

These questions and statements came from a general parish meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. About 150 people were present. We broke into small groups and each shared what he or she wanted to say to the Finance Council and to the School. Afterwards, a member of each group came forward and shared some issues from its group. Below are the questions and my (Fr. Tim Thompson) responses (to the best of my knowledge.) I did not respond to simple statements.

1. As for the ICC school, on ICC Property, used for ICC functions- what is the access of those facilities for St. Mark Parish?

*Answer: St. Mark's can use the property but with the same access that other groups have. Space is under great demands at ICC (Immaculate Conception Church) and not much space is available.*

2. Can we have some background on how St. Marks has gotten involved with ICC Church?

*Answer: St. Mark's began as a mission of ICC. It was established as a separate parish in 1995.*

3. Why didn't Father Gene tell the parish about signing the note?

*Answer: Not clear if he did not or if it was not said. In fact, I (Fr. Tim) am not sure he signed a note, only an agreement that if the school were to close that the property would be sold and the debt split between the two parishes.*

4. Can the school not get a loan, outside financing? Would the diocese consider refinancing?

*Answer: The parishes/schools borrow money from the Diocese which gives a good rate. Mr. Peter Flynn has said that if we could find a better deal, the Diocese would consider that.*

5. What is the big fundraiser for the school and how much does it bring in?

*Answer: The School Auction is the biggest fundraiser and brings in about \$90, 000 a year. This takes all year to plan.*

6. How many of the 276 students are full paying students?

*Answer: The school will give that answer to the Finance Councils after it has put a number together. I don't know that one.*

7. Is the \$4200 for Catholic students? How much is non catholic tuition?

*Answer: One Catholic student pays \$4200 per year, 2 children a bit less and so on. Non-catholic pay a higher tuition, about \$5,000.*

8. Is there a number that ICC wants from St. Marks to keep them solvent? And how will this affect us getting a new church? Where will that money come from?

*Answer: The need for funding is not from ICC parish but the school which is paying the entire debt on the school. The exact number is being studied. Will this affect the new*

*church? In as much as it will require more money from the parish, it will affect all that we do.*

9. What is our debt at ICCS, St. Mark's part?

*Answer: There is no debt separated for St. Mark, ICC or ICCS. The entire debt is \$2.1 million dollars.*

10. What can we rationally afford?

*Answer: The Finance Council is studying that.*

11. St. Mark should make ICS a priority on the financial budget as opposed to other ministries.

12. Both Pastors need to appeal to the Bishop.

13. Need audit by the diocese.

14. Two members from each parish finance council should be on school board to have a say in the direction of finances.

*The pastors sit on the Board and can bring the finances to their respective councils.*

15. What are the two parishes and the Diocese doing financially to support the school?

*Answer: the parishes give about \$250 dollars for each family from its parish.*

16. How do you anticipate or expect enrollment growth with no high school?

*Answer: A high school would be a good thing but is not planned at this time.*

17. Are there any major campaigns or endowments?

*Answer: There is some scholarship money from endowments.*

18. Rename the school Denton Catholic Academy.

19. Is St. Marks financially supporting the school, where does this money come from?

*Answer: We support (see above.) the money comes from the Sunday collection.*

20. Why is our portion of the debt not showing up on the balance statement?

*Answer: there is no loan outstanding that has St. Mark's name on it, though the letter of agreement implies that we are responsible for it under certain conditions.*

21. What will happen to land for the church? *Answer: This has no impact on the land for a new parish site.*

## **School**

1. Do we believe Catholic education is important and do we want to continue?

*Answer: Yes*

2. What happens if school defaults on the loan?

*Answer: see above.*

3. Change the name of the school because the name is associated with ICC.

4. Change the name on note to IC and then the school can pay rent to the parish.

5. Make curriculum available to home school families; a part time program; 2 days a week and pay a smaller amount.

*Answer: the school has to guarantee the education program and cannot control the education given in home schooling. It would jeopardize its accreditation if it were to take home schoolers under its umbrella or shorten its program.*

6. What efforts are being made to attract more students?

*Answer: there is no budget for advertising, but the school attempts to appeal for students at the two parishes and tries to bring its message to other parishes if possible*

7. What is the capacity the facilities can handle now; can facilities be more judiciously used?

*Answer: the School is looking to rent the gym in the summer to a city program, but half of that income goes to the church. There really isn't any feasible way to use it during the school year due to the demand on the facility from church and school.*

8. Diocese hold note? Can the debt be restructured or extended?

*Answer: it is being investigated.*

9. What happens if school still can't sustain itself?

*Answer: if it cannot sustain itself, it will close (but that will not eliminate the note.)*

10. Have you reached the capacity of student enrollment?

*Answer: there is room for more students, may be 20 – 30 students.*

11. What can we do to recruit Denton-wide students?

*Answer: the school tries to reach as many as possible.*

12. If students are from other parishes are they being asked to contribute?

*Answer: Non-parish students would pay at the full rate. We cannot make other parishes contribute. The Diocese is planning a diocesan campaign to support schools, at least in part.*

13. What is out of parish tuition, non catholic tuition?

*Answer: the tuition for this year for one student is about \$4200.*

14. Have we pursued the voucher system through Federal or State government?

*Answer: there is no voucher system available.*

15. What are the qualifications to become a member of the school board; there need to be more business owners who understand creating a viable financial plan to get a handle on the debt and create a plan of action.

*Answer: there are open seats year for the school and the school would welcome anyone interested in participating.*

16. Make school facilities more evenly accessible to St. Mark for functions

17. Have the school office, and not ICC, responsible for facility scheduling

18. Assign dedicated weekends for St. Mark to use the asset to encourage even distribution & to facilitate a greater sense of co-ownership

### **Father Tim**

1. Scholarships available to children, endowments in place.

2. Refinance debt at school, we want a fixed rate, give debt to ICC and we will contribute to the rent, est. 100,000 per year.

*Answer: we are investigating how to divide the debt or shortfall.*

3. If we use building money it will split.

4. Judicious support to school prorated as to use from our parish.

5. How can our parish grow the scrip program?

*Answer: Scrip is available with some frequency after Sunday mass; it is always available at the school.*

6. Would our parishes participate in a money raising campaign?

7. If the school defaults what will happen to St. Mark and ICC?

*Answer: see above.*

8. Is it the Diocese's intention to combine these two parishes?

*Answer: there is no such proposal.*

9. Have there been any resources tapped to find others and how those were solved?

*Answer: the school is open to any other resources and applies for grants, etc. when available.*

10. Have St. Mark listed on the school's note to encourage fair use of the asset
11. Have a St. Mark Fundraiser specifically dedicated to funding ICCS
12. Encourage faith formation activities that include both St. Mark kids & ICCS students –get the parents to know each other