

Holy Innocents Church

Parish Council Minutes - September 14, 2017

Present: Kate Vullo, Bridget Dinardi, Mike Fisher, Sister Donna Kelly, Father Hugh Burns, OP, Jackie Kovatch, Alice Wagner, Wanda DeJesus, Maryanne Dowd, Beth Curley, Rither Alabre, Stephen Busby, Tom Hickey, Mary Law, Kate Howe, Father Frank Sutman, OP, Tom Conaty

Absent: Grace Baer, Josephine Cardone, Olga Carlsen, Mike Cusack, Danielle Dispenza, Mark Mannix, J.T. McNally, Mark Moran, George Mulry

Meeting was called to order: 7:30 pm

Opening Prayer: Kate Howe

Pastor's Report: Father Hugh Burns introduced Sr. Donna Kelly as the new pastoral associate. He gave a little history on how they first met and how Sister became our pastoral associate. Sister also added information about her background experiences.

Father expressed his appreciation to the archdiocese for finding Sister Donna Kelly and Maria Lamorgese.

Father Burns talked about getting lectors and Eucharistic ministers. He revealed that there is a need for more lectors and ministers (according to Nick), as the ones they have often go away on weekends. Nick is comfortable vetting people for the ministry. It's a concern in general that we replenish the ranks in all ministries and encourage younger families. Kate Howe indicated 20 and 30 year olds would be a good group to target. Fr. Frank suggested that people in their late teens, 18 or 19 year olds, should be recruited. Maryanne Dowd thought people should know that the commitment is not mandatory on every Sunday. Sr. Donna Kelly indicated that young people should be asked because they often have a good foundation in their faith. It was also suggested that we touch base with the students from Pace University. Fr. Frank said they often come from Pace to evening mass on Sunday and he would tap them. Mike Fisher summed it up with we should all tap people we think are appropriate.

Father reported that the Re-Creation Group numbers are low. The luncheons do not have as many attendees. Maryanne indicated Veronica has ideas on reorganizing the events. Father revealed that Dennis attends library with a senior group... Father Frank remarked that demographics are changing, we need to reach out to this group, and that seniors are often disabled. Mike Fisher suggested that we should think about reaching out to different groups and bring it up again at the next

meeting. Reach out to Veronica, who works on recreation program. Father Burns also mentioned his interest in having a group for divorced and separated Catholics.

Lecture Series: "SPLC Then and Now" was on Sunday 9/17/2017. Father Burns informed us that letters defaming the Southern Poverty Law Center group speaking at Holy Innocents had been received. Father also mentioned a confrontation with a man over a sign posted at the side entrance to the church welcoming people from diverse origins. However, many people (ie: John Nonna) know the group and speak positively about them. The question was asked, "Do we need to contact Pleasantville Police Dept. before the day of the lecture?" Concerns about anyone desecrating our church were expressed. Other people see the SPLC group as extremists. Father Burns indicated that he would touch base with the police for safety reasons. Mike made recommendations that the introduction of the speaker should defuse any concerns. Father Frank believed, "We have a moral commitment to speak the truth in the spirit of the Beatitudes." He commented that this is an established group, who promotes the law and is concerned about poverty. Rither indicated that we should add a disclaimer to the introduction at the meeting. People need to understand that this is just free speech. Father Burn revealed how he came to get Mr. Levin (SPLC). Mary Law asked about prep for the SPLC presentation on Sunday. Tom Conaty said youths will set up chairs after their CYO meeting. Tom Conaty & Joe DeSantis will make sure the audio is set up after 11:00 am Mass.

Father Burn informed us that on Nov. 4-7 the Provincial is coming to visit the parish. The Provincial wants to meet with the parish council and parish officials. He is coming to hear what people have to say about the parish.

Father also shared that Special Ed students in high school have been doing tasks in/at the church (fixing books, landscaping the garden....). Deirdre Vedivino is the school associate working with the students and wants to self-fund the effort. Mary Law may contact her regarding their projects.

Future Scheduled Presentations:

Nov. Martin Luther

Jan. John Nonna

Spring: Dr. Burke

Administrative: Mike Fisher stated that the website is coming along very well. We need to organize info. regarding events, by putting a calendar on the website. Perhaps someone in the office should take control of it.

On April 28th 2018 there will be a thank you reception.

Kate Howe revised the June 2017's minutes.

Committee Reports/Liaison Updates:

American Heritage Girls & School Supplies: Steve Busby reported that the back to school collection for the Highbridge Community was a huge success. Very generous donations resulted in the collection of 10 new, fully packed backpacks, 300 notebooks, 150 folders, 35 binders, 175 boxes of Crayola, markers and colored pencils, 575 boxes of pens and pencils, 30 rulers, a full box of loose leaf paper, and a full box of miscellaneous items (ie: calculators, scissors, planners, highlighters, book covers, pencil sharpeners.....). They filled 15 boxes and 15 shopping bags. Steve Busby indicated that Sr. Lauria was very grateful for their generosity. It was reported that AJ Moore and Luke and Ryan Busby spent many serious hours organizing the supplies for the families. Steve also revealed that Sr. Lauria is now going to work on a list of gifts for the Giving Tree, an upcoming event.

The American Heritage Girls kickoff is happening. The AHG board members are Justine Collins, Anne Maire McDonald, Filomena Valente, Roxanne Surace, Kate Moran Busby and Dee Sims (new leader). The troop will be setting up the Giving Tree on Friday, 11/17/2017, so the social hall will be decorated for the Advent Tea. Steve also indicated that as an added service component, their shepherd (Kate) is coordinating with the Houston area shepherd, who will be a local Ambassador for Harvey relief. They are trying to come up with a service for the girls, for the AHG sisters' project. The local troop has some families who have lost everything. The AHG national board is coordinating efforts for monetary donations, gently used uniforms, badges and books etc. They are also creating a prayer partner program, where you can be matched with a family requesting prayer. Steve indicated that he will work on getting more information out to the parish.

Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Lectors Bridget Dinardi reported that Lectors and Eucharistic ministries are going through a change, as ministers are spending more time in warmer climates and with family for extended periods. Bridget will begin a campaign to increase both ministries' ranks. She intends to begin with an appeal from the altar this weekend or next. Bridget made an appeal to the Parish Council for volunteers for either ministry, to serve on a regular basis, a when-available basis or to be a substitute. Training is easy and only one hour. Bridget explained how she would work with anyone who is interested but has the jitters. She will help them, using current technology, making it a rewarding experience with total comfort. Bridget encouraged people who are interested to come for a one-on-one orientation and practice. It is a non-binding commitment, at all times. She suggested, "Try it, you just might like it."

Maintenance, A/C Tim Hickey stated that all has been quiet on the maintenance front. The AC/heating project has been successfully completed. The committee will determine how the Renew and Rebuild Campaign goes before initiating any additional projects, including improving sound in social hall via sound proofing on ceiling, repairing exterior staircases via mason work, repairing the rectory roof, etc.

Making All Things New Maryanne Dowd informed us that their first meeting was on Monday, Sept. 18th. There is nothing else to report at this time.

Our Lady of Pompeii Anniversary It was asked, "How are they making out on the Pompeii anniversary?" Beth related that it would be held on Sept 15 or 22nd and will begin with a 10 am Mass. There are people who want to tape an historical documentary involving the people who built the church. Beth shared that on Sept 26st there will be a follow-up meeting. Music is still under discussion. Mary Law asked about the cleanup before/after the festival.

Parish Events Danielle Dispenza described the summer's Penny Social on July 13th as a great success. August 18th there was a Veggie Tales movie night. On Saturday, Sept. 16th after the 5:15 pm Mass, there was a Back to School event. In October, Danielle stated that there will be Pumpkin Carving. On December 5th, an Advent Tea is scheduled.

Re-Creation Danielle Dispenza reported that September's Mass and Luncheon was on Wednesday September 6th. Although Veronica did not rally a team for the event, she provided ice cream sandwiches and cookies, a simple light dessert. This is the usual September menu on her schedule. Dates for the fall are 10/04, 11/01, & 12/06. Danielle will attend on these dates.

Religious Education Program: Maria Lamorgese reported that the Religious Education Classes started on Saturday, Sept. 16th, with approximately 600 students in the program. They have had their First Meeting for Parents that are new to the program. Maria stated that the parents are very excited to share their children with them and to become involved in our parish community. She also revealed that she was introducing Family Catechesis this year, which will be referred to as "Family Day." The first one is scheduled for October 28th in our Social Hall. The theme will be OUR UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS.

Maria met with all the Catechists and Volunteers during the week of Sept. 11th. Currently, she has approximately 100 volunteers and is very grateful that they are sharing their time and their faith. Catechists and Volunteers were acknowledged on Sunday, September 17th at the 9 am. & 11 am Masses. After the Homily, they came forward for a Blessing and they received a Catechetical pin. Maria requested continued prayers and support for the upcoming 2017-2018 Catechetical Year.

Renew & Rebuild Campaign George Mulry reported that the R & R Campaign Kick Off Reception will be held on Sunday, Sept 24th after the 5:15 pm Mass, during which representatives from the Archdiocese will give a brief presentation on what the funds raised will pay for. George indicated that they hope to reach out to all who have questions about how it works. People have volunteered to come to the reception and help. There will be another meeting in October.

Social Concerns Alice Wagner related that the Social Concerns Committee visited the Nuns at Maryknoll Residential Care on June 10, 2017, delivering 8 lbs. of cherries, grapes, strawberries, ice tea, cupcakes and cookies. On July 15th Alice and the Social Concerns Committee revisited the nuns in Maryknoll and brought ginger ale, ice cream, strawberries, bananas, peaches and cream to make sundaes. They also enjoyed Alice's cookies. On August 12, 2017, the Committee visited the Maryknoll nuns again, bringing cranberries, punch, chips and dips. Alice baked cookies for a treat.

Spiritual Life: Wanda DeJesus is a shadow for Sister Donna Kelly.

Youth Ministries, CYO Programs, Altar Servers Tom Conaty informed us that John McCarthy is their new coordinator. He reported that the Youth Group had its first meeting on Sunday, Sept. 10th. They had a nice turnout and have lots of service activities scheduled for the first half of the year.

The altar servers' schedule is up for Sept/Oct. Linda Nappi does an excellent job of assigning altar servers. A number of the altar servers are staying on. Tom conveyed how nice it was to see the kids back up on the altar following the summer break.

CYO Basketball registration began Sunday, Sept. 17th and runs for 2 weeks. Teams will be formed in Oct. and the season starts in Nov. Registration is online @ holynnocentscyo.com

CYO Track held in July went well, with almost 200 kids participating.

Closing Prayer: Kate Howe

Meeting Adjourned: 9:02 pm.

Next meeting: 10/12/2017

Minutes submitted by: Kate Vullo