

Holy Innocents Church

Parish Council Minutes- May 10, 2018

Present: Kate Vullo, Bridget Dinardi, George Mulry, Barbara Mackin, Robert Iovino, Mary Law, Mike Fisher, Maryanne Dowd, Olga Carlsen, Father Hugh, Wanda Solo-DeJesus, Danielle Dispenza, Kate Howe, Beth Curley, Fr. Sutman, OP., Tom Conaty, Jacqueline B. Kovatch.

Absent: Rither Alabre, Mike Cusack, Tim Hickey, Mark Mannix, Alice Wagner, Sister Donna Kelly, CND

Meeting was called to order: 7:30 pm.

Opening Prayer: Mike Fisher

Approval of Minutes for April 12, 2018: George Mulry

Pastor's Report: Father Hugh Burns, OP. reported that we had a big week with 2 First Communion Celebrations. . There were some complaints about the adults misbehaving. We also had 3 nights/days of a retreat. Thanks to Father Frank, Maria and Barbara, the young girls did a beautiful job on Monday. Mike asked Father if he would do it again. Father replied, yes, but not this way. Father continued, I did retreats myself for many years. Maryanne then commented, next year we should have more prep and we should know people who would be willing to help out. Father then noted, "I would like to have an annual parish retreat." Mike questioned whether the retreat was personalized enough to the needs of the community. Jackie remarked that she liked the idea of male and female speakers. Barbara thinks it would be important to know more about the person/people giving the retreat, so as to encourage a diverse audience. Jackie suggested forming a committee to develop topics/people of interest for retreats. Father Hugh commented that next year's retreat is going to be given by Bishop Kendra. Father Frank stated that when people speak in this parish, they usually make an outline (answering the WH questions) and then they come to a parish committee to discuss which ideas are appropriate for the parish. The ideas chosen must "hit the mark for the parishioners," according to Father Frank Sutman. He reiterated that the needs of the congregation must be discussed by the Committee considering appropriate topics for the lecture series. Father noted speakers being considered for future lectures including, 2 young poet interns. Also, there will be Father Matthew Malone from American Magazine, who is a Jesuit speaking on the 'Topic of Democracy' in Sept. 2018. Father Frank further commented, "When people feel their needs are being met, they are more willing to participate." Beth Curley advised putting out a suggestion box, to establish balance of topics that appeal to more people. Mike wrapped it up for the present suggesting that we ask the parishioners if they would like to volunteer to join the Lecture Series Committee.

Father Hugh then discussed the Commonwheel Magazine, indicating that we could tie a Lecture event into one of these articles. Father remarked that his contact Bob has a group and they use Commonwheel Magazine a lot. Financially, Father Hugh reported that we are keeping our heads above water with the Lecture Series. Barbara further indicated that she will research where we were in the past year and are presently, in reference to paying for the lectures.

It was commented that the Commonwheel Group, Commonwheel Reading Group and Spiritual Life Community are 3 different wonderful resources. Father Frank cautioned that there are people who could care less about academic speakers like this. Tom gave a personal example. He recommended that we consider evangelized and faith based topics. Tom advised us to research the Catholic Alpha Program.

Following a spirited group discussion on the broad range of activities and events being offered to the Parish Community, Mike proposed that we ask ourselves, "What are the needs of the parish community?" Kate responded, "We need to keep the response to that question as our overriding goal."

Follow Up from last Meeting:

a. Parish Council Nominees and Process Update: Bridget DiNardi indicated that we will have 22 members next year, including the new members. Bob Iovino spoke about his reasons for joining the Parish Committee. He revealed that he has many ideas or suggestions that reflect the needs of the parish community.

b. Annual Raffle- Fund Raising Committee: George Mulry announced that his Committee was going to sell tickets after Masses for the next 5 weekends, May 12th-June 9th. He further commented that the last few times we had a Raffle, we were quite successful. George announced that we need 2 people at the doors of Holy Innocents and one at Our Lady of Pompeii doors at each Mass when tickets are sold. A signup sheet was passed among Council Members, so people could volunteer. The **Raffle Drawing** will take place on Saturday, June 16th. All money from the Raffle will stay right here in Pleasantville.

c. Pleasantville Day Program: Danielle Dispenza announced that Pleasantville Day is on Saturday, May 19th and they are preparing for the event. We have a physical spot for our booth, a tent, and many copies of the parish booklet. We are working on making a banner and advertisements for the following: OLP Centennial, the upcoming Speaker Series and Parish Raffle. Signup sheets for parish membership and email addresses will be available. Signup sheets to work on Pleasantville Day were circulated among Parish Committee members.

d. Financial Protocol for Parish Council and Committees: Barbara Mackin presented 'The Financial Protocol for the Holy Innocents Parish Council and Committees'. Her presentation was delivered in oral and written format. Barbara laid out the guidelines on how incoming and outgoing monies, checks.....are to be handled in Holy Innocents Parish. Use of the appropriate written forms, when money is requested from the parish (outgoing) or when accounting for incoming monies and checks...., was discussed. No incoming money should leave the property of Holy Innocents parish. All money, gift cards, checks.....from parish events and appropriate forms documenting the income must be put into the safe deposit box after the event. Cash collected should not be used to reimburse expenses. All expenses will be paid through the Church checking account. Barbara informed the Parish Council using Archdiocesan Standards.

e. Discussion of Ministry Booklet and Re-Vitalizing Ministries: Mike Fisher commented that this is an ongoing discussion and will be refreshed with the new members of the parish Council starting in June 2018.

Upcoming Events:

May 20th- Sister Teresa Kane Lecture

June 6th- ReCreation Barbeque

June 16th - Parish Raffle

July 12th- Penny Social

Sept. 23rd- OLP Centennial Celebration

Committee Reports/Liaison Updates:

Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors, Parish Council Elections: Bridget gave a Parish Council Membership update: The following parishioners would like to be members of the Parish Council: Dennis Corcoran, Robert Iovino, Tim Kelley, Rebekah Lee, Karen McCarthy, Laura Moore, Steve Trombetta and Deirdre Vedovino. With the Council's approval they would begin their term in June.

As of now, I do not have a report on the Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Ministers of Hospitality.

Finance: Mike Cusack reports that the Finance Committee has not met, so there is nothing to update. The R&R Committee has been discussing alternatives and will meet with Fr. Hugh to discuss our thoughts before taking the next step of meeting with an engineer/architect. I expect we will try and get on his calendar next week.

FORMED: Olga will continue her involvement in FORMED, although she is no longer on the Parish Council.

Fund-Raising: George reports that we are starting to sell raffle tickets the weekend of 6/12-6/13. We took time to discuss this at the meeting (discussed above). Coverage of at least 2 people at all Masses and 1 person at OLP is required. Someone needs to take the lead in planning the wine and cheese event held when we draw the winning tickets. The winning tickets will be drawn on Saturday June 16th.

Making All Things New (MATN): Maryanne indicated that MATN met on Monday, April 23rd. Holy Name of Jesus, Valhalla is joining our cluster. The pastor, Fr. Philip Persico attended the meeting. The Archdiocese requested discussion on some topics, including joint Mass schedules, adult formation programs, evangelization, promoting Catholic schools, youth and young adult activities, vocation awareness outreach programs, sharing of financial resources. The following are the things we discussed relating to the Archdiocese topics:

Mass Schedules: The Mass schedules list will be updated by all parishes and placed on the Cluster website.

Outreach Programs: All parishes will update the joint outreach list and these updates will be posted on the Cluster website.

Adult Faith Formation Programs: All parishes have FORMED and most have Bible Study groups.

Promoting Catholic Schools: Open House schedules are in the bulletins. St. Augustine is the only parish with an elementary school.

Youth and Young Adult Activities: Msgr. Barry from Holy Rosary asked Tom Brinkman of the Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries (CYFM) to attend our meeting and speak about the things they do. The organization offers many different retreats: single day, weekend, family, summer camp programs and parish missions for all different age groups. They also offer leadership and service programs. CYFM is doing the Confirmation Retreat for our 8th graders this year at Holy Innocents. Fr. Burns indicated that he would like them to do a parish retreat at Holy Innocents during Lent of 2020. A lot of what they have for High School students is already being done by our Youth Group.

Website: Maryanne mentioned that she has some pictures from the Ladies High Tea and will put them on the web site soon. Maryanne asked that whoever has the Parish Council picture that was taken at the Appreciation Night, please send it to me to put on the website.

Cluster Website: archnycluster52.org

We all agreed to try and make sure all the parishes are sharing information and putting events and activities of other parishes in our bulletins when possible.

Youth Ministries, CYO Programs: Tom Conaty informed the Parish Council of the following important dates:

- April CYO fundraiser raised \$8,000; half to the CYO & half donated to BTH Fund.
- May 13- Youth Group served dinner to families at Ronald McDonald House on Mother's Day.
- May 19- Youth Group helped out at Holy Innocents Booth on Pleasantville Day.
- May 20- Youth Group made a Cottage School visit.

Other Items/New Business: 'Thank You' to the 5 members that are leaving the Parish Council: Kate Howe, Maryanne Dowd, George Mulry, Jerry Finnili and Olga Carlsen.

Olga informed the Parish Council about the Canticle Program. It consists of a group of parishioners and a priest who go to visit various homes in our community each Wednesday. They bring a statue of Our Lady with them and celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Olga also discussed a successful fundraiser she attended at St. Augustine's Parish, a cluster event. She suggested that Holy Innocents may be interested in running a similar event.

Closing Prayer: Mike Fisher

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 pm.

Next meeting: June 14, 2018

Minutes submitted by: Kate Vullo