imperative that we keep our children in our parish school Immaculate Conception.
- John Peduto
  1. John has a Catholic education as well as others in the audience and understands the importance of having a Catholic education.
  2. He said that he has requested information about Immaculate Conception's finances but has not gotten it yet.
  3. John suggested that we send our children, the Catholics, to St. Mary on the Hill, which is an upstanding school and give the families a subsidy.
- Tim Bailey
  1. Tim said that we are failing to love each other and we must individually work towards improving parish and school relations.
- Austin Anadu
  1. Austin read and reflected on our parish mission on the cover of the bulletin and asked if we understand the mission statement. He said the love for God and church is supposed to be equal.
- Edward Frails
  1. Edward said that we must unite and keep both our church and school strong because he too is a product of a Catholic education.
- JoAnn Cook
  1. JoAnn expressed the importance of educating all children regardless of church denomination. Simply stated, "we are all God's children."
- Mary Carter
  1. Mary said that there has been a lack of communication in moving the school to the Parish Center and that the finances associated with the move were not fully disclosed. She wants the school to survive but not at the cost of the church.
  2. It is important that we get past the emotions associated with the church and Immaculate Conception.
- Rebecca Quinn Shelt
  1. It is important that we do not insult each other or the church and school. The church and school can and will unite and co-exist. This is the only way to succeed as a parish.
- Ramon Coote
  1. A new parishioner, military family, who recently relocated to the area from El Paso, Texas.
  2. Ramon said that having traveled over the world and our great nation he has always used the Catholic education system for his children. He believes in his Catholic education system. The church and school are one and that there should not be a separation in the two.
- Paul Jabaley
  1. Paul said that there was misinformation provided to the Parish Council when it was voted to move Immaculate Conception to its new location.

2. He said that finances associated with the move were not fully given to the Parish Council and he is concerned that the school will bankrupt the church.

**Remarks - Father Kavanaugh**

- A reminder - The mission of the church is to educate children, all children.
  - Catholic Schools do not operate like a corporate.
  - It is important to build trust in our church community here at Most Holy Trinity.
  - Personal information has been requested but it is illegal to disclose private records.
  - Father has been asked to close the school and he can't understand why.
- The next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**Attendance:**

Deacon Elmore G. Butler  
 Michele Hill  
 Leroy Williams  
 Amy Peduto  
 Francine M. Bailey  
 Rebecca Quinn Shelt  
 Kurt Eyrich  
 JoAnn Allen Cook  
 Kathie Johnson  
 Scott Weinand

Jonathan Pike  
 Kathy Turner  
 Richard J. Stuhler  
 Barbara M. Hicks  
 Joe Prouty  
 Debbie DeRoller  
 Father Kavanaugh  
 Paul Rowan  
 Judy Hartney