

Holy Innocents Church
Parish Council Minutes-March 9, 2017

Present: Bridget Dinardi, Gerard Finelli, Maryanne Dowd, Grace Baer, Lina Spedaliere, Richard Damiano, Olga Carlsen, Mike Cusack, Kate Howe, Vincent Crowe, Jackie Kovatch, Mary Law, Kate Vullo, Mike Mannix, Father Hugh Burns, O.P., James Corry, Beth Curley, Alice Wagner, Harry Roney, Danielle Dispenza,

Absent: Steve Busby, Tom Conaty, Wanda Dejesus, Michael Fisher, Tim Hickey, JT McNally, Mark Moran, George Mulry, Lori Stockel, Father Dan Davies, O.P., Father Frank Sutman, O.P.

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Opening Prayer-Mary Law

Minutes were approved unanimously after it was noted that Richard Damiano has decided not to serve another term on the council.

Business Arising from February Minutes- Mary Law has not yet made arrangements for the Scout Mass. Richard Damiano followed up on putting a "suggestion form" in the bulletin but was told by Alice that there is not any room in the bulletin for this form. It was decided to put this tear off in the bulletin once in a while but to always have it available on the parish website and in the newsletter.

Pastor's Report-Father Hugh Burns, O.P.-The parish mission was very successful. Attendance was very good. Father Hugh is committed to having a Scout Mass. Father expressed his thanks to the American Heritage Girls for the (hopefully) soon to bloom daffodils. There are some big projects planned for the future. The Renew/Rebuild Campaign is going to be launched. We are on the verge of contracting for the HVAC system. Before we can commit to a contract the bank loan needs to be approved. A newly ordained Dominican may be assigned here to help out this summer. An idea was proposed by Father Hugh for a pot luck supper celebrating the different cultures that make up our Parish. There will be a meeting in two weeks to talk about filling Sister Kathy's position. We discussed the qualities we would like to see in her replacement.

Religious Education-Kate Howe read an update from Maria Lamorgese-The Religious Education Program Sessions have started our Lenten journey. Some of our Classes attended the Parish Mission each night. On Wednesday evening we had approximately 85 Confirmation candidates with us. On March 21st our 7th Graders are leading their families on the journey of the Stations of the Cross. On March 29th Pleasantville Strong will be working with us to do a wonderful presentation for the 8th graders and their parents. On March 25th and 26th at the 5:15 pm Masses we will have the Confirmation Candidates and their Sponsors for the Rite of Introduction/Welcoming. Please note that I am now one of the Founding Members of the Advisory Committee for special Religious Education for the Archdiocese of New York. Please spread the word to those that you know who have children with special needs. I am willing to work with them. My contact numbers are 914-769-3297 ext 1 or 732-433-4137. I ask the Parish Council to pray for our efforts. Thank you.

Nominating Committee-Bridget Dinardi-There are two parishioners with us tonight who are considering joining the Council next year. A third candidate could not make it this evening. If these three people join we will have a full Council of twenty people next year. The current executive committee will be finishing their tenure this year. We are prayerfully asking current Council members to consider serving as President, Vice President or Recording Secretary.

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Ministers of Hospitality-Bridget Dinardi-Nick would like to have the Ministers of Hospitality wear name tags to enhance the welcoming atmosphere of our Parish. He will be working on having these tags designed and made.

Fundraising-As agreed at the last meeting, there will not be a raffle this year because of the Capital Campaign.

Maintenance-Harry Roney-We are ready to make an award for the HVAC. The financial component is not yet in place. As soon as the loan is finalized we will have the money for the deposit, which is necessary to allow the job to go forward. The other companies in contention for this job will be notified of our decision. Lawrence Barile provided valuable assistance on this project. Mary Law inquired about the wall near the Blessed Virgin statue at OLP. She would like to plant flowers in front of this wall in the spring. The wall is an eyesore at the moment so it was thought that shrubs might hide some of the flaws in it. Mary will talk to Caroline Martin about requesting the assistance of the Garden Club.

OLP maintenance-Grace Baer-Grace cleans the choir loft a few times a year and there are many items there that do not belong to anyone. She would like to finally clear out the really old items and make room up there. A group of Parish Council members will join Grace one day soon and stage a massive cleanup in the loft. The roof is being looked at.

Parish Events-Kate Howe-Sister Kathy's reception was beautiful. Many parishioners came to express their appreciation for all that Sister has done for our Parish. The Ladies' High Tea is on March 26th. The CYO has an '80s-themed dance scheduled for this weekend.

Re-Creation-Maryanne Dowd-The March Re-Creation was well attended. The next Re-Creation will be on April 5th.

Finance-Mike Cusack-The Finance Committee has been discussing the Cemetery and the fact that it has been running at a deficit. Much has been due to the construction of a columbarium. This structure will have slots for urns. Once it is ready there will be ads placed in the bulletin publishing the fact that these slots are for sale. The driveways in the cemetery may need to be replaced. Landscaping needs to be done in the back corner of the Cemetery which abuts a construction company. From now on, Parish Pay will be called We Share due to the fact that Parish Pay was acquired by this new company. The next Finance meeting will be on March 28th. A question was posed about the absence of a raffle this year. Has the budget been adjusted to reflect this fact? Mike will check with Barbara Mackin.

The Speaker series has been very successful. Father Hugh would like to bring Marcus Burke back since 2017 is the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther. The Holocaust survivor will speak at the end of April, probably the 30th.

Refugee families-Kate Howe for Mike Fisher-Mike will have some new requests for these families. He will place his requests in the bulletin.

Closing Prayer-Mary Law

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, April 6, 2017.

Minutes submitted by Bridget Dinardi