

## OMOS/HC Parish Council Meeting Notes for 5/15/2024

Present; Fr Coffas, Fr Justin, Maryanne Sutton, Amanda Lozy-Lester, Brett Granville, David Kommeth, Donna Petrella, Jonathan Stoklosa, Luci Santangelo, Marc Boeh, Nancy Spoto, Tom McCall

Absent: Amy Mulcahy, Giovanni Zarcone, Michael Giordano, Tracey Ferris, Donna Jacobi

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM and opened with a prayer led by Father Coffas.

The Chairperson mentioned that there are a total of 4 positions opening for Parish Council. Two positions at each Parish will be filled on Pentecost weekend. Names will be drawn from the Spirit Bowl by the celebrants of the Masses and announced to the congregations. The names of the new members will be supplied to Maryanne.

Fr. Coffas mentioned that HC Parish will soon be celebrating 150 years in existence. The parish has a rich history in the Charlotte Community and Fr shared some brief stories of some of the early parishioners and pastors. These individuals are "Shoulders of Faith" - they provided the foundations for those yet to come.

David Kommeth mentioned that the K of C Dinner was very successful. They will be having the 2nd Annual Golf Outing in August and soon, the K of C will be electing new officers.

Fr Bill asked for comments about Holy Week Services and everyone agreed they were well planned and were very inspiring for all. Thanks go to many, including Donna Petrella and the Liturgy Cmte. Good Friday had excellent attendance as did the Easter Vigil And Holy Thursday services.

Fr. Bill mentioned that some parishes host a coffee hour after their Easter Masses and some even have a dinner after Easter and/or Christmas Masses. That was put on the table for future consideration.

It was noted that there were many new persons in the congregation for these Masses and Services. Father hopes that together we can encourage newcomers to consider attending the Parish and adding to our Faith Communities.

Father offered a Task Force Update. There are 7 parishes involved - one of the looming issues is the eventual loss of pastors and/or parochial vicars. Meetings continue with parish staff at all the locations, and the progress gap between OMOS/HC and the other parishes is an issue. We are at level "3" and the other parishes are at Level 1. The concept that *clusters mean closing* is still out there, and not true. Fr Coffas uses our Cluster as proof of that.

Parishes must build bridges (as we have).

The Ascension Thursday response (attendance etc) was weak. Attendance etc was low.

Liturgical Ministers are badly needed. Lectors, EMHC, Altar Servers etc. Perhaps we can talk it up some to the congregation.

Fr mentioned a Lemonade socializing. After a Mass, a large urn of lemonade and paper cups could be available outside (weather permitting of course) and people could congregate a bit after Mass. Food (lemonade) for thought.

We ought to consider a Garage Sale based out of HC. The OMOS version was successful, netting \$6K.

Fr C feels that the Rectory at HC no longer serves a need. The K of C meet there but that is about it. It should be cleared out (Garage Sale items???) and eventually it could be a Hospice House etc. Unclear as to future purposes, but it is likely time to "retire" the structure. Possible target for grant monies for a Hospice. Similar to Sunset House.

Sept. 15th is a target date for recognition of the Shoulders of Faith at HC. The possibility of a Parish Picnic has been put aside and the plan is for the recognition of Fr Coffas 20th Ann. of Ordination Celebration will be on Sept 29th at MOS.

Fr Justin spoke briefly about the Ignite Program and its successes, and both Fr C and Fr J spoke about the challenges of hiring a new principal. It is a difficult challenge and prayers for a successful search are requested - and needed.

The May Crowning of the BVM was very successful at HC and is scheduled for this weekend at MOS.

Our esteemed Chairperson did not need to ring the bell - even once. But Fr mentioned that the special Mass at the Cathedral Wednesday had wonderful bell ringing By A David Cataline trained OMOS altar server!

Next meeting will close out the year; it is scheduled for June 5, 2024 at OMOS. We will be electing the new Officers for the New Parish Council Year. Attendance is very important!

Report Respectfully Submitted 5/16/24,

Tom McCall

Sec'y