

## OUTREACH MINUTES 11/7/2023

- Attending:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Outreach Ministry/Role</u>
Matt Tuschong	Service Saturdays
Chris Hutson	The Lord's Pantry at Anna's House
Dave Stuhldreher	Men's Group at St. Anthony School
Mary Dougherty	Respect Life
Lenore Schmitz	IHM School Outreach Committee lead
Ed Spahr	In discernment with the Archdiocesan Deacon Formation Program (ministries of charity focus)
Paula Ruppert	IHM Parish Council contact for Outreach
Scott Lowe	Transformational Outreach and Interim Commission lead

### Agenda:

- Opening Prayer
- Follow up discussion from our Sept 26 discernment meeting
  - Everyone agreed this was an excellent event! It was the first time in anyone's memory that the entire group was together in person. Thank you again Fr. Pat!
  - There was a discussion about how we can take Fr. Pat's advice to heart - to be alert and listen for people who may be ready in their lives to serve others. These people may be our future Outreach ministry contributors, and in turn may develop into Outreach leaders. Those present last night agreed that we (Outreach) should have a presence more often at parish events and gatherings. Example gatherings mentioned were any function for IHM newcomers and "Second Saturday", an informal gathering after 5:30 Mass sponsored by Family Faith and Life Formation Commission. Include opportunities to get to know younger parishioners and families. Attend these events, share in the conversations your involvement with Outreach, and listen! Paula agreed to share back with

Parish Council that Outreach would like to be part of future events with parish newcomers.

- In a related note, we also agreed that reading the church bulletin and plugging into IHM social media (Facebook, X/Twitter, Instagram) is an important way to be informed about events coming up, so you can attend the events and have those conversations. Also, invite a friend to come with you to those events. Rose Fine is church coordinator for social media and may also have a role with the bulletin. She is great at this and will help you with your communications. Go meet Rose if you don't know her!
  - ***What other ideas do you have about our Outreach team can achieve more contact and conversations with people of the parish?***
  - Post meeting note. Scott contacted Rose Fine and asked for guidance on how to use IHM communications most effectively. Scott will forward this reply once received from Rose.
  - Question: Who is the parish contact for new parishioners (list of new parishioners and knowledge of when events happen for new parishioners)? No one at the meeting knew. After the meeting, Scott sent a note to Dottie in the parish office about this. Dottie replied that Kelli Ayres in the office is the keeper of the list of new parishioners. Dottie added, however, that IHM is receiving many new members and there may be an opportunity for an improved parish initiative to welcome and integrate these new people. There have been efforts, but efforts need more traction.
  - An idea was shared that Outreach could do an annual "pot luck" dinner as a way to bring together in person all IHM people who are part of outreach ministries. Those present liked this idea!
  - We did also discuss having a Ministry Fair. It was noted that those have sometimes gone well and other times not gone as well. Idea to make one more successful: Have persons get up at end of mass and briefly share personal experience with their ministry along with the invitation to the ministry fair. (Similar to past invitations to be part of CRHP). No decision was made on if a Ministry Fair should be a priority at this time.
- January meeting with Fr. Pat
    - After the meeting, Scott talked with Fr. Pat via text, and Fr. Pat confirmed his desire to meet again with the Outreach leadership team. He again would like it to start with a sit-down meal at the Rectory.
    - He has offered three possible dates, and has asked if any of them would work for us. Possible dates:
      - Jan. 9 (Tues)
      - Jan. 10 (Wed)
      - Jan. 24 (Wed)
    - ***Please respond with your availability on these three dates.*** We can select a date soon if everyone gets us your feedback quickly!

- I have suggested to Fr. Pat that our group could do a "pitch in" for the food this time. He has accepted that offer, and said he will provide the beverages. We'll figure out the details once we establish a date, but you might also start thinking about what you could bring.
- Ministry Updates from the meeting
  - Men's Group/St. Anthony (Dave) - Men's Group is gaining some momentum in the second year of the new St. Anthony's school principle. Men's Group is tutoring 9 students at St. Anthony. They are currently continuing their coat drive for St. Anthony. See the bulletin for details. Men's Group would like more men to join and contribute to the St. Anthony support ministry.
  - IHM School Outreach (Lenore) - School Outreach committee is now in its second year since the post-pandemic "restart". They have many teachers and principal Chris as regular participants in the committee meeting. Scott also attends these meetings when he can. Currently the school's outreach supports Boulevard Food Pantry, Honduras, and St. Anthony School. Weekly Friday school Mass offering is set aside for Outreach. IHM principal and a few teachers have reached out to St. Anthony counterparts to try to establish partnerships, with ultimate hopes of having St. Anthony and IHM students get to know each other. Lenore and Dave will talk more later about Dave helping in getting this partnership between the schools going.
  - Healthy Haughville in the past was an annual health and wellness fair held at St. Anthony School, but we don't think this event has been held since before the pandemic. Those in the meeting tonight did not know if there is intent to resume Healthy Haughville in the future or not. If anyone reading this knows that answer, please reach out to Scott and let him know.
  - Respect Life (Mary) - The crib at the top of the back entry stairs continues to be a great source of donations, which go to Birthline. Birthline also gets gifts from the IHM Advent Giving Tree. IHM, St. Thomas, and St. Joan of Arc are considering restarting the Gabriel project, an outreach to women in need. Mary may approach Fr Pat about this in the coming months. She has checked at Archdiocese about support for those who have had miscarriages. This support does not currently exist in Indy but Mary is searching for these programs elsewhere to use as a model for Indy. Tues Nov. 14 at 5:30 is a "Remembrance Mass". See attached flier. This is intended as support for babies lost prematurely.
  - Service Saturday (Matt) - Now has an Instagram account. Matt believes Instagram communication has been effective for the ministry. He is looking for new ideas for projects. Let Matt know if your ministry could use a Saturday work group.
  - Anna's House (Chris) - Anna's House provides a community dinner to the hungry every Wednesday evening. IHM is the provider of this dinner once a month, and Chris is always looking for IHM groups willing to be

the preparer and server of one of these monthly Wednesday dates. Note that he has a budget to reimburse the costs of the dinner. The next dinner is Nov. 22. Chris is also looking for a good source of propane grill tanks, which are used to prepare Wednesday dinners. Contact Chris if you can help with either of these.

- Question: Is there still a "Food Donations" envelope designated for food related IHM ministries? We did not know the answer but Scott can check.
- Transformational Outreach and the MLK Community Center (Scott) - IHM is part of group of area churches (St. Thomas, St. Paul Episcopal, Common Ground, North United Methodist, Crossroads AME, St. Luke's Methodist Midtown, Meridian St. Methodist, and IHM) that call themselves the MLK Center Lay Clergy Team. They meet once a month and work together in support of the neighborhood through the MLK Center. This group was founded about a year ago and Scott is a co-leader of the group. The group has produced a video that appeared in IHM social media and a link in the bullet a month or two ago. See link below. The group has recently decided to make the issue of affordable housing a central issue in its efforts. Scott is seeking involvement from anyone at IHM who would like to join this effort, learn more about why this is important, and help out. He will be working soon on educational information on the topic to be shared with the parish. The Lay Clergy Team expects a community discussion event early in 2024.

Check out the YouTube Lay Clergy video here <https://youtu.be/eGg3G2FaiJE>

- Ministry Updates from emails sent before the meeting:
  - St Patrick's ministry (Sarah Stelzner) - "We would appreciate volunteer support for the annual Posada at St. Patrick's. It will be Saturday, December 16, 10 to 12 in the morning. St. Patrick's is also making good use of plants donated from the IHM plant sale. Sister Karen much appreciates IHM's support."
  - Boulevard Food Pantry (Trinda Metzger) - She has looked at the budget, and is a little concerned, as the price of the donation bags are going up a couple hundred dollars. (The bags are a big boost to the donations from IHM that go to the pantry. IHM is the largest donor of food to the pantry.) Scott noted to Trinda that the past several years, we have had Outreach money left over at the end of the fiscal year. We have typically given that in a donation to a recipient such as Catholic Charities. But if Trinda's budget runs over, there is a good chance we can cover the shortfall from the excess toward the end of the year.
  - IHM Community Garden (Grace McManus) - The garden team was suffering a bit from not enough volunteers during this year's harvest season. They did reach out to the school and got some help from IHM students, which was much appreciated! They will try to build on this school partnership next year. Garden leaders are likely to reduce the size of the garden next year to make the workload more

manageable. Tentative plan is to just plant the area next to the Rectory but not the area next to the Mary Shrine. Grace also expressed an interest in plugging into hunger alleviation efforts outside IHM. Scott recommended contacting the Indy Hunger Network. Contact Grace for me information if needed.

- Advent Giving Tree (Jennifer Gause) - Jennifer is meeting with co-leader Jen Kaplan soon to kick off this year's Giving Tree work. They are planning same approach as previous years but are open to input.
  - St. Vincent de Paul (Jane Hellman-Otto) - Jane checked in to let me know she is having surgery, so won't be able to make the meeting. (That surgery was Wednesday, I believe. Please say a prayer for Jane!)
  - Cathedral Soup Kitchen (Allison Gardner and Meridith Runke) - Allison and Meridith sent regrets on the meeting, but report they have no significant needs with their ministry.
  - Honduras (Kathy Martin O'Neil) - Kathy sent regrets but reports no new information on Honduras.
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- Outreach Web site information and brochure updates - Scott will be spending time in the church office this Thursday, working with Karen Winterheimer to update Outreach related information that is outdated. Please take a look at your Outreach info on the web site and let Scott know if updates are needed. Also, the Outreach tri-fold brochure update is nearly complete and will be reprinted in the near future.
  - We closed with prayer and completed out meeting at about 8:20. (Ran a little long, but covered a lot of ground!)