

## Holy Innocents Parish Council Meeting Thursday September 12, 2019

**Present:**

Fr. Ed Gorman, OP  
Fr. Luke Hoyt, OP  
Steve Busby  
Tom Conaty  
Mike Cusack  
Richard Damiano  
Danielle Dispenza  
Michael Fisher  
Maria Fitzgerald  
Tim Kelley

Jackie Kovatch  
Mary Law  
Mark Mannix  
Karen McCarthy  
Laura Moore  
Tricia Mooney  
Steve Trombetta  
Thomas Trudo  
Deirdre Vedovino  
Maryann Dowd

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. There were no minutes from the prior meeting to approve.

### **1. Pastoral Update**

Fr. Luke introduced himself and thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

Fr. Gorman acknowledged HI had a difficult time and his willingness to speak with anyone. Religious Ed starts Saturday and security system is up and running. RCIA, run by Fr. Luke, will begin next week. The kitchen in parish hall is closed until further notice.

Eileen asks that if you need the social hall please update the calendar, first come first serve. Earlier is better if you have an announcement for bulletin. Outsiders can use the hall if they provide insurance; they will only be charged if they are not cleaning up.

### **2. Old Business**

**Parish Beautification** – Sophie Ruhl girls scout project: Fr. Gorman requested she does not fund raise based on the benefit of her project to the Parish and other needs in parish finances. Sophie has a landscape plan approved and will start work in the fall.

**Life Skills** – Deirdre V: Contract is signed. Fr. Gorman has spoken with Dan A. from the district and indicated Dan will be the point of contact as Deirdre is a parishioner and is on the council, he does not want to put her in an awkward position with conflict of interest. The school will bring everything up to code, change locks, purchase a new refrigerator, and possibly purchase washer and dryer. Details regarding water and utilities are still TBD.

**Money Counting:** Karen M: Up to 8 to 10 people counting, looking for more volunteers. Counting begins at 8:30am. Getting a better routine and faster as time goes by. Tim K. said he may be able to help out.

**Fundraising** Laura: If anyone wants to help on the fundraising committee, it would be welcome. There is still a line item in budget (\$20K) for the raffle. Maryann mentioned the possibility of switching the raffle to the fall. Danielle mentioned possibly having it kickoff at the parish BBQ on 10/20. Mark M, Tim K, and Mike C will coordinate the raffle. Mark agreed to contact George Mulry who has lead the raffle effort in the past.

**Budget** Discussion of budget and the cuts that we have made to staffing. This includes cutting the sacristan position (Loretta), reducing the hours for the Youth Group Coordinator (Tom has decided to retire), reduce the hours of the Religious Education Assistant (Tammy) to 14, making it a part time position.

**Grounds** Fr. Gorman discussed the need to rekey the doors of Our Lady of Pompei. There are too many copies of keys currently unaccounted for. This decision has been met with some resistance as it represents a change. As a continuing part of the R&R at HI, work we are going to repair the stairs leading to the social hall and the side walk.

### **3. Committee Updates**

**Finance** Mike Cusack reported that Barbara Mackin completed the annual financial statements and the finance committee has reviewed and thanked Barbara for her outstanding effort. Financial statements are for the period 9/1/2018 – 8/30/2019. For the period ending 8/30/19 a net loss of \$46K was reported. This is a decrease when compared to YE 8/30/18 results. We continue to pay down the mortgage and currently report a liability of \$37K. Cost cutting through the reduction in our compensation cost should help to improve the parish's financial position. Fr. Gorman will speak briefly about the financial report at all masses the weekend of September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Richard mentioned looking at metric to measure head count and collections. Fr. Gorman thanked him for the suggestion but prefers to focus on the Dominicans doing their job, he feels that if this is done the people and the funds will come back in.

**Youth Ministry** Tom Conaty reported basketball registration has started. Cottage school visit will take place this week. Tunnels to Towers run/walk to take place the last Sunday of September, so far the response has been very low. The event benefits the Steven Siller Fund, which builds houses for 9/11 families. He will push the youth group to attend.

**Family Events** Danielle Dispenza reported the following events/dates:

10/20 – Parish BBQ

10/27 – Pumpkin Carving

12/21 - Reason for Season

4/18/20 - Empty Tomb Play

The committee is looking to increase volunteers this would hopefully enable them to do more events to appeal to a broader group, moms, kids, and men. More to come at the next PC meeting after the committee meets.

**Religious Ed** Maria asked Laura to report 522 kids registered compared to 600 last year; she expects additional students to register as school begins. These numbers are consistent with the past as generally the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade is larger than the incoming 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

#### **4. New Business**

After a discussion, it was decided to keep the meeting time at 7:30pm. Laura said there will be no meeting in December or during Holy Week. We will focus on keeping meetings shorter than in the past we will leverage the use of committees and reports to help with this effort. Committees will continue to submit written reports in advance.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Wine and Cheese welcome for Fr. Gorman and Fr. Luke on 9/14.
- Laura and Karen met with Fr. Gorman over the summer and discussed hosting more parish wide events to bring the parish together. The first of these events is a parish BBQ on 10/20. We are hoping to close the street and parking lot. Kate Busby is leading the event.

#### **Other Business**

*Steve Trombetta* – mentioned 9:00 AM kids mass and how that worked in the past. He asked Fr. Gorman if he would consider restarting a kids mass, Fr. Gorman is open to it but wants to wait since they are still getting to know the parish. He hopes to make changes in time.

Steve Busby - American Heritage Girls contract is on Fr. Gorman's desk. Father indicated it was reviewed by Archdiocese lawyers. It is ready to be executed; AHG will need organization to provide evidence of insurance.

Tricia Mooney asked what is going to happen with youth group, Fr. Gorman indicated it is going to continue but will meet with kids and parents to determine the path forward.

**The meeting closed at 8:35 pm with a prayer offered by Fr. Luke.**