

## Holy Innocents Church

### Parish Council Minutes-May 11, 2017

**Present:** Bridget Dinardi, Richard Damiano, JT McNally, Alice Wagner, Mary Law, Olga Carlsen, Kate Vullo, Kate Howe, Father Frank Sutman, O.P., Mike Cusack, Maryanne Dowd, Father Hugh Burns, O.P., Mike Fisher, Father Dan Davies, O.P., Tom Conaty, Mark Mannix, Harry Roney, Rither Alabre, George Mulry, Mark Moran

**Absent:** , Grace Baer, Beth Curley, Vincent Crowe, Tim Hickey, Wanda DeJesus, Lori Stockel, Jackie Kovatch, Gerard Finelli,

**Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.**

**Opening Prayer-**Olga Carlsen

**Minutes were approved unanimously.**

**Pastor's Report-**Father Hugh Burns, O.P. –The Holy Week Services were beautiful and well attended. This year the 12:30 pm Mass on Easter Sunday was eliminated. The staff has discussed this and it will be revisited next year although Father Hugh is inclined to have it remain the same as this year. The Funeral Mass for Quentin Lupo, a Pleasantville High School student, was celebrated compassionately by Father Frank. The First Communion celebration was lovely with many of the children attending Mass the next day in their Communion outfits. Maria Lamorgese is working hard to insure that the children have reverence for the Mass and the Sacraments. It is our hope that they will continue to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist. There is a very strong candidate for our Pastoral Associate. Her name is Sister Donna Kelly. She is a Sister of Notre Dame. Father Frank thinks she is highly qualified. She is schooled in the liturgy and very interested in the bereavement ministry. Sister attended the staff meeting last week and has attended Mass here. She is impressed with our community. While the staff thought perhaps we should consider some more candidates, the Parish Council thought we should immediately move to hire such a qualified candidate. Hopefully Sister will be hired within the next week. A parishioner named Lynn Beck is interested in starting a group for separated and divorced Catholics. On a financial note, Barbara Mackin thought that since neighboring parishes receive a stipend for having the Sanctuary light lit for special intentions we could do this also. It would be a source of income. Often the suggested donation is \$15. The cost of the (candle) light for two weeks is \$10. We will consider asking for a \$20 donation. The speaker series has concluded for this year. Peter Somogyi, who spoke in April about the Holocaust, was riveting. His lecture was attended by an enormous number of both parishioners and non-parishioners. Perhaps we will consider having his wife speak next year. Father Hyacinth will speak in the fall about Food and Faith. In November the possible speaker will be on Martin Luther, with a musical approach. The Capital Campaign continues with Father contacting large donors by phone. As of now there are pledges of \$300,000, with most of these parishioners pledging between \$20,000 and \$25,000 over 5 years. The public phase of the campaign will take place in September. The campaign will be finished by the end of this calendar year. The raffle will resume next year. Mike Fisher suggested that we should look into whether people's pledges would qualify for matching contributions from their

companies. If this were possible it could be a significant source of income. In terms of infrastructure, there are several projects to be completed in addition to the HVAC.

Next year OLP will celebrate their hundred year anniversary. A few parishioners met with Father to discuss plans for a celebration of this event. Father envisions a Mass and reception. At the reception, pictures showcasing the history of OLP could be displayed. Some of the parishioners who met with Father would like to have a fair with rides, games, face painting for children etc. There are people willing to donate towards this event. A discussion about the direction of this festival took place. The Archdiocese has many regulations and insurance requirements when anything like this happens. There cannot be a separate set of finances. All monies would have to go through Holy Innocents. It was thought that asking parishioners for more money right now on top of Renew and Rebuild would not be a good thing. The parish council also thought that any celebration would have to be a parish wide event. It would also require a lot of man power and organization. Would enough people volunteer to help? It was agreed that Grace Baer should discuss the plans with Ann Morales who is in charge of Parish Events. When there are more concrete plans and ideas, the Parish Council can discuss this further.

Father Hugh was asked whether there would be a volunteer appreciation event this year. Unfortunately we were not able to have one this year but there will most likely be one next year. Father Frank discussed the need to have a comprehensive list of the homebound. This would include parishioners being brought the Eucharist from a Eucharistic Minister or parishioners who would like to receive a visit from one of the priests, a blessing or anointing. Father Frank will work with members of the parish council to compile this list of parishioners. Father will also work on communicating that parishioners should make their needs known to the office. In the future the Pastoral Associate would be in charge of finding out who needs this ministry.

### **Committee/Liaison Updates for Parish Council Meeting**

#### **Religious Education**

There has been a great deal going on in the Religious Education Program. On Tuesday, April 25, 2017 we had an event for the seventh graders and their parents. We called it "Volunteer Night" where we introduced the topic of service not only for a Confirmation Requirement but as a way of life. We had eleven people from different organizations within our parish family and our neighboring community to speak about what they do and offer the students different opportunities for them to serve. There were approximately 200 people in attendance that evening. The night was a huge success.

We had our Confirmation retreat on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 from 5p.m. to 9p.m. here at Holy Innocents. We had 95 Candidates in attendance! Our Retreat was led by the Capuchin Friars and the Cap Core Volunteers from the CYFM Retreat House in Garrison, New York. The theme for the evening was "What it means to be a Disciple of Christ". The feedback that we received from the candidates was very positive. We look forward to working with the capuchins again next year.

Our Second Graders received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 6, 2017. We had 44 students receive at the 10:00a.m. Mass and 23 students receive at the 2:00p.m. Mass. The children were very prepared and were very reverent on their very special day.

On Sunday, May 7, 2017 our second graders had Family Mass at the 9:00a.m. Mass where they crowned Mary and brought flowers to the statue that Sr. Kathy gave me when she retired. We will always keep

this beautiful statue in the Religious Education Program. Also, Josephine Cardone had two second graders crown Mary at OLP at the 10:00a.m. Mass.

We are in the process of Re-Registration for the upcoming 2017-2018 catechetical year.

Thank you all for your prayers and support during the year.

Maria Lamorgese, Director

### **Re-Creation**

We had about 50 people. Mother's Day brunch for lunch. Everyone was happy. Several bakers made muffins. I had 5 helpers and 1 to prep day before. It was very smooth. (Veronica Costanza)

### **Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors**

There was good feedback for the people from these ministries on their roles at Holy Week Services. Eucharistic Ministers served at the First Communion Masses. Nick is getting ready for training sessions for new Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers before the end of June. Anyone interested please contact Nick at [nick.anton@gmail.com](mailto:nick.anton@gmail.com) Training is one 90 minute session on a choice of either a weeknight or Saturday. Please pass the word amongst fellow parishioners who you think might be interested in one of these ministries. Nick would be happy to address us in order to recruit candidates. (Bridget Dinardi)

### **Fundraising**

I have nothing new to report for the meeting. I will be at the meeting on Tuesday the 9th with the financial people. I will offer any additional help I can to Fr. Hugh in calling people. Thank you, George

### **Maintenance**

I'm hoping Harry has a more detailed update regarding the heating/AC project at HI. We should be starting the job very soon. From a maintenance perspective, I was able to assist Grace and Lena at OLP in cleaning out the balcony over the weekend. We removed/recycled quite a bit of old music sheets/books, and arranged remaining furniture so the balcony is more functional than it has been in the past. (Tim Hickey)

Rither Alabre who will be joining the council as a new member was introduced. The parish council in turn introduced themselves to him. Danielle Dispenza will also be joining the council but was unable to attend the meeting.

### **Youth Activities-Tom Conaty**

Altar Servers have been doing a good job. The youth group has been visiting the Cottage School and Ronald McDonald House. The students at both divisions of the Cottage School have been expressing a desire to learn more about religion. Tom has been visiting them, teaching them about Scripture and our Faith. They would like to attend Mass at Holy Innocents. The Council welcomed that idea enthusiastically. The mission trip to Eastern Shore, VA is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup>. This year for the first time two former youth group members will act as chaperones. Over 100 children will participate in the CYO track program this summer.

**HVAC**-Harry Roney-Work is scheduled to begin on June 5<sup>th</sup> contingent on the weather. We are waiting for a few more permits. The parking lot will most likely be used as a staging area for the removal of the old equipment and a place to hold the new equipment. Barbara Mackin and Harry are meeting with a person who designs and builds security systems. They would like and estimate on a new security system that would comply with safety directives for the Religious Education program.

**Parish Council Membership**-Thank you to the parish council members whose terms are complete. They are: Vincent Crowe, Richard Damiano, Kate Howe, Harry Roney, and Lori Stockel.

**Request:** If you are holding an event or doing any projects at the Church, please first discuss them with the office and please use painter's tape to hang any signage.

**MATN**-Maryanne Dowd-The five parishes in our cluster are: Holy Innocent, St Ann's in Ossining, St. Augustine in Ossining, Holy Rosary in Hawthorne and St. Theresa's, Briarcliff Manor. The Archdiocese would like each parish to attend a retreat. It is hoped that since HI had a retreat in March that was attended by the other parishes, another retreat will not be necessary. St. Ann's is having a "Turn Up the Heat" fundraiser to raise funds for a new boiler this Friday night (May 12, 2017). The cluster feels there is not enough outreach for young adults in the community. Father Hugh will approach the young Dominicans who will be with us this summer about something similar to the coffees we had two years ago. Another possibility would be Theology on Tap.

**Year End Summary**-Kate Howe

Kate gave a summary of the accomplishments of the Parish Council this year.

We faced major personnel changes. We hired a new sacristan (Loretta Hotter) and a new Religious Education director (Maria Lamorgese). Father Frank Sutman, O.P. joined the HI staff. We will be hiring a new pastoral associate. Sadly one of our former pastors died (Father Donald Thiebault).

There were changes in the daily Mass schedule, the Web site is up and running, an e mail blast is sent to parishioners who have signed up for it, much needed maintenance has taken place at OLP, and Mary Law and her helpers have beautified both Churches by planting an abundance of flowers. Our speaker series is in operation and garnering respect from the whole community. We have addressed the needs of refugees, have introduced FORMED for adult education and started a hospital ministry. The finances of the Parish are in good shape. Maryanne Dowd regularly attends the cluster meetings.

**Note:** Harry and Margaret Roney visited with one of our refugee families on Good Friday. The family has just had a new baby and they are thriving. Harry and Margaret are in frequent contact with them.

**Social Concerns**-Alice Wagner-The Social Concerns Committee visited Maryknoll Residential Care on April 22 to celebrate Easter. Forty sisters attended the celebration where they made ice cream sundaes.

**Closing Prayer**-Olga Carlsen

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.**

Next meeting will be on Thursday, June 8, 2017.

Minutes submitted by Bridget Dinardi