

Immaculate Conception Pastoral Council Five-Year Strategic Plan 2015

Immaculate Conception Parish of Wellsville, NY is a faith-filled community. As a community, we meet the Lord Jesus in the sacraments. It is here that we are nourished and that we praise the Lord for the gifts of life and love. Here we support each other in a communal growth in faith which encourages and strengthens our individual journeys. The nourishment and support that we receive empowers us to live out the Gospel message.

As children of God, we are called to reach out to others, to offer hope, encouragement, and assistance to those who suffer, those most in need, those who feel lonely and abandoned. Here we proclaim and live out the truth that each human being is our brother/sister in Christ. Each human being needs to hear the Word of the Lord to experience His love and mercy.

Each person who enters the beautiful Immaculate Conception Church should leave having experienced the wonderful reality that Pope Paul VI described so lovingly:

“Anyone who enters the church enters an atmosphere of love. Let no one say - ‘I am a stranger here.’ Let everyone say, ‘This is my home. I am in the Church. I am in Charity. Here I am loved.’”

Here, under the protection of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, we journey towards holiness.

VALUES

“I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

“I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father, through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(Yes, we believe in God our Father, Jesus our Savior, and the Spirit of the Lord who enkindles Faith, Hope, and Love within our hearts. Yes, we believe each human being is created by God and loved by God. Each human life must be protected from conception, through each stage of life to natural death.)

“For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.”

(Yes, in this we believe. We believe that we are called to proclaim and spread the Gospel message.)

We believe that we are called to proclaim and spread the Gospel message.

We believe we are called to serve each other and to reach out to those most in need spiritually, emotionally, and physically.)

“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.”

(Yes, in this we believe.)

“I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.”

(Yes, in this we believe. We believe in the holy, catholic church. She guide and supports us.)

“Amen.”

COMMITMENTS

Immaculate Conception Parish has a rich history. For over 100 years the people of Wellsville have been baptized, nourished by the Eucharist, forgiven their sins, married, and buried from this magnificent church.

For nearly 140 years, a faith-based education has been providing through Immaculate Conception School. Many students who have attended and continue to attend the school receive financial assistance.

It is here that religious education, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), and adult programs have been provided.

It is from here that ministries have been provided to Jones Memorial Hospital and area adult care facilities.

It is from here that the Catholic Charities Food pantry and Wellsville satellite office was originated.

This parish continues to support community-based services such as The Hart House.

We, as a parish, have much to be joyous about. The future, however, beckons and we must address our needs.

FUTURE

Over the next five years, we have a number of challenges to meet.

I. Evangelization and Outreach

a. The diocesan welcome-back program is a beginning, but only a beginning. We need to reach out locally/regionally to those who have no church or who have fallen away from the Catholic church. We have a story to tell and we must find ways to tell it. This can be addressed in a number of ways:

1. Newspaper ads and stories. This can be done regionally.
2. Letters to select groups (to determine effectiveness).
3. Establish a committee to address methods of outreach. (This can be done with sister parishes.)

II. Ministries

a. There is a need to increase the number of parishioners involved in lay ministries.

1. Music - there is a great need for the continued development of a choir.
2. Lectors - we need to increase the number of lectors. We especially need to develop a younger base. There is a need for greater training for lectors, in part to show the seriousness of this ministry.
3. Ushers/Greeters - Again, there is a need to increase the number and to create a younger base. We need to increase the levels of seriousness and commitment to these ministries. There is also a need for greater uniformity in performance.
4. Eucharistic Ministers - Once again, we need to increase the numbers to create a younger base. A spiritual introduction needs to be provided to these ministers.
5. Bereavement Committee - This committee needs to be more public with a greater diversity of members.

III. Community Development

- a. Establishment of a Welcoming Committee
- b. Creation of a Family Programs Committee- a committee should be created composed predominantly of young family members to determine needs. This can be done jointly with the other parishes of southeastern Allegany County.
- c. Youth Ministry Aimed at High School/College Youth - this is an enormous need. This is a prime project to be accomplished with the assistance of Sts. Brendan/Jude's.
- d. Ecumenical Involvement - work together to better determine the needs of our community and means of meeting them.

IV. Spiritual Growth

- a. Develop a wide range of one-day/evening programs involving known speakers - these could be presented before or after weekend Masses.

V. Stewardship- is absolutely necessary for the growth and continued health of the parish. Stewardship includes both talents and finances.

- a. Talents - this is addressed in each of the above areas.
- b. Finances - the monthly support of the parish has substantially decreased; there has also been a reduction of income from the annual Fun Fair. It is essential to address this. The financial support of the parish must be increased.
 1. A parish-wide program to increase monthly contributions?
 2. A program of pledges?
 3. A signature fund-raising event?

The above constitutes an ambitious five-year program. Individual arrears must be addressed on an annual basis.

Final Thought -

“... today it is important not to turn in on ourselves, burying our own talents, our spiritual, intellectual, and material riches, everything that the Lord has given us, but rather to open ourselves, to be supportive, to be attentive to others Do not bury your talents! Set your takes on great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful, Life is not given to us to be jealously guarded for ourselves, but is given to us so that we may give it in turn.”

- Pope Francis
April 24, 2013

(Updated 3/2/15)

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