

Holy Innocents Church

Parish Council Minutes-April 6, 2017

Present: Bridget Dinardi, Alice Wagner, Grace Baer, Lina Spedaliere, Gerard Finelli, Richard Damiano, Kate Vullo, Lori Stockel, Mark Mannix, JT McNally, Mark Moran, Maryanne Dowd, Harry Roney, Vincent Crowe, Mike Cusack, Kate Howe, George Mulry, Father Hugh Burns, O.P., Father Frank Sutman, O.P., Father Dan Davies, O.P., Beth Curley, Jackie Kovatch, Wanda DeJesus, Mike Fisher

Absent: Olga Carlsen, Tim Hickey, Tom Conaty, Steve Busby

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm

Opening Prayer-Father Dan Davies, O.P.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report-Father Hugh Burns, O.P. –Father Hugh met with an Archdiocese fundraising representative where plans for the Capital Campaign were discussed. After Father's initial calls, approximately \$250,000 has been pledged. It is important to note that this campaign will fund projects that have already been identified. On Wednesday, April 5th, HI hosted a Lenten soup supper. It was a big success, thanks to Alice Wagner and other women from the Parish who cooked for the supper. There was a good turnout of HI parishioners. Father has met with a small group of parishioners and staff members to plan the process for replacing Sister Kathy. Maria Lamorgese has been very helpful in that area. While there is no definite candidate yet, there are a number of people being considered. The final presentation in this [school] year's Holy Innocents Speaker Series will be on April 30th. Peter Somogyi, a Holocaust survivor who spent time in the Auschwitz Death Camp, will be the speaker. All are invited. (Beth Curley passed around a sign-up sheet for baked goods and help setting up for the reception that will follow the lecture). Looking ahead to next year, Father would like to work with the Lutheran Church to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther. It is important to note that anyone who does contracting work at HI or OLP needs to be insured. During the summer we will have two Dominican students and a Deacon helping out at the Parish. Jackie Kovatch discussed what we are looking for in a Pastoral Associate. Some things in the job description would be evangelization, a role in the liturgical ministry, pastoral care, administration of social justice, and overseeing the distribution of charity for the Parish. It was thought that a female religious would be the ideal candidate.

Parish Events: Jackie Kovatch-Anne Morales will take over coordinating Parish Events. The committees already in place are vibrant and in good hands. The High Tea was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Raffles sold helped to make this particular event financially solvent. The next event for Parish Events is the Penny Social on July 8th.

At the last meeting, the Mass for Children with Autism was discussed. After follow-up discussion between Kate and Maria Lamorgese, it was decided that the following description will be used in the bulletin: "A Mass sponsored by The Westchester Foundation for Autism is celebrated on the second

Sunday of each month at Our Lady of Pompeii at 1:30 pm. (Please note, the Church is not wheelchair accessible).”

Committee Reports: Committee/Liaison Updates

Religious Education

Last weekend of March 25th and 26th we had a Mass of introduction for our confirmation candidates. 95 of our young adults were formally introduced to our parish and our clergy bestowed the rite of welcoming upon them and their sponsors. On March 29th, our program joined with Pleasantville Strong and presented an evening of awareness, prevention, and support to our 8th grade students and their parents. The evening was very successful and I have received positive feedback. I have already started the immediate preparation of first Holy Communion.

- Starting on Monday April 3rd, Ms. Maria will be reenacting the last supper and the washing of the feet with all of our communion classes.
- On Tuesday April 4th, our 7th grade students will be leading their families in the Stations of the Cross at 6:45PM. Please pray for our efforts.
(Maria Lamorgese)

Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Ministers of Hospitality- these ministries are preparing for Holy Week (Bridget Dinardi)

Food Pantry

Food Pantry-spoke to Frank Moro- solicitations have once again been placed in the bulletin, the Pantry continues to do well. (Bridget Dinardi)

Fundraising

There is nothing new to report from Fundraising. We will meet this Thursday with Fr. Hugh and will be ready to reach out to help with the capitol campaign calls. (George Mulry)

Making All Things New

Making All Things New: Holy Innocents, Holy Rosary and St. Augustine's parishes were represented at our March 13th meeting.

- Summary of Parish Social Ministry Activities was reviewed. This document will be distributed to all the parish offices in our cluster and maybe at a later date published in all bulletins.
- It was suggested that the pastors co-ordinate the times for confession. Most of the parishes hold confessions late on Saturday afternoon.
- A cluster website is being created.
- Holy Rosary is pursuing Justin Fatica as a speaker for the youth in either the fall of 2017 or spring of 2018.
- We would like to try and reach out to the Young Adults in our cluster. There is a Young Adult Conference, "Restore Awakening," on April 22nd at Mt. S. Mary's in Newburgh which we will advertise. We are going to pursue offering a Theology on Tap at one of the pubs in our cluster over the summer.

- Although the meetings are not always well attend we feel that they have been helpful for sharing information and hope that the parishes will continue to support this effort.
(Maryanne Dowd)

Maintenance

Relatively quiet on the maintenance front, with the exception of the HVAC project. Harry shared the update below (just yesterday).

We should ask Father Hugh if there are any maintenance issues that we should tackle proactively. He has mentioned an external staircase that needs to be redone. I'm happy to coordinate estimates for that project, if helpful.

Although I could not attend the last meeting, I learned that there is a bit of cleanup that needs to be addressed in the balcony of OLP. I offered to start the cleanup the weekend following the discussion, but was told that Father Hugh would like to visit to review before the cleanup begins. (Tim Hickey)

HVAC Infrastructure Upgrade:

Father Hugh released me to notify to the low qualified bidder (Carey & Walsh) to commence work on this project on Wednesday, March 3/29/17. I sent Carey and Walsh an email as a letter of intent to get them started on Thursday, March 31, 2017.

I will work with Barbara Mackin to get C & W a purchase order for this project. I have asked C & W to expedite the submittals for the new equipment to the engineer and copy us on any correspondence throughout the project. Once we have approvals, then C & W can procure the equipment. We are still looking at a 6 to 8 weeks lead-time for receiving these units at C & W yard.

As of right now we are looking at mid to late May before work will commence in the field.

We have ignition!

The funding component for this project is in place and we have notified Carey & Walsh that they are the awarded PRIME contractor for this project. I am also informing of the other bidders of this status.

I will be in touch as frequently as need over the next weeks to keep you all informed of our progress.

Call me with any questions.

Please say a prayer this goes well.

(Harry Roney)

Refugee Assistance Committee: Submitted By Mike Fisher

Holy Innocents parish is currently supporting 6 families:

Ada Linda Soto-Oliva, Bronx, NY

Elda Lambert-Fernandez, Bronx, NY

Seedy Cessay Family

Say and Grace Myo, Queens, NY

Tandia Family, Bronx, NY

Odita family, Jamaica, NY

Over the past few months we have filled "Wish Lists" for three families, the Myo, Soto-Oliva and Tandia families. We have outstanding requests from:

Lambert-Fernandez (Laptop, Toys, Curtains, Towels, Clothing)

Cessay (No open requests)

Odita (Rent Assistance)

Over the next month, we will reconvene our group and meet the open requests to the extent possible. In speaking with Father Burns and Kate Howe, providing rent assistance is not a promise or burden we can place on the Parish.

The overall Refugee Program is under some pressures, though Catholic Charities (CC) is continuing its work. We are included in the CC monthly conference calls.

My daughter, Jacqueline Fisher, a Pleasantville high School Graduate and current college Junior has accepted a position in the NYC Catholic Charities Summer Internship Program working on the Refugee Education Program. This is an unpaid Internship. She has offered to be an advocate for Holy Innocents Parish and report back to the Council on ways to continue our work and make an impact.

For 2017-18, I would like to lighten my role in this Committee for personal reasons and would hope to encourage a member of the parish or Council to take on the leadership role. I would be thrilled to stay involved and help as much as I can.

Finance Committee-Mike Cusack-The finance committee met on March 28, 2017.

HVAC Project-Approval of the construction loan for the HVAC project was received from the bank on March 27th. Initial loan will be a construction loan which carries a reduced rate of interest, upon completion of the project it will convert to a 5 year loan with a higher rate of interest. Timing of the loan and the desire to sign the contract and get the project moving were discussed. Once the agreement is signed we would need to give a deposit for approximately 50% of the cost of the equipment.

Columbarium-several spots were sold and there were 3 interments this past month.

Religious Education-it was agreed to increase the fees associated with First Communion and Confirmation each by \$25, new fees would be \$75 for Communion and \$100 for Confirmation. HI parish tends to be a little lower than surrounding parishes and it was thought this would not be a hardship to increase the fees.

Capital Campaign-Father Hugh reported he had started the silent phase and those contacted so far have been generous.

Next finance meeting will be 6/6/17. The Parish will face challenges balancing the budget this year due to the suspension of the raffle.

Additional Maintenance-Harry Roney- Harry walked through with Maria to discuss the security for the Religious Education program. Maria will check with Archdiocese to see if there are any guidelines. Before we decide a solution some more work must be done.

Social Concerns-Alice Wagner- On March 11th the Committee visited the Sisters at Maryknoll Residential Care bringing with them Alice's Irish soda bread, butter, jam, iced tea, cookies and candy. Add in Irish music and song and the Sisters had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day celebration. Alice also bought thirty five donated, homemade blankets which were enthusiastically received by the Sisters.

Father Frank has observed from Mass attendance and from speaking to people that we are seeing a lot of people from other Parishes at our Masses. They are enthusiastic about our liturgy and preaching. He thinks that it will result in an increase in Religious Education enrollment.

Four new families have signed up for Parish Pay.

Grace Baer read a letter from the Solomon Islands thanking us for a donation of vestments.

Lina Spedalieri reported that the Rosary Altar Society is still deciding whether to have a fundraiser in the fall.

Please pray for the success of the HVAC installation!

Closing Prayer-Father Frank Sutman O.P.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, May 11, 2017

Minutes submitted by Bridget Dinardi