

**IHM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
DECEMBER 11, 2019**

Present were: Father Bob Sims; Parish Council Members John Bannister, James Gilroy, Ellen Healey, Beth Leonard, and JoJo Murphy; Business Manager Anna Harvey, and Jim Elias of the Finance Council.

President Beth Leonard opened the meeting at 6:03 pm and read a Christmas story, "The White Envelope", for the opening prayer

The minutes of the November meeting were approved following a motion by James Gilroy, seconded by JoJo Murphy.

Anna Harvey and Jim Elias presented the financial report. The November financials will not be reviewed by the Finance Council until next week, but Anna was able to provide some key items. Notably, Sunday collection income continues to be under budget for the year. As of the end of November, the shortfall was \$76,000. Father Bob included a specific appeal in the "Christmas Letter" sent to parishioners; several significant gifts were received in early December as a result. The staff and Finance Council will continue to monitor this and other matters. Jim reported on the Parish Center renovation project. Final approval by the Archdiocese is expected in mid-January. Details regarding design, budget, and timeline are being finalized. The proposed construction timeline is March to August, during which time the parish staff will relocate to the John Bosco Center. The necessity of adequately informing parishioners regarding the project was discussed; this matter will be addressed after final Archdiocesan approval.

Anna observed that the John Bosco Center has been widely used by both the school and varied parish entities in addition to the youth group.

In the area of strategic planning, JoJo felt we were missing a great opportunity when we lose young adults during their college years and soon after they graduate. She suggested that we especially consider this group in our strategic planning, as keeping the younger parishioners active would benefit the parish. James Gilroy noted his experience of strong involvement with the church in his college days but a falloff in intervening years because of lack of connection with a parish. He also suggested that discussion of strategic plan progress be delayed until the February meeting.

JoJo Murphy provided copies of the Outreach Commission's flyer for 2019-2020. Their mission statement and a thorough description of all activities, including current contact information for each, were included with the goal of educating parishioners and encouraging wider involvement.

Jim Elias reported that the Stewardship Commission had noted a low response to the United Catholic Appeal.

John Bannister noted that the Technology Committee was being organized, with the topic of an inventory under discussion. There are needs for both the school and the parish. A consultant is being used constructively.

Beth asked each Council member to reach out to assigned Commissions and Committees to ask about (1) their goals, (2) ideas for expanding activities of parishioners within the church (per Father Bob's earlier request), (3) how Council members may be of assistance, and (4) informing them they will be invited to a Parish Council meeting in 2020 to focus on their particular mission. The January meeting will include

Facilities and Outreach.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Healey, Secretary

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22, 2020, AT 7:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY**