

IHM Parish Council Minutes
Parish Office Conference Room
November 29, 2023
7:00 PM

Start Time: 7:01 PM

Present were: John Bannister, John Borgo, Father Pat, Toni Sander, Emily Bannister, George Snyder, Andrew O'Brien, Ute Eble, Frank Otte, Paula Schaefer, Jim Roe, Mike Wessel, Cindy Harkness, Anna Harvey

Opening Prayer by Paula Ruppert

October Meeting minutes motioned to be approved by Toni Sander, seconded by John Borgo.
Approved unanimously

A. Approval "Consent" Agenda

- a. School Update: direct questions about getting into Kindergarten back to the School Principal, Process of priority to follow is in place and Father Pat is going to be transparent in communication and will provide alternatives, update the kindergarten application form to include volunteer opportunities within the Parish
 - i. Will have to make changes for the 2026-2027 school year applications and will not make changes to the priority list for 2024-2025 or 2025-2026
 - ii. Anna and Ute will remind Chris and Kyle to update the Parish Council in regard to Kindergarten applications over the next three months.
- b. Business Manager Update: in January when the Census goes out to the Parishioners can make a plea to update tithing information (amount and method). Jim and Mike will discuss offline about the best way to share financial information throughout the year and not just through the Annual Report in September. Anna and Mike could potentially put together a one page summary with footnotes quarterly. UCA is slow to process, the number will go up and then the comparison from the last three years can be shared as well.
- c. Outreach Update: Option for service as part of the Eucharistic Revival small groups
- d. FLFFC Update: Second Saturday on December 9, Is it possible for Outreach to join the Newcomers receptions? Can they be notified one month in advance so they can plan and make sure the Outreach table is staffed? Will take this to FLFFC
- e. Liturgy Report: Precious blood will be back this weekend
- f. Facilities Report: Anna will check with Tom about the light working at 57th and Central

B. Word on the Street – Father Pat asks council members to share what they have been hearing around the community – can be positive and areas for improvement

C. Discussion Items from Council Members

- a. Strategic Plan had been paused for a year and will stay within the parameters of the current plan to onboard Father Pat. Eucharistic Revival will dictate the plan. A note should be added to the website about its status for January 2024. Krista Roseberry will help with updating the Strategic Plan for the School and will be a good resource for the Parish Council.

D. Key question/issue for discussion: From your perspective and/or your experience, given that we have not had a youth minister for several months, what are the key or most important considerations that we need to keep in mind when deciding about the future of youth ministry at IHM?

- a. Difficult to get high school students to come back to IHM because they are at Catholic high schools with their own campus ministry and theology class requirements.
- b. Concern is with staying connected to IHM and them seeing IHM as their spiritual home
- c. Communication after Confirmation drops off
- d. Coordination between high school service hours and IHM
- e. What can be done each year of high school to keep students connected to the Parish?
 - i. Freshman year – year of transition
 - ii. Sophomore year – Confirmation
 - iii. Junior year – Year of Service
 - iv. Senior year – year of transition to college, blessing and mass for those graduating
- f. Including the target audience in the process, is there time in student schedules? Why is faith not a priority for young people?
- g. Mass attendance can be the minimum that is done
- h. Bosco Center used as a place to gather for the young members of the church, CYO sports in high school is a resource to bring people back to IHM
- i. Potentially sponsor a service event for high school students to participate in for service hours to help with their high school requirements
- j. Frank Otte suggested a gathering to meet Father Pat for high school students
- k. Thinking of ways to engage the entire families and parents that miss their friends

Next Meeting: January 24, 2024