

# Holy Innocents Church

## Parish Council Minutes- March 8, 2018

**Present:** Kate Vullo, Beth Curley, Tim Hickey, George Mulry, Mary Law, Alice Wagner, Olga Carlsen, Father Hugh Burns, O.P., Danielle Dispenza, Michael Fisher, Bridget Dinardi, Mike Cusack, Sr. Donna Kelly, CND.

**Absent:** Rither Alabre, Grace Baer, Wanda DeJesus, Fr. Frank Sutman, OP., Maryanne Dowd, Kate Howe, Jackie Kovatch, Mark Mannix, Mark Moran, Tom Conaty, and Steve Busby.

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

**Opening Prayer:** Mary Law

**Approval of Minutes:** Mary Law & Mike Cusack

**Pastor's Report:** Father Burns reported that Father Frank Sutman is home from the hospital after surgery.

Father indicated that the '**We Share Program**' is the replacement for the 'Parish Pay' program. He emphasized, that it needed to be 'beefed up' or improved. Bridget revealed that she had difficulty using it. Mary Law also talked about the process of how the program operates (choosing options). Father suggested that we set up a table at which parishioners would be invited to learn about the sequential process necessary to use the 'We Share' program and then sign up for it. Bridget explained what made it a somewhat difficult program to use. Discussion continued with the issues summed up that the Parish office will work to resolve with 'We Share' and parishioners.

Father Burns commented that **Sr. Donna's efforts** are paying off with the altar servers. He shared that the altar servers (corrected at 4/12/18 meeting to Eucharistic Ministers) are trained to wash the mass instruments after Mass properly. Sr. Donna stated that one or two servers (corrected at 4/12/18 meeting to Eucharistic Ministers) will take care to bring the Mass dishes into the back for washing after Mass. Father reported there has been a pull back on the responsibilities for laity during Mass.

Father Burns reported that he is recruiting people for foot washing at the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** on Holy Thursday, March 29th. We need a total of 12 people to volunteer. Presently, we have 2 parishioners who have committed to participating. One of them is Mike Fisher, who volunteered at the Parish Council meeting.

The **Cardinal's Appeal** is in the hands of the Archdiocese. Father indicated that he is not as aggressive about it this year. Several people have already responded with their donations. Mike reminded the group of many fund raising efforts going on besides the Cardinal's Appeal...R&R, the Raffle... Nancy and Renee are not able to lead the Cardinal's Appeal this year, but Renee is willing to train someone if necessary. To date, we have not found anyone willing to be the Leader of the Cardinal's Appeal. Father suggested that Alan Klubfield is always a good choice. He also asked, if the Parish Council members think of someone else, to let him know.

On Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> the video for the Cardinal's Appeal is to be shown. Father expressed that he is not sure we should run the video this year. Mike felt that we should consider running the video, because it has worked every year. Father shared that it was the older parishioners that have primarily given so far, probably because those values regarding the Cardinal's Appeal are embedded in them since childhood.

The **Holy Innocents Speaker Series** will present 'People, Look East: The History and Traditions of the Eastern Catholic Churches' on Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup>. Deacon Greg Kandra will inform us about another side of Catholicism. The Anti-Defamation League will also make a presentation in April (possibly on April 22<sup>nd</sup>). Mike had the idea of reaching out to the Synagogue in town to consider partnering with them. Father further announced that Sister Theresa Kane may be here to make a presentation in May about 'Women in the Church'. It was proposed that 'Catholicism in Ireland' be considered as a future topic for the HI Speaker Series.

Beth articulated her feelings that we as a Parish Council need to help out in setting up the monthly speaker series. Mike inquired on 'Who selects speakers and topics for the speaker series'? It was suggested that Father Burns had typically done that. Beth verbalized to Danielle, 'Yes, we would like to get younger parents to let us know what they are interested in.' Danielle said she would survey them. Father Burns also indicated, that John Nona had suggested 'Historical Christianity in the early Church' as a future topic.

#### **Follow Up from last Meeting:**

**a. Decorating Committee:** Wanda is now on the Decorating Committee.

**b. Liturgical Committee:** Barbara is continuing on the Liturgical Committee.

**c. Parish Council New Membership:** Bridget reported that 8 of the 12 new nominees are interested in becoming members of the Parish Council. In April a Committee will meet and discuss the numbers, without going over the specified amount. Bridget stated that we may be able to stay with these 8 people. If we get more than 8 people, we may need to discuss certain people becoming nonvoting members. We need to go according to the stated rules of the Parish Council.

Mike Fisher summed it up, that 8 people are leaving and 3 more are staying on. We should endeavor to match needs of the Parish and specific interests of a new member of the Council. Kate designed a booklet, reflecting what the Parish Council's function is and what each ministry does. Mike suggested that when considering a nominee up for the Parish Council, we should communicate, on a one to one basis, what the options are for each nominee, by informing him/her of their possible role/s. (leaders/assistants/helpers) and functions under each ministry. The booklet delineating this information was circulated at the Parish Council Meeting.

**d. The Volunteer Biannual Fair** is on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**e. Our Lady of Pompeii Centennial** is on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**f. Renew & Rebuild:** Establishment of a Committee and the Report is out. Tim, Harry, Mike C. and George are on the Finance Committee.

Tim reported receiving \$117,000 incoming. He suggests that parishioners need to be kept informed. Communication is key!

## **Upcoming Events:**

**a. Re-Creation Luncheon** March 7<sup>th</sup>: We have not moved on this because of snow storms.

**b. Holy Thursday Washing of Feet:** March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**c. Volunteer Recognition Day Event:** April 28<sup>th</sup>: 'Do we want this to be adult only affair?' There will be beer and wine at the event. Is this open to teenage volunteers? According to Mike, Kate Howe (not present) inquired on whether we invite the teens. Father Burns is concerned if there is a rule in the Archdiocese against having teens at such an event. Bridget commented that last year Tom Conaty wanted to do his own thing with the youths. It was discussed that there were youthful choir members, Religious Education program students and youthful Eucharistic Ministers who were volunteers. It was stated that the rules indicate that adults have to be in attendance at the party and responsible for their own youth. How do the adult chaperones feel about their responsibilities?

Frank Moro is seriously ill, but Father felt we need to invite his family to the Volunteer Recognition Day event.

## **Committee Reports/Liaison Updates:**

**Decorating/Liturgical Committees:** Wanda accepts the decorating position on this Committee. Wanda stated that Barbara Mackin will remain on & do the liturgical side of the Committee, and she has agreed to train Wanda throughout the year.

**Ecumenical Vacation Bible School, Religious Education:** Maria reported that Holy Innocent's Religious Education classes are very busy as they journey through Lent. On the weekend of March 11<sup>th</sup> they had the Masses of Introduction for the Confirmation Candidates and their Sponsors. The Masses took place on Saturday and Sunday at 5:15 pm Masses. This was when the Candidates were formally introduced to the Parishioners of Holy Innocents. Maria asked the Clergy, Parish Staff and Parishioners to pray for the students as they go forward in their preparations for this beautiful Sacrament. The seventh graders are focusing on the Stations of the Cross and are leading their families on a journey of the last several hours of Jesus' life on earth. That is taking place on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm. The immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Communion has begun. During the week of March 19<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>, Maria is reenacting the Last Supper and the washing of the feet with the second grade students. She thanks you all for your prayers and support.

**Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors, Ushers and Food Pantry:** Bridget conveyed that there are five new Eucharistic Ministers, two new Lectors and three more in training. Holy Week schedules are out the week of March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Bridget stated that there are now eight nominated parishioners interested in being new members on the Parish Council. She has encouraged them to join the Parish Council for their March or April meeting.

Frank Moro will not be doing the Food Pantry anymore due to illness. Roxanne Surace will be replacing him.

**Finance:** Mike Cusack informed us that the next Finance Committee meeting is in mid-March. He will coordinate on how to manage the R&R funds that they receive, namely how to balance the use of proceeds to pay for outstanding debt obligations, potential working capital needs, and the use of funds for projects identified in the R&R Campaign.

Mike wants to get the Finance Committee's thoughts as we move forward with the planning of potential projects.

**FORMED:** Olga stated that Maryanne has the March information for FORMED.

The FORMED administrator has information and CD's to give out for a dollar each. Holy Innocents could make money on each CD or book sold. FORMED enables you to attend 6 day retreats, with a 'Legion of Mary' as the end result.

St. Vincent DePaul suggested opportunities for Community Services. Olga suggested, if you want to knit shawls for cancer patients, visit the homeless, or take patients to Dr. visits, talk to me about St. Vincent DePaul community services.

Olga also has a list of volunteer opportunities on Neighbor's Link.

Mike expressed how the Parish Council needs a person to coordinate and organize Social Outreach efforts. He thought that possibly we could use Olga's information to generate different ministries in Holy Innocents. Bridget and Mary reminded the Parish Council that Holy Innocents has active knitting and reading groups.

Olga offered Father Burns a booklet summarizing the results of her research in 'Opportunities for Social Outreach' in the Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Northern Westchester, and possible ministries in our parish in the future. Mike Fisher took the book to share with the Parish Council.

**Fund-Raising:** George's discussion with the R&R Team on March 5<sup>th</sup> resulted in a proposed timeframe of mid-May to mid-June for this year's raffle. It does not conflict with other church activities and concludes before school closes for the summer.

Next steps include determining what the raffle proceeds will be used for, developing promotional materials and a schedule for selling tickets after Masses during the four-week period.

**Making All Things New:** Maryanne reported that the MATN Committee did not meet this month. There is nothing to report.

**Parish Events:** Danielle informed us that the Ladies High Tea is being held on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Danielle also volunteered to run a booth representing Holy Innocents Church on Pleasantville Day, May 19<sup>th</sup>. An application needs to be submitted to the town to set up a booth. Decorating the booth was discussed. Mike suggested that the Ministry pamphlet could be available at the booth. Advertisement of the Lecture Series on Pleasantville Day at the HI booth was encouraged.

**Parish Maintenance, A/C & Renew and Rebuild:** Tim reported that the first installment of R&R fund raising efforts of \$117,000 was recently received. The sub-committee is thoughtfully engaged in prioritizing projects, including paying down on the loan for the AC project (\$191,000 outstanding balance). Their goals include securing the religious education sessions (including security cameras), improved acoustics in the parish hall, repairing the Rectory steps/railings and ongoing maintenance and repairs on the rectory roof.

**Social Concerns:** Alice Wagner informed us that Maryknoll is under quarantine and therefore, she could not visit as usual. They will let her know when they get a clearance.

**Website:** Maryanne would like someone to assist with updating the website.

**Youth Ministries, CYO Programs:**

- Tom Conaty will be missing a meeting to go to CYO Westchester Knicks event at County Center. There are 150 kids & parents attending.
- The CYO Basketball season has just ended without any major concerns.
- The CYO had several teams make the playoffs but no championships this year.
- Sr. Donna continues to train Altar Servers on Thursday afternoons.
- Scheduling continues to be nicely implemented by Linda Nappi.
- Jasmine Agati has done an excellent job as our Service Coordinator for the CYO basketball teams.
- The Youth Group carries on with meetings, service events and youth Masses.

**Other Items/New Business:** Mary Law discussed the 'Buy a Book For a Buck Program.' Deirdre Vedivino is organizing the students with special needs to run this program. Mary reports the program is doing well.

**Closing Prayer:** Mary Law

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:20 pm.

**Next meeting:** April 12, 2018

**Minutes submitted by:** Kate Vullo