

Holy Innocents Church

Parish Council Minutes-February 8, 2018

Present: Kate Vullo, Bridget Dinardi, Beth Curley, Maryanne Dowd, Tim Hickey, Kate Howe, Tom Conaty, Mark Moran, Mark Mannix, Lina Spedalieri, Grace Baer, Jacqueline Kovatch, Wanda DeJesus, Fr. Hugh Burns, OP., Mike Cusack, Mike Fisher, & Rither Alabre.

Absent: Olga Carlsen, Danielle Dispenza, Mary Law, George Mulry, Fr. Frank Sutman, OP. & Steve Busby.

Meeting was called to order: 7:37pm

Opening Prayer: Jackie Kovatch

Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2018: Correction- Barbara Mackin is not involved with the decorating portion of the Liturgical Committee. The Parish Council Minutes (1/08/2018) were approved by Jackie Kovatch and Kate Howe.

Pastor's Report: According to Fr. Hugh Burns, O.P., Sister Donna is currently training the altar servers. Some nights the altar servers attend the training sessions, while other nights they are absent. Father reported that Sister Donna has been doing a wonderful job. Maria Lamorgese has also been doing an incredible job with the Religious Education Program, especially noted at the Celebration of Reconciliation.

Father Burns commented that the parishioners have received a letter from the Archdiocese regarding the Cardinal's Appeal. He also received a report from the Archdiocese on the Cardinal's Appeal & was pleasantly surprised. He further observed that we need a **Cardinal's Appeal Parish Leader**, since Nancy & Renee have indicated that they cannot do it this year. Father noted that we didn't have a Cardinal's Appeal last year and that the R&R Campaign is like the Cardinal's Appeal on steroids. Maryann suggested that Alan Klubfeld was a good person to lead the Cardinal's Appeal. Kate thinks the timing of raffle, around Mother's Day, is good.

Mike commented that the Cardinals Appeal & the Raffle have provided over \$40,000. Supporting both initiatives is important since they provide necessary working capital and cash flow for the Parish.

Father Burns stated that we need volunteers for foot washing on Holy Thursday. There was a Decorating Committee meeting & some of the key players were not there. Barbara presently runs the Liturgical Committee but can't continue on the Decorating portion of this Committee. Reportedly, Renee said she will continue on the Decorating Committee. Wanda will also be on the Committee and is going to meet with Barbara on Sat. February 10, 2018. Liz will also stay on the Committee but Honoree will not. Liz is going to do the Decorating Committee for Holy

Thursday. Wanda is going to get Renee and Nancy to identify the responsibilities for the **Decorating/Liturgical parts of the Committee.**

The Holy Innocents Speaker Series is presenting 'What's On Your Plate? The Ethical & Logical Side of Food' by a young priest Fr Hyacinth Cordell, O.P., S.T.L. on Sunday evening Feb. 11, 2018. In March, Greg Kendra will be coming to speak about the Eastern Rites. Father thinks we will get a good response.

On February 16, 2018 Bridget announced that she was going to start the **Parish Council New Membership Drive** to replenish people on the Parish Council for next year. The drive will end on March 18, 2018. Since 1/3 of the Parish Council is leaving, we will need 8-9 new members. Possible nominations mentioned are Tim Kelly, Rebecca Lee, Lynn Beck, Dan, Norma Corera and others nominated by Tom Conaty. Father also indicated that he had asked parishioners if they were interested in being on the Parish Council. He commented that we need people in construction to help us and therefore we need to consider people who work in the construction field, such as perhaps Terrance Rafferty, Kathy Dunne, Harry Ronny, and Fiona & Tom Brennan to form a Facilities Committee. The Facilities Committee is here to help us on the Renew & Rebuild portion. We don't necessarily need a Parish Council member to head up the Facilities Committee; he/she does not need to be on the Parish Council. There will be 2 boxes in Holy Innocents and one in Our Lady of Pompeii for Parish Council nominations. Bridget further reported that there will be 8 more people on the Parish Council turning over in the future, next year in 2019.

Father Burns remarked that Paul Petrone's report regarding taxes for charitable giving, applies only to people 70 years and above. The information is always available upon request, if you need it. Jackie suggested that this announcement should be put on the Parish website.

Mike Fisher commented that the **Fund Raising and Finance Committees** are presently in a good conversation. Mike Cusack stated that on January 23, 2018, at a Finance Committee Meeting it was noted that two committees are carrying balances on accounts that can be utilized.

1. Rosary Altar Society: \$2,172(Balance): This committee is no longer active. We should consider having the funds made available to another committee (Our Lady of Pompeii Celebration Celebration).

2. Outreach for Seniors- \$4,700 (Balance): These funds were typically directed by Sister Kathy as to where they should be used. Michael Cusack expressed the need to communicate to Sister Donna that these funds are available for use. Typically the funds were used to help the needy cover an expense, such as a heating bill, or helping to bridge a gap.

Renew & Rebuild Follow Up: Mike Cusack stated that \$911K has been pledged to date (2/8/2018), \$222K has been received to date, \$70K will go to satisfy the 2017 Cardinal's Appeal Obligation. There was a discussion around managing the message to the community regarding the success of the Campaign, along with the upcoming Cardinal's Appeal. With emphasis on keeping the parishioners informed, the idea of a letter grew out of the January 23rd meeting. Mike Fisher announced that a letter to the parishioners has gone out (2/10/2018) to those who had participated in the Renew & Rebuild initiative. The letter discussed the success of the R & R Campaign, where the funds will be used and what will happen next. It also expressed a big 'Thank You' to all parishioners who contributed to the Campaign. Some of the parishioners have already received information/envelopes by mail. A Committee has been created to act in an oversight role (Members: Tim Hickey, Harry Roney, George Mulry, Vinny Crowe & Mike Cusack). Barbara is also on top of finance.

Mike Cusack revealed a **Balloon Payment** of \$65K is due on an outstanding loan. The Committee discussed how to best manage the parish's cash flow and debt obligations. Barbara was going to follow-up with the bank to discuss the possibility of paying a portion of the balance and rolling over the remainder.

Christmas Collection Shortfall: Although the budget was \$70K, the collections totaled \$47K. Possible reasons for the shortfall were discussed, with the contributing factors being Christmas falling on a Monday &/or there may have been a glitch; families on parish pay. There was a change in the company used & some people got confused in payments. This shortfall lends further weight to the need for the return on the raffle.

Social Concerns Discussion: Maryanne reported that on the www.archnyclusters52.org website, she has a list of activities/ ministries from the cluster of churches. Kate suggested that we have a contact person on many of the ministries that Sister Kathy originally ran. Bridget said that Sister Kathy connected people with what they can do at the different ministries. Mike commented we need a way to communicate the purpose of each ministry. Maryanne talked about a ministry fair to sign up for different ministries. She reported that it was very successful the last time we had one. According to Kate, when Sister Kathy left, Alice was the last person standing on Social Concerns Committee. Mike suggested that we need two new coordinators to replace Sister Kathy. Beth commented that we first need to see what committees are active, and then the scope of the activities/ministries needs to be more organized.

Upcoming Parish Event: Volunteer Recognition Day: April 28th

Parish Raffle: Mid-May to Mid-June

Committee Reports/Liaison Updates:

Ecumenical Vacation Bible School, Religious Education: Maria Lamorgese reported that First Reconciliation went very well. The children were so reverent and prayerful. More importantly, the majority of the Parents received the Sacrament. The last day of Reconciliation was on Saturday, February 10th.

On Ash Wednesday the students were brought up to the church to participate in the services. Grade 2 through 5 attended the 3:30 pm. service and all the 8th grade classes were at the 7:30 pm. service.

During the next several weeks the EVBS Meetings will start. This August Vacation Bible School is scheduled to be at the Episcopal Church. However, the Pastor is still looking for a Site Director. We are not scheduled to have it here at Holy Innocents until 2019. In case the Pastor is unable to find a Director, we will host EVBS here at Holy Innocents. Sister Donna will let the Council know when they have their first meeting.

Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors, Ushers, Food Pantry: Bridget Dinardi indicated that Sister Donna held a workshop for new Eucharistic Ministers during the week of February 5th. Nick has also trained 3 new lectors.

Finance: The Finance Committee Meeting 1/23/2018, Renew & Rebuild, the Balloon Payment & Christmas Collection Shortfall were discussed above in depth. Mike Cusack stated that \$911K has been pledged to date (2/8/2018), \$222K has been received to date, \$70K will go to satisfy the 2017 Cardinal's Appeal Obligation. A Committee has been created to act in an oversight role (Members: Tim Hickey, George Mulry, Vinny Crowe & Mike Cusack). Barbara is also on top of finance.

FORMED: Olga indicated that she is trying to get the FORMED readings and information for the month of March onto the parish website earlier than usual. Maryann will be away when she normally would post information on the website.

Maria and Olga will be meeting with the Augustin Institute/Lighthouse Parish Consultant on 2/15/18. He wants to bring us up to date on all new materials on FORMED, and how to use them to help meet our Parish needs. In addition to the website posting, Olga put flyers on tables in Church.

Olga had a telephone meeting with Luisa Granda, the Director from Operations & Community Service of Neighbors Link. They discussed ideas regarding community service. Luisa introduced Olga to Amy Werner, the Volunteer Manager, who shared a wish list.

Olga has attended a gathering with the Society of St. Vincent DePaul on 2/10/18, to learn more about potential community service projects.

Fund-Raising: Based on George's discussion with Fr. Burns, the proposed timeframe for this year's raffle is mid-May to mid-June. It does not conflict with other church activities and concludes before school closes for the summer.

Next steps include determining what the raffle proceeds will be used for, developing promotional materials and a schedule for selling tickets after Masses during the four-week period.

Making All Things New : Maryanne reported that the MATN Committee has not met this month.

Parish Maintenance, A/C: Tim Hickey reported that the Committee will continue to prioritize projects related to maintenance, as the Renew & Rebuild Campaign has concluded. They will receive details regarding fund flows and timing from the Archdiocese shortly, so they can begin to plan the following:

1. Begin to pay down the \$200,000 debt issued for the HVAC system.
2. Security system installation.
3. Improved acoustics of the social hall.
4. Rectory repairs and maintenance of the stone/concrete steps and railings.
5. Ongoing maintenance and repairs of the rectory roof.

Pompeii Centennial Celebration: Jackie Kovatch needs a permit from the Town of Pleasantville to certify a band for a dance outside. Mass preparation is going well. Barbara will be given all the money regarding this event.

Website: Maryanne Dowd reported that no photos were submitted from any of the committees or groups. Maryanne also spoke with Alice and Eileen in the office about converting to a digital parish calendar and they are very hesitant to do this. Maryanne will contact our website administrator to get the names of some parishes who went through a conversion to digital to obtain their input and see how they work digitally.

Youth Ministries, CYO Programs, Altar Servers:

- Tom Conaty reported that Holy Innocents Youth Group carries on with its regular meetings, with 30 or so teens participating. Activities of late have been Youth Mass, Cottage School visits and preparing meals for the Ronald McDonald House.

Holy Innocents CYO Basketball will be continuing into February: k-2

Clinic will be concluding as will the regular season for 3rd grade to HS teams. Some of our teams will continue on into basketball playoffs. Teams continue to do service events; you can see them posted in our bulletin.

- We recently had a bus trip to MSG where our two 6th grade boys teams played at halftime of the St. John's/Duke game. Amazingly, St. John's even won!

Other Items/New Business: Mike Fisher commented on how Fr. Frank presented a very calming Mass for a very difficult funeral in the community.

Closing Prayer: Jackie Kovatch

Meeting Adjourned: 8:55 pm.

Next meeting: March 8, 2018

Minutes submitted by: Kate Vullo