

Parish Council Meeting Minutes December 10th, 2024

The OMOS/HC Parish Council met at OMOS at 6:30 PM at OMOS Conference Room #2.

Present: Fr Bill, Fr Justin, Jim Flann, Tom McCall, Frank Kirchgessner, Nancy Spoto, Donna Petrella, Giovanni Zarcone, Michael Giordano, Michelle Giordano, Jane Witkowski

We opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with a Prayer from Father Bill.

Jim Flann, in the Chairperson's Discussion time, reminded the Council of the Bible Study at Holy Cross. It is held each Sunday from 9 to 10 AM in the meeting area. The entire listing of area Bible Studies in our sister Parishes is included with these minutes.

Jane Witkowski and Michael Giordano represented the youth component of our community at OMOS.

The report mentioned visits to area Nursing Homes, the Cantoring Youth Group, the very successful IGNITE! Program (has a strong core of over 40 students) and a steady stream of visitors. They have a Movie Night planned at OMOS and a Saturday with Santa Claus. They are having a Coat Drive and delivered Christmas Trees to Seneca Towers.

The School Report is attached.

The Stewardship Report (Nancy Spoto and Frank Kirchgessner) told of outreach for Christmas to Waterview Hts Home and Latta Road East and West Christmas cards were distributed to residents and the ministry received a helping hand from students at Craig Hill School

An ongoing issue with a homeless person was discussed - this situation is an example of the changing nature of our parish community area.

Remaining reports were read into the record and are attached to this report.

Father Bill spoke to the concern about the continuing large donation monthly to HC finances. If and when that donor source ends, it will immediately present a serious threat to the bottom line at HC. Father feels that it is essential to appeal for increased donations across the OMOS and HC parishes.

Use of QR codes to allow “instant” in-church donations as well as from the bulletins was discussed. Laminated QR codes in the pews was brought up as an option (along with the codes already in the bulletin). The algorithms and obstacles to actually making an online contribution need streamlining.

HC Church is in need of a rehab/cleanup internally and fresh painting. Gates accessing the altar area are a concern and must be addressed carefully. They are a sensitive issue. The balance between tradition and interference with services is in the balance.

The elevated Tabernacle has been done - although only partially completed. Additional change is coming.

Homeless person situation response is to not engage in any way, call 911 if needed. This situation is very sad.

As stated earlier, the community area is changing from even only 5 years ago. The High Rise population is changing. Narcan is now available in the parish areas for example. Food Cupboards are running full blast. The Backpack program serving English Village is reopened (provides food for non school times).

This upcoming weekend (12/14-15) is Invitation Weekend) - an appeal to have parishioners invite friends/relatives to come to church for a service during the Christmas Season. Father Bill tells us that like the **Elf on the Shelf**, it would be good to have **You in the Pew**.

Some odds and ends:

The movie night will be “The Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever” at OMOS and needs to be in the Bulletin.

Nursing Home residents are being given Soda and snacks and water and Hairdo funds. These personal touches are out of reach for many residents. Their incomes do not allow these sorts of things.

HC is planning to add an additional plaque to the existing plaque at the BVM Grotto. The plaques commemorate Servicemen and women who did not return from overseas conflicts.

The small library at HC (outside) is actively used, and there are 20+ Prayer request slips left in the drop box nearby.

The CMA appeal is near 83% at OMOS. Hoping to complete by Christmas.

Assessments Of the Planning meetings at St Charles were positive.

Father Bill feels the impetus for change in the 7 parish area addressed at the Planning meetings will probably break free when there is a fresh Bishop and the Diocese emerges from bankruptcy. The Task Force options will go to the Diocese very early in 2025.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2025 VIA ZOOM. Watch for details.

Several reports follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom McCall

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