

## Summary of 1/10/24 Dinner and meeting with Fr. Pat

Attending: Fr. Pat, Chris Hutson, Trinda Metzger, Paula Schaefer, Lenore Schmitz, Grace McManus, Mary McClellan, Matt Tuschong, Ed Spahr, Dave Stuhldreyer, Scott Lowe

Dinner was great! Thanks to everyone who pitched in and thanks so much Fr. Pat for hosting again, providing drinks, and mostly for your continuing support of our Outreach efforts!

### Agenda:

- Follow up from September and November meetings. Our overall challenge and goal is to find and attract more/new IHM people to our Outreach work. We would love to have more involved, and some of those people may become Outreach leaders - either soon or down the road. The following ideas were offered and actions agreed upon:
  - Improved communications - Rose Fine is IHM communications contact and she does a great job! These are all things we can talk with Rose about: 1) use of the TV monitor near the church office and maybe selected us of the TV in the Gathering Space to supplement the use of the "outreach TV" near the archway entrance. 2) Better use of IHM social media. IHM does have Facebook, Instagram, etc., but we probably don't make full use of these. 3) A broader Outreach communication plan that uses all available resources. Several people noted the value of pictures and "telling our story". Please remember to take photos when you have an event. These photos can be plugged into the improved communications that will be developed. **Action:** Scott will contact Rose Fine and set up some time with her to draft a plan for improved Outreach communications.
  - Tie to small groups initiative - Fr. Pat plans an event at the conclusion of small groups on Sunday, June 2 to gather learning, count blessings, etc. He can include a tie to Outreach opportunities at that time. **Action:** Fr Pat include Outreach in planning for June 2 event and pull in Outreach people as needed.
  - Connect with new parishioners process. Paula has already asked Parish Council to tie in Outreach when talking about new parishioner issues or events. It was noted that new parishioner process is "owned" by FLFFC. Scott is attending FLFFC meeting on Jan. 16 and will inquire about how Outreach might connect.
  - Outreach presence at Lenten Fish Fry. Matt is one of the Fish Fry organizers. **Action:** Matt to let the rest of us know when the Fish Fry is scheduled so we can plan our presence there. Many younger families attend the fish fry so we should have younger people at our outreach table to better connect with them.
  - Other point: We need to reach all age groups. Don't forget the value our senior parishioners can bring.

◦ Selected ministry updates

- Honduras - the adult trip to Honduras normally scheduled for late January/early February was cancelled this year as not enough people signed up to go. Kathy O'Neil does still plan to have the 2 youth trips this summer. She will provide additional Honduras information at a later date.
- Transformational Outreach (Scott) - The MLK Center Lay Clergy Team (church coalition that IHM is a part of) has selected Affordable Housing as a focus topic. Scott is also proposing that IHM should be more engaged in housing, as it is a central issue for people to be able to improve their success. Next week, Scott will be attending FLFFC and requesting the topic of this year's lenten soup supper on Ash Wednesday be affordable housing. Scott has received commitment from an outside speaker on the topic (Rabbi Aaron Spiegel of the Greater Indy Multifaith Alliance - GIMA). Scott also plans a series of educational pieces on housing to run in parish communications leading up to Ash Wednesday. Let Scott know if you would like to be involved or want to learn more about affordable housing.

◦ Please respond if anyone has any other key points from the meeting I may have missed.

Yours in Christ,  
Scott