

Holy Innocents Church

Parish Council Minutes- January 11, 2018

Present: Kate Vullo, Bridget Dinardi, Mike Fisher, Sr. Donna Kelly, CND, Danielle Dispenza, Jacqueline B. Kovatch, Olga Carlsen, Father Hugh Burns, OP, Alice Wagner, Beth Curley, Maryanne Dowd, Kate Howe, Tim Hickey, Rither Alabre, Mark Mannix, Steve Busby, Tom Conaty

Absent: Grace Baer, Mike Cusack, Wanda DeJesus, Mary Law, Mark Moran, and George Mulry.

Meeting was called to order: 7:32 pm.

Opening Prayer: Bridget Dinardi

Pastor's Report: Father Hugh Burns, OP, opened the meeting suggesting that Fund Raising will have to be 'revved up' or improved this year. In the next bulletin, Father Burns intends to make a statement regarding parish income for 2016-2017, just to let parishioners know what money came into the parish. Father indicated that income was down, with a low noted at the Christmas collection. It was questioned whether that was in addition to the stated gap/hole in the budget that we had been looking at last month.

Father Burns informed the Parish Council that Barbara Mackin will not be involved with the liturgical committee responsibilities this year. We need people to reconstitute the 'organizing & decorating' Liturgical Committee. Father indicated that he was hoping to hire Lynn Beck to organize and prepare for liturgical events to begin possibly during Lent. He will call her when her wrist heals and she feels better. Carolyn had been suggested (by Wanda) to lead the liturgical decorating committee and Wanda could work with her. It was questioned if Lynn is doing the Divorced and Separated Group too. Kate commented, 'Should we put all our eggs in one basket, when it seems she doesn't want to do it?'

Father Burns has JT's ashes. Father reported that JT's family had him cremated privately at a crematorium and left his ashes with Father. His ashes are being held in a box in the sanctuary. Father Burns has been trying to contact JT's sister to arrange for his interment.

Other Business/New Business:

Bridget informed us that Recruiting will begin next month by asking the parish at large. She commented the Parish Council needs 8-9 people. Kate suggested that we need to see if there are possibly new people interested. Tom announced that he knows 3 people who are interested in serving on the Parish Council. It was suggested that they should nominate themselves or that Tom can nominate them, but the paperwork/applications need to be filled out. Bridget commented that she will begin the process of recruiting in February. Mike Fisher wanted the process that is used to recruit to be delineated. Tom talked about the 'selection process' as he understood it, ultimately 'to choose young people active in the church.' Kate wanted to make sure that everyone had a copy of the bylaws and knew the rules. Mike asked, 'If there is a selection process, is there one more step, so we get to know these folks?' Bridget responded that she calls each applicant up and informs them of what their responsibilities as parishioners on the parish council would be. Kate further advised the Parish Council that the 'Selection Process' begins on a Saturday in mid-February and closes on the second Sunday in March. There will be

nomination forms in OLP and Holy Innocents, and the announcement regarding recruitment will be in the parish bulletin.

Holy Innocent Speaker Series: John Nonna's presentation 'Bending the Arc of the Moral Universe Toward Justice: The work of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law' will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2018. Father Burns reminded Beth to notify the PPC of John Nonna's presentation.

Sister Donna has been training the altar servers. Sister reports that some altar servers' show up for training as prearranged and some don't. She walks through the procedures with each altar server for each weekend Mass. Sister Donna had a session for new altar servers before Christmas. Sister is currently pairing new servers with more seasoned altar servers.

Kate announced that the Parish Council will sponsor **Volunteer Recognition Day on April 28, 2018**. It is a catered event.

Olga is interested in opportunities for Social Outreach with adults in Holy Innocents Parish. Kate indicated that it would be worthwhile to develop a group for this purpose. Mike suggested that we think about this possibility and come back to it next month.

Follow Up from last Meeting:

a. Rebuild and Renew Update: Tim Hickey stated that we had successfully progressed to the point where \$200,000 (per Father Hugh) of the \$850,000 in commitments for the Renew & Rebuild Campaign had been remitted to the Archdiocese by parishioners. Our parish should be receiving funds from the Archdiocese shortly. So, Tim suggested that we can begin to make payments on the HVAC system, in addition to tackling maintenance issues, such as the roof of the rectory, sound proofing the social hall, installing security cameras, and repairing the staircase.

Mike probed as to who is responsible to determine what projects are done, and in what priority? Father Burns thought the priority would be the HVAC System, fixing the back steps & the soundproofing. Kate suggested that there were planned improvements that needed to be considered.

Mike Fisher also expressed how important it was that parishioners see progress and we need to constantly thank people for their generosity. Kate suggested that every time we get a payment or pay down on the loan, it is an opportunity to say 'Thank You'.

b. Fundraising and Finance Committee: George Mulry made a written comment that we should soon discuss with Fr. Burns potential dates to do the raffle this year, making sure we do not conflict with other activities. Mike Fisher indicated that the budget was solid, and that if we have a raffle, the budget will be on track. He reiterated, with the raffle as a fundraiser, our budget will be good. Tim cautioned on how we struggled to sell the last 300 tickets at the parish raffle last year. As we learn about the potential shortfall in the holiday collection, we will determine our overall fund raising for the year. Consideration

should be given to the fact that now the Archdiocese has the ability to project what will come in during the next 5 years. Next month, Mike hopes that we will have better visibility as to what is coming in. Meantime, Kate and Mike will work on this area and it will be brought up again next month.

c. Communication (website, use of photos...): Maryanne has been working on the Parish Website. She reports that the website is currently used by an average of 80 visitors a month. Approximately, 30 hits come from the Youth Group and 40 hits come from INFORMED.

When parents register their child for an event, the parent/guardian can sign a release form, thereby giving their child permission to have their photo taken and put on the parish website. Maryanne further informed the Parish Council that the Youth Group, Parish Events Committee and American Heritage Girls can put pictures on a drop down page on the website, if the committee representative is given permission by a parent/guardian. Tom stated that he does not want pictures of children on the internet, even with parent's permission. The Religious Education Program has no authorization at the present time to put pictures of a child on the website. Jackie inquired, 'How would we go about photographing a group of people at a parish event?' The response indicated that there would be no need for specific names in a group photo and that most of the groups consist of adults. Maryanne thought that there were many events that could be photographed. She recommended that committee representatives need to send pictures to her. If there are children in the photos, the committee representatives should hold onto the permission slips. Pictures of groups, with no specific names, should be sent to Maryanne.

Committee Reports/Liaison Updates:

Ecumenical Vacation Bible School, Religious Education: Maria Lamorgese, the Director of Religious Education wishes everyone a Happy New Year. Classes started up again on January 6th, and preparation for the First Reconciliation for the second graders began immediately. Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Monday, February 5th through Saturday, February 10, 2018. Each day here will be a Reconciliation Prayer Service followed by individual confessions for both the students and their parents. After the administration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, refreshments will be served in the Social Hall. Maria requested prayers for the 77 students who will be receiving this beautiful sacrament.

Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors, Ushers, Food Pantry: Bridget informed the Parish Council that this ministry has had an inspiring and fulfilling Christmas season. All Masses during the Christmas season went smoothly. There are 2 new lectors and 3-5 potential lectors waiting to be trained. Sister Donna will be training the new Eucharistic Ministers going forward.

FORMED: Olga updated the Parish Council that the FORMED readings for January were posted on the Holy Innocents website. Olga reported that she worked perfectly well with Maryanne on getting the FORMED information onto the website. She thought that it was a good experience.

Parish Events: Danielle requested to use the microphone for a fundraising PTA sponsored event, 'Ladies Night' held at Holy Innocents Parish. She was given permission to do so.

Re-Creation: There are at least 3-4 tables full of people in attendance at the luncheons. Maryanne commented that we used to have 60 people, but now have much less.

Refugee Outreach: Wanda and Mike will stay in touch with the Refugee Families and the Archdiocese Office.

Social Concerns: Alice commented that the Social Concerns Committee had to cancel their trip to Maryknoll on December 9, 2017 because of snow. Alice went to Maryknoll on Dec. 23, 2017 with her two granddaughters, to surprise the nuns. She brought a Fruit Cake, a Chocolate Cake and a White Cake with her. She also brought apple cider & candy canes to the nuns. The nuns were so happy to see them.

Youth Ministries, CYO Programs, Altar Servers: Tom Conaty shared with the Parish Council that:

- The Youth Group is supportive of James Bathon's Notre Dame Vision Program, at the University Of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.
- CYO Basketball is in Mid-Season: there are over 400 participants from K to High School. Basketball is going well.
- Recent Youth Group activities: Christmas Eve Breakfast Run, Youth Mass, Ronald McDonald House Brunch & Cottage School visit. The kids in the Youth Group are great! They work so well with the Cottage School kids. The kids at the Cottage School model on the kids in the Youth Group without knowing it. It is great to see, it happens so naturally. Tom also talked about a Christmas Eve event where the Youth Group wrapped gifts and socialized/talked with the people attending the event. The kids in the Youth Group then shared a meal with the people and handed out gifts. Jackie commented that she attended and enjoyed participating in conversations and being social with the people attending. It was a truly special and wonderful event.
- Sr. Donna is now training all altar servers.

Closing Prayer: Bridget Dinardi

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 pm.

Next meeting: February 8, 2018

Minutes submitted by: Kate Vullo