

**Immaculate Conception Church**  
**Parish Council Meeting**  
**January 16, 2006**

**Members in Attendance:**

Charlie Giangreco	Vincent Reilly	Joanne Chirico	Lynn Callahan
Christine Catania	Rev. Joseph Fallon	Elaine Farrell	David Gutierrez
Patricia Longo	Ana Nunes	Anthony Puglisi	Rev. Eric P. Raaser
Sr. Rose Vermette, RCD	Deacon Anthony Viola		

**Members Absent:**

Connie DeLaurentis	Bud Malfetano	Kathy McAteer	Tom McAteer
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The minutes of November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005 were accepted with corrections.

David Gutierrez opened the meeting with a prayer.

Camille Strawbridge of H.O.P.E. was a guest speaker. She gave an overview of what H.O.P.E. is about. It has been in the parish approximately 22 years. The majority of their outreach is the soup kitchen in St. Gabriel's in New Rochelle. They serve meals two nights a month. At one point they had 110 volunteers, there are approximately 71 volunteers now, 35 cooks for each night. Most are parishioners. H.O.P.E also has a food pantry, summer day camp, clothes closet, English classes, social services, and various other outreach activities. Immaculate Conception is involved in the soup kitchen.

They supply the entrée and fixings that go with the meal. The people they serve look forward to ICC nights because there is always so much extra food. ICC has in the past taken a collection during Lent that helps cover the costs of paper products and overhead. The cost to the parish is minimal. There are usually about 100 meals served per night. They feed families, single moms not just the homeless. Each volunteer cooks/prepares meals for approx. 10 dinners. Canned goods, and non-perishable foods are still collected at the church (ICC and Assumption) and delivered to St. Gabriel's about twice a month.

Fr. Raaser has asked if there is anything else we can do as a parish. Camille stated there is always a need for more volunteers. The head of H.O.P.E. is willing to come to ICC and speak to the parish in order to help people to better understand what it is all about. For information, Camille gave her number as 961-7325.

**REPORTS:**

**RCIA:**

Sister Rose reported:

One more catechumen. He is from IHM in Scarsdale. James Kenworthy, a neophyte, originally from England, was given a celebration farewell for him and his wife. He is moving back to England. He presented a painting of the parish to Sr. Rose.

Cornerstone is also up and running and the team is almost in place, and they are ahead of schedule.

**ICS:**

January 31<sup>st</sup> is Catholic Schools Week. They will be announcing the opening for a 3 year old half day pre-K class. Jan 27<sup>th</sup> is the annual potluck supper.

### **Vicariate:**

Chris Catania attended the last Vicariate meeting for web masters. Three things are needed for parishes with no web sites. Meetings to help them get started, for Parishes with web sites; they thought it would be best to meet among themselves to discuss options. The third was to discuss a web site for parishes with web sites.

Sr. Rose and Deacon spoke about Cornerstone. Sr. Rose said the women's cornerstone has about 19 candidates. A pitch was made at IHM in Scarsdale. Pat Longo stated that St. Joseph's in Bronxville had a mention in their bulletin. The cornerstone team has one person from Assumption and three from IHM. David asked for volunteers for both weekends in the kitchen. Deacon Tony stated that there were approx. 3 or 4 men signed up to date. But traditionally the men's cornerstone is always a last minute rush to sign up. They will continue to recruit right up until the last day.

Vincent Reilly will continue to look for guests to come and speak at Parish Council meeting. Fr. Raaser suggested that we rotate ministries and they should all come to speak at some point.

The next hospitality will be after Easter.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Evangelization:**

Evangelization – Met January 6<sup>th</sup>. They are changing the next meeting from Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> to Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Parish Council Elections:**

Charlie wanted to get a head start on putting together a committee to handle the elections. A list was put together to see whose term is up this year. We will have 5 seats open for election. The nominating committee is composed of Kathy McAteer, Vincent Reilly, Pat Longo and Chris Catania. Vincent will be chairperson.

##### **Ministry Fair**

Ministry Fair will be October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Pat will get letter from Connie that goes out to the ministry heads and prepare it for Fr. Raaser's approval. Charlie would like that as soon as possible.

##### **Miscellaneous**

Fr. Raaser has asked Tom McAteer to be an adviser or "Plant Manager" to help out with the work that needs to be done around the Parish, (dealing with contractors etc).

Charlie asked if the Parish Council would have an ex-officio member from the Finance Committee to keep us up to date. Fr. Raaser stated that he would take on that responsibility himself. He stated that attendance is up at both parishes and collections are up at both parishes as well.

Immaculate Conception Vigil was well attended at Mass; however, the reception downstairs was not as well attended. It is very difficult to plan on how many people will come down stairs. The Parish Council decided to keep it simple next year with just cake and coffee. Fr. Raaser suggested that we start tracking the attendance at various functions so we better know how to prepare in the future.

The Christmas services for the 4:30 and 4:40 P.M. Masses were attended by approximately 1200 people. Approx.3000 people in total attended all Masses. There were some negative comments overheard by parishioners who attempted to come down to the lower church. Parking was also a real issue. Sr. Rose recommended greeters to be at the doors before mass. Fr. Raaser also recommended parking attendants to help out. The darkness is an issue. Charlie commented how beautiful the choir sounded.

**Father Raaser's Comments:**

In 2008 the Archdiocese will be having a fundraiser. Eighty percent of the money raised will remain here in the parish. Fr. Raaser has some changes in mind. The floors need replacing, painting etc. He will be looking into placing more seats.

Fr. Raaser would like to have the Parish Council review its purpose, function and role in the Parish. Perhaps looking at meeting times, frequency etc. Some members have never received a copy of the Constitution and Parish Council Handbook. We will discuss this at the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.