

Holy Innocents Church

Parish Council Minutes-October 13, 2016

Present: Olga Carlsen, Maryanne Dowd, JT McNally, Bridget Dinardi, Barbara Mackin, Father Frank Sutman, O.P., Mark Mannix, Father Hugh Burns, O.P., Elaine Sackman, Grace Baer, Mary Law, Mark Moran, Alice Wagner, Harry Roney, Vincent Crowe, Kate Vullo, Lina Spedaliere, Alice Wagner, Mike Cusack, Mike Fisher, Kate Howe, Tom Conaty, Jackie Kovatch, Steve Busby, Wanda DeJesus, Mark Mannix

Absent: Lori Stockel, Richard Damiano, Gerard Finelli, Beth Curley, Tim Hickey, George Mulry, Sr. Kathy O'Hanlon, O.P.

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm

Opening Prayer-Maryanne Dowd

There was one correction to the September minutes. It was noted that Father Hugh also consulted with the Parish Council as well as the staff about the elimination of the 8:45 weekday Mass at OLP before the change was announced to the parish. **Minutes were then approved unanimously.**

A discussion took place about the change in Mass schedule at OLP. This change has upset the daily Mass attendees at OLP. Grace Baer informed the Council that the 8:45 Mass is very much a part of the daily life of many parishioners. Grace noted that despite the fact that a Saturday evening and one Sunday morning Mass were eliminated in the past, people have adjusted and, on a positive note, weddings and funerals now take place at OLP where they hadn't before. Other parish council members have been approached about the change too. Alternative possibilities were suggested. Perhaps a Communion service could take place instead of a Mass. Father Frank informed us that certain steps would have to occur for this to happen. Would the Archdiocese even allow it? What kind of precedent would this set for the future? Father Hugh is concerned that the parishioners conducting the Communion service would need to be properly trained. After much thought, the decision was made to have the clergy, staff and a few Parish council members discuss the possibilities and give the parishioners at OLP the feedback from this process.

Father Hugh would like daffodils to be planted at both HI and OLP. He would like flowers to be blooming all the time to add beauty to the landscape each season. Mary Law is going to get the American Heritage girls to help plant the bulbs. Grace is going to plant the bulbs at OLP.

Pastor's Report-Father Hugh-Maria Lamorgese is doing a fantastic job as the religious education director. Wanda is going to follow up with Maria about the Sunday coffees becoming a service project for the second grade families. The 25th and 50th Anniversary party celebration was beautiful. Caroline Martin was acknowledged for the wonderful job she did coordinating this celebration. Three couples celebrated their anniversaries, including former Parish Council member Nick Stanton and his wife Mary.

Committee Report follow-up-

FORMED- Olga Carlsen-After reviewing this new online program, Olga gave a glowing report on the wonderful tools available to subscribers. Parishioners who sign up for this free program can download books, movies, marriage preparation programs and more. If ten percent of our parishioners use the program it will remain free next year.

Parish Events-There has been a problem getting people to commit to attending the events offered by the parish events committee. People often sign up but don't attend or fail to sign up until the last minute necessitating that events be canceled due to poor attendance. Jackie Kovatch, who has been active on the parish events committee, thought that parishioners with younger children need to become the focus of parish events.

The first speaker in the lecture series will be on Sunday October 16th. There was a request for refreshments for the reception that will follow this talk.

Maryanne Dowd will be putting the minutes in the parish newsletter. An announcement will be put in the bulletin.

Social Concerns-Alice Wagner-Thirty six Sisters at Maryknoll Residential Care were visited by the Social Concerns group on September 10th. They brought with them punch, cream puffs and candy. They returned on October 8th with a huge sheet cake in order to celebrate the 90th birthday of Sister Nowell. There will be a Midnight run on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

Youth Group-Tom Conaty-Youth group meetings started on September 11th and September 18th. The first Cottage School visit took place on September 25th. There is a one male and one female cottage visited on a monthly basis. The Youth Group Masses will be the first Sunday of the month at 5:15 pm. The first one was October 2nd. On October 9th, the group prepared brunch for the families at Ronald McDonald House. Some upcoming events are the Breast Cancer Walk on October 16th, the Diabetes Walk on October 23rd and a Cottage School visit also on October 23rd.

Almost 400 children are registered for CYO basketball. This number is expected to increase once the clinic is formed. There will be 33 teams. The season will begin on November 19th. There will be a kickoff breakfast on Saturday November 12th in the Social hall.

Maintenance-Harry Roney for Tim Hickey-Harry Roney, Tim Hickey and George O'Reilly met with an engineer from the parish community. They looked at the roof and the HVAC mechanical systems. The equipment was installed in 1986 when the Church was first built. Since then all that has been done to the equipment is maintenance. It is only a matter of time until this equipment is no longer functional. There has been one proposal so far. Because of the age of the equipment, parts are no longer available for repair. It was Harry's suggestion that the Parish hire a professional engineer to draw up plans to replace this equipment. In other maintenance areas, Nick Stanton looked at what needs to be done to level the floor at OLP. It will be repaired and the painting that needs to be done will be completed.

Other - Steve Busby is a Parish trustee. He expressed some concern that there was an announcement in the bulletin requesting gifts for an organization that we have not collected for in the past. We already have the Giving Tree and a gift collection at the Advent tea. It was thought best not to impose on

parishioners for too many causes. Since this particular announcement was not authorized by anyone on the Parish staff it will be taken out of the bulletin. It was decided that any requests in the future must be approved by Father Hugh or Sister Kathy.

Upcoming business: At the November meeting there will be a report from the Finance Committee. There will be an e mail blast about the Memorial Mass on Monday, November 7th. JT McNally will help with the parish website, which perhaps will include a question and answer area. The Rosary Altar Society will have their Fun Night in the spring.

The American Heritage Girls have requested a visit from a member of the clergy or Sr. Kathy.

There was a request made for better promotion of the Mass for children and adults with special needs. A Mass for these families is scheduled for November 13th. Vincent Crowe will speak to the person who has initiated this ministry to ensure that she will be responsible for the mass in the future. He will also address with her some concerns regarding the use of OLP for people with physical disabilities.

Closing Prayer-Maryanne Dowd

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, November 10th, 2016.

Minutes submitted by Bridget Dinardi

Committee/Liaison Updates for Parish Council Meeting October 13, 2016

Religious Education - The next Parish Council Meeting falls on the night that we have Confirmation practice. If the meeting is still going on after practice, I would love to join you. I am eager to meet all the members being that I am new to Holy Innocents Parish. Religious Education is off to a good start. We have implemented a crisis management program to meet the standards of "safer spaces" that is mandated by the Archdiocese. We have had our first three major meetings thus far. Catechist Meeting, Parent Meeting and Confirmation Meeting. All went very well. CRE, Catechists, parents and students all have the same goal to work together in partnership in order to assist each other in bringing one another closer to God! We will have a Reconciliation Meeting this week. Our young adults are being confirmed on Saturday, October 15th by Bishop Byrne. We will have a 10a.m. Mass and a 2p.m. Mass. Please pray for all involved, especially for our young adults receiving this sacrament. Looking forward to meeting you,
Maria Lamorgese

Parish-wide Religious Education – Faith Formation

F-O-R-M-E-D is a website produced by the Augustine Institute & Ignatius Press. Formed is compared to a Netflix for Catholics.

I registered for a seminar at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers and attended on 9/24/16. At the seminar we were informed that a District Parish Consultant was available to Parishes. I then set

up a meeting attendees: Father Burns, Maria Lamorgese, Dir.of Rel. Ed., Charles Angelillo Parish Consultant and Olga Carlsen on 10/04/16.

Mr. Angelillo re-enforced what I learned at the seminar and went over entire program. He showed us how an announcement for the program could be created using FORMED which has been created and will be inserted in the 10/16/16 bulletin with Fr. Burns' approval.

Okay, so now what is F-O-R-M-E-D? It is evangelization in a digital age. It's Catholic Study programs, movies, audio presentations, and ebooks. It has a number of programs including Symbolon, Catholicism by Bishop Robert Barron, YDicile a group youth program, Bible Studies, Beloved a marriage preparation and enrichment program, Reborn on Baptism, the Hearts Afire retreats by Father Michael Gaitley of the Immaculate Conception and scores of other offerings. This includes unlimited downloads of all the study guides for each program.

The home page is Opening the Word which has weekly reflections on all 52 Sunday Mass Readings to better prepare us before Mass each week.

They are constantly adding new material. Forgiven, which is on Confession, as well as Catechists' Certification will be soon available.

You can access with a Computer, tablet or smartphone. Parish Code will be given to all Parishioners and instructions on how to operate which is fairly simple.

I think we need volunteers after Mass when FORMED is announced to help those interested. We will also have written instructions.

This program is free to Parishes through September, 2017. The subscription could possibly be renewed free of charge if the Institute sees that H.I. finds value in the material, register and use it. (Olga Carlsen)

Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors - nothing new to report. Nick Antonaccio asked if parishioners could obtain minutes of meeting. (Bridget D)

Parish Events - Here's a rundown of upcoming events that are planned for the remainder of the year:

Sunday, 10/23	Pumpkin Carving/Refreshments after the 9am Mass
Tuesday, 11/29	Ladies Advent Tea in the evening
Saturday, 12/17	Happy Birthday Jesus pageant/ St Nicholas Luncheon
Sunday, 3/26	Ladies High Tea 2:30 - 5pm

We have two problems with running events:

1. There's a huge list of people on the Events Committee. Even though this is the case, there's difficulty getting volunteers for the events.
2. People do not register for the events by the deadline dates as they feel it's fine to do it last minute or that walk-ins are okay. This makes it impossible to plan for the number who will be attending. As a result of this, the ice cream social had to be canceled in September.

Any ideas? (Lori S)

Fundraising - The only update I have is that I was going to pick a weekend in November to have a table in the back after each Mass to promote parish pay. Also, I will let you know when our committee will meet, probably in November too. (George M)

Maintenance

Harry should be able to comment on the air conditioning/heating needs. So sorry to miss.

I have also spoken with Nick Stanton regarding the painting/floor work that needs to be completed. He planned to take a look this week. He owes me a call regarding feedback. As always, feel free to give me a call if you have any questions prior to the meeting. Thanks. Tim

Re-Creation

Our November Re-Creation will be celebrated with a Thanksgiving theme and will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd. Our 12:15pm Mass will be followed by a homemade Thanksgiving dinner. All over 55 are invited to join us in this celebration. (Sr. Kathy)

Spiritual Life - Bereavement

Nine people are in the 8 week bereavement group. The group will finish on November 14th. Our annual parish Memorial Mass will be held on Monday, November 7th at 7:30pm at Holy Innocents. It will be followed by a reception in the social hall. (Sr. Kathy)

Spiritual Life - Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is a prayerful reflection on the Gospel for the following Sunday. It is held in the meeting room on Tuesdays at 11:00. All invited. (Sr. Kathy)

Social Concerns – Refugee Assistance

On the refugee assistance program, I'm happy to share some interesting news. I have been in touch with the Archdiocese and our contact Kelly Agnew-Barajas. Kelly outlined an exciting development. The Archdiocese Refugee Program is being expanded out of NYC to Westchester County. 10-15 refugee families will likely be relocated to Westchester. This is in the final approval process with the Archdiocese and the State department.

As part of the program, there will be a new Archdiocese position filled in Yonkers to coordinate all local County refugee activities. Kelly's group is thrilled with the opportunity to grow her program, and she recited that several groups, including Holy Innocents Parish, enabled her organization to win support for the program. More details to follow and plenty of opportunity for us to help.

So, what about our near term role in the refugee crisis?

Here's what we came up with:

- 1) Continue to support the 4 families from this spring
 - Kelly will reach out to the case workers to determine needs prior to our 10/13 meeting
 - HI will target a pre-holiday drive and delivery for each family
 - Possible holiday party (Nov/Dec) for the families to attend in Pleasantville with Archdiocese and Parishioners?
- 2) Add one or two new families to the program
 - Kelly identified one family, a single parent (Mom) who just relapsed with cancer she will get details. This case appears to be a priority for their team

I value your suggestions and welcome new and fresh ideas. Feel free to comment (email) or call me. In any event, we will have a report, and perhaps a proposal, ready for Thursday.
Regards to all,
Mike

Deanery Council

So far no one has been selected to head the Deanery. (Olga)

Making All Things New

Our MATN Cluster met on Monday, Sept. 26th. Attendance was low with only 2 of the 5 pastors attending and only 4 of the 5 churches were represented.

Earlier this year our cluster submitted to the Archdiocese the 3 directives and corresponding action plans that we would work on.

Directive 1: Continue or develop strategies for serving people living in poverty and advocating on their behalf.

Directive 2: Consult with neighboring and cluster parishes to coordinate Mass schedules.

Directive 3: Create or enrich collaborative youth and young adult ministry.

For the 3Q 2016 action plans, we agreed to create cluster-wide lists of our Outreach Programs, Youth/Young Adult Programs and Mass schedules for all parishes. These lists will be shared in parish bulletins so that parishioners can become more informed about the programs and Mass schedules in our neighboring parishes.

Our next meeting is Monday, Nov 7th. (Maryanne D)

Food Pantry- all is well. Frank Moro needed two volunteers to replace people who had left. Four parishioners volunteered so he is using two of them as substitutes. (Bridget D)

American Heritage Girl Update

The fourth year of American Heritage Girls program at Holy Innocents Church is proving to be a challenging one as overall membership has dropped significantly. Several of the adult volunteers leaving have cited the need to return to the work force, many of the young members have competing social/sporting activities and there is some general lack of enthusiasm contagion among peers. However the dedicated leadership is optimistic and excited that the more nimble troop can focus more on some adventurous, faith-based activities to develop these future leaders. They are confident they can re-gain the membership numbers and grow the adult participation after some organizational re-tooling and energetic promotion.

Some notes and requests:

- The first idea being put into motion is utilizing one of the parish's greatest strengths, our Youth Group. Exposure to these fine young adults will inspire the AHG to be a life-long part of the church. Tom Conaty has been very helpful and encouraging. The first service activity planned is for AHG is to assemble 80 toiletry kits for the next breakfast/midnight run.

-AHG head Justine Collins really liked the parish newsletter and asks if AHG could have a regularly featured update to boost enrollment and announce goings-on

-Justine would also really appreciate an occasional visit from one of our priests or Sr. Kathy at meetings. A few words and prayers would be inspirational and remind them that AHG is part of Holy Innocents.

Finally, the girls are as excited as ever to serve the community. The Giving Tree is already being designed! (Steve Busby)

