

Holy Innocents Church

Parish Council Minutes-September 8, 2016

Present: Bridget Dinardi, JT McNally, Richard Damiano, Olga Carlsen, Grace Baer, Mary Law, Lori Stockel, George Mulry, Kate Howe, Mark Moran, Father Hugh Burns, O.P., Vincent Crowe, Alice Wagner, Maryanne Dowd, Kate Vullo, Steve Busby, Beth Curley, Wanda Dejesus, Jackie Kovatch, Father Frank Sutman, O.P., Mark Mannix, Harry Roney, Sr. Kathy O'Hanlon, O.P., Tom Conaty, Lina Spedalieri,

Absent: Tim Hickey, Mike Cusack, Mike Fisher, Gerard Finelli

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35 pm

Opening Prayer-Kate Howe

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Welcome-Kate Howe-Kate is confident that much will be accomplished by the parish council this year. A list was circulated so that members could sign up as liaisons for the various committees of the parish. Father Frank Sutman, O.P. was introduced to the council. He brings a wealth of experience, wisdom, energy and efficiency to the parish. All parish council members introduced themselves.

Pastor's Report-Father Hugh-Father Frank and Father Hugh went to the Deanery meeting. At the meeting other pastors expressed concern that children did not continue attending Mass after receiving the Sacraments. Father Hugh does not think that this is true at Holy Innocents and gives much of the credit for this to Tom Conaty. The parish as a whole is very active and involved. There was a great deal of focus on the new catechetical directives. A new lecture series will begin at HI. On October 16th, Ola Nosseir will speak about Jesus and Mary in the Quran. The lecture will be followed by refreshments. In November, Father Al Barrera will speak about the economic aspects of Pope Francis' encyclical. There will be a lecture in January on race relations. It is hoped that Dennis Corcoran, an author who has done much research on integration in baseball will be the speaker. Looking ahead February might bring a speaker on Art. As of now there are only two active priests at HI. Father Dan has had some health issues and Father Doherty will be serving Rosary Hill. Unfortunately with only two priests, there can only be one daily Mass. After much consultation with the staff, Father Hugh has decided that this Mass would be the 7:00 am at HI. The change will begin on January 1st. The Sunday Mass schedule will remain the same with the help of visiting priests from Maryknoll. The weekend of Oct 1st/2nd will begin the Dominican capital campaign at HI. Funds raised would be for the Dominican Fathers. The Province of St. Joseph is blessed with many vocations. Father Frank commented that HI is a parish driven by the laity and that any priest assigned here must be comfortable with that fact. Father Hugh received a packet in the mail about a new adult formation program that would be given online. There would be a fee to the parish but the first year would be on a trial basis and free. Olga Carlsen is going to look at the program and see if it is worthwhile.

Committee Reports

Beginning next month committee reports should be sent to Kate by the first Thursday of the month. They will then be sent to the council at the same time as the agenda for review. Questions and comments about the reports will be addressed at the parish council meeting.

Deanery-Olga Carlsen-Olga spoke to the Administrative Assistant at St. Patrick's in Yorktown. She was not sure if the Deanery meetings will continue.

Fundraising-George Mulry-A Parish Pay recruitment drive will take place again. The raffle will take place in the spring.

Liturgical-Father Hugh-Loretta Hotter is our new sacristan. She is Tom Conaty's mother. A Religious Education director, Maria Lamorgese, has been hired to replace Gerry Roggemann. She is working on the Safe Environment protocols for the program. Maria has had much experience in religious education at her previous parish in the Bronx.

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Ministers of Hospitality-Bridget Dinardi-Nick Antonaccio will be recruiting for these roles in the next two months.

MATN-Harry Roney-The last update on MATN was March 27th, 2015. There was a meeting this evening at St. Joseph's Seminary about adult formation and Archdiocesan care. Most of the meetings are just informative to let attendees know that there are resources available from the Archdiocese.

Harry spoke about his continuing relationship with the refugee family that he delivered collected items to in the spring. They are doing well and the woman is expecting a baby. We might be able to help with items for the baby in November.

Maintenance-Kate for Tim Hickey-The air conditioners need to be replaced. Bids will be solicited for the air conditioning. It will take a substantial amount of money to replace these units and the Finance committee is aware of the cost. There have been a few donations to help with the cost of the new air conditioners. It's necessary to replace them, not repair them, because of the age of the units.

Because of water damage from burst pipes, the floor near the Rosary statue at OLP needs to be fixed and leveled. Kate will ask Tim to take a look at the floor.

Parish Events-Sister Kathy-The first Re-Creation meeting was held yesterday (Sept. 7th). Mass was followed by a home cooked meal. Next meeting is October 5th. On Monday, September 26th an 8 week bereavement support group will begin. Our annual parish Memorial Mass will be held on November 7th at 7:30 pm. An ice cream social will be held after the 5:15 Mass on September 17th. Children will receive Back to School Blessings at this Mass. There will be a family movie night on Friday, September 24th. Lectio Divina continues on Tuesdays at 11:00 in the meeting room. All are invited. The Knitting Club meets the first Thursday of the month in the meeting room. The hospital ministry is going well. Although it did not work out at Phelps hospital, we have been warmly welcomed at Northern Westchester. Bridget coordinates a team of volunteers that visit the patients and bring the Eucharist to them. Sometimes we visit only our parishioners but when we can, at the request of the hospital chaplain, we distribute the Eucharist to all their Catholic patients. Many thanks to Mike Cusack for donating the prayer cards that we leave with the parishioners/patients.

Social Concerns-Alice Wagner- Maryknoll Residential Care was visited by the committee on June 11th, bringing about 35 sisters ice cream sundaes and fruit. The committee returned on July 23rd with more ice cream certainly making the sisters happy on a hot summer day. On August 13th, 40 sisters were the lucky recipients of salad, fruit and apple and cherry pies.

American Heritage Girls-Steve Busby- Two Rockland chapters are observing at HI for a year. The participating girls are in 2nd through 8 grade. The troop needs volunteers for their approximately 40 girls.

Youth Group-Tom Conaty-Tom has already met with the new officers. He will have a leadership council compromised of seniors with everyone having a job. There will be a mission trip this year. On September 11th at the 11:00 Mass, the altar servers will be installed. At the Confirmation retreat, Tom will encourage the ninth graders to join the youth group. Also on September 11th at the 5:15 Mass the Youth Group officers will be commissioned. A Cottage School visit will take place on September 25th. On October 23rd there will be a diabetes walk and Cottage School visit.

New Business-Kate Howe-Kate and Steve Busby are working on the e mail blast. There is a data base of 894 parishioners. Ideally the blast will be done monthly. Maryanne and JT are working on the website. Richard would like to see the American flag and Papal flag at either side of the Tabernacle. Some discussion took place. It was decided that everyone would take a look at the altar and consider this idea. We will discuss again at the next meeting.

Grace informed us that there were a lot of soccer balls collected for Bishop Cardone. In a year and a half OLP will be one hundred years old, hoping for a big celebration.

Lina and the Rosary Altar Society are planning on a fun night in November. More information will follow.

Closing Prayer-Kate Howe

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, October 13th, 2016

Minutes submitted by Bridget Dinardi