

Holy Innocents Church

Parish Council Minutes-February 16, 2017

Present: Bridget Dinardi, JT McNally, Grace Baer, Lina Spedaliere, Mary Law, Richard Damiano, Alice Wagner, Gerard Finnelli, Kate Howe, George Mulry, Tim Hickey, Mark Mannix, Olga Carlsen, Father Hugh Burns, O.P., Wanda DeJesus, Tom Conaty, Mark Moran, Lori Stockel

Absent: Maryanne Dowd, Beth Curley, Mike Cusack, Vincent Crowe, Mike Fisher, Jackie Kovatch, Harry Roney, Kate Vullo, Father Frank Sutman, O.P., Father Dan Davies, O.P., Steve Busby

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Opening Prayer-Kate Howe

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Kate Howe and Father Hugh made note of the email that was sent to the Parish Council by Elaine Sackmann, one of our parishioners. Any council member who would like to discuss this email further should talk to Father Hugh.

Pastor's Report-Father Hugh Burns O.P.-Father thanked the parish council for their attendance at the wake and funeral Mass for Father Donald Thibault, O.P. His family was very grateful. Father Thibault's family gifted HI with the paintings of the St. Therasas by the front entrance doors to the Church. There will be a plaque acknowledging this gift placed by the paintings. Five different bids were solicited for the new HVAC system. Two local companies, Carey and Walsh and AMX came in with the lowest bids. These bids will be reviewed and a decision will be made soon on who to award the contract to. The work would best be done in the spring and the process is on track to do this. A bank is being spoken to about a mortgage to do this work. The Archdiocesan capital campaign will begin soon. Hopefully the rebate we will receive will help us towards several projects that have to be undertaken in the parish. The HVAC needs to be done, the back steps to the rectory need to be replaced, the social hall needs to be soundproofed, and a security camera and door needs to be installed for Religious Education in order to comply with Archdiocesan directives. The initial phase of the campaign is a silent phase with Father asking individual parishioners for a commitment to the campaign. After that a general appeal will be made to the parish. Father noted that although there have been many personnel changes in the parish in recent months, Mass attendance has been growing and people have been very pleased with the new staff. Father Frank has been inspiring and Maria Lamorgese has been doing an amazing job with Religious Education. The Religious Education ministry has been attracting many new families. Sister Kathy will be missed. She will not be replaced immediately as we first need to work on a job description that would encompass the many duties that Sister provides as a Pastoral Associate. The lecture series is going well. Sunday night's lecture was well attended in spite of the snow. In April, a Dominican brother will speak about the environment. Father was approached by Temple Beth-El in Chappaqua about having a Holocaust survivor speak at HI. Father would like to have a Scout Mass in June. There are two

priests from NYC helping us on the weekends. The Lenten supper will be held at Holy Innocents on April 5th.

Parish Council Membership-Bridget Dinardi-The terms of seven council members are ending in May. Three of these members wish to stay on the council for another term. They are: Richard Damiano, Mike Fisher and Mark Mannix. Since that leaves us 18 members on the council, there will be two open positions. Two parishioners have been approached by Sister Kathy and Father Hugh to fill these positions. If they agree to serve there will be no further nominations this year. Next year we will have many positions to fill and the hope is that some of our parishioners with younger families will be interested.

HVAC-Tim Hickey-Five bids have been narrowed down to two with a final decision to be made shortly. The early figures are good but there are other factors that will drive up the cost. The roofing needs to be done, a permit obtained, a fire alarm installed and a professional engineer paid.

Mass for Sister Kathy-Lori Stockel- A Farewell Mass and Reception will be held for Sister Kathy on March 5th. That weekend is also the kick-off for the Parish Retreat so it is likely that the Mass will be said by Father Dominic Briese, O.P. who is preaching at the Retreat. Invitations will be sent out via email and in the bulletin.

Youth Group-Tom Conaty- The basketball season has ended and there are several teams in the playoffs. We have been using the Bedford Road School and Middle Schools gyms. St. Theresa's gym is still necessary but has not been as easy to obtain this year. This could be a problem next year. There has been a parents' meeting about the Mission trip. Thirty seven children and several adult chaperones will be going. The Youth group is busy as always with the Cottage school and Ronald McDonald house. We now have many altar servers and they are doing well.

Richard Damiano proposed putting a suggestion tear-off in the bulletin. It was thought to be a good idea and Richard will speak to Alice about it.

Repairs at OLP-There are some problems completing painting and the floor at OLP. The floor cannot be polished by machine. The wall behind the radiator could not be painted as there was not paint to match the Church walls therefore the radiator cover will be put back. A parishioner would like to donate a new carpet for OLP but he has not approached Father Hugh yet.

Per JT McNally, a video of Father Hugh's homily will be available via a link on our Parish website.

A-Home-JT McNally-This local not for profit organization is a good place to send household items that parishioners might like to donate. We are Partners in Charity with them and thus will direct parishioners to contact them if they have donations. Right now they are in need of vacuum cleaners and a notice about this will be put in the bulletin.

Committee Reports: Committee/Liaison Updates

Religious Education

Good morning. Just to let the Council know that First Reconciliation will take place from Monday Feb. 6th through Saturday, Feb. 11th. Please pray for our students and their parents. We are encouraging the parents to receive the sacrament also. This year I put together a prayer service and a celebration to

follow this beautiful sacrament. Also, on Sat. Feb. 11th I am taking one of our 8th grade confirmation classes to do community service at St. Vincent's Psychiatric Hospital. We will be visiting the Geriatric Unit and will be singing, doing arts and crafts and decorating for Valentine's Day. Please pray for our efforts.

Re-Creation

Does not meet in January and February

Parish Events

Parish Events is planning the High Tea on 3/26, details to follow.
Best,
Lori

Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Ministers of Hospitality- it has been a quiet month. An item of note, one of our Lectors, Whit McBride, is a surgeon that was part of the team that recently separated conjoined twins at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. If anyone is interested, here is the link: <http://www.theexaminernews.com/maria-fareri-doctors-successfully-separate-conjoined-twins/>

Food Pantry

Food Pantry-there have not been any solicitations in the bulletin because the food pantry has been receiving an abundance of food. The Episcopal Church and HI contribute a lot of food. The food contributed to the "Feeding Our Neighbors Campaign" will probably be given to a very needy food pantry in Port Chester

FORMED (Family Religious Ed)

Fundraising

Making All Things New

Nothing new to report for MATN

Maintenance

Making progress on the larger project (heating/AC) at HI. Reviewing proposals currently...moving towards selecting a partner. Our Lady of Pompeii priority is painting, where past water damage has prompted the need for small plaster repairs to bottom of walls at the rear of the church, followed by priming/painting to match existing paint. There was also an issue with the flooring in a small section near the back corner. Jim Keane should review both issues, proceed with painting and share his recommendation regarding flooring.

Spiritual Life - Bereavement

Spiritual Life - Lectio Divina

Social Concerns - Maryknoll

Social Concerns – Refugee Assistance

Youth Ministry – CYO

Youth Ministry – Basketball

Youth Ministry – American Heritage Girls

Additional Discussion on Committee Reports:

Social Concerns-Alice Wagner-Because many of the Sisters at Maryknoll were ill, both January visits were cancelled. Finally on February 11th, Alice and her committee celebrated both New Year's and Valentine's Day with the Sisters. They brought sparkling cider, champagne, candy, cream puffs and calendars. The Sisters were delighted and are looking forward to their St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Fundraising-George Mulry- After much discussion it was agreed that the raffle will be suspended this year because of the capital campaign. A meeting about this campaign will be held soon.

Since Father Hugh has installed so much beautiful art work around the Church, Kate proposed having a laminated pamphlet available that would tell a little bit about the paintings. Perhaps this could be a project for a Scout.

Formed-Olga Carlsen-There are now 102 subscribers which puts us in the top 10 percent of parishes using FORMED.

Closing Prayer-Grace Baer

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, March 9, 2017.

Minutes submitted by Bridget Dinardi