

St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 8th, 2024

Present: Fr. Kevin McManaman, Christine Blackwood, Alan Close, Mary Sue Taft, Mary Binder, Paulanne Ferrito, Ben Rucka, Paul LaRosa, Elizabeth Hanson, Kathy Monacelli, Matthew Evrard

Not Present: Fr. Anthoni Jorge, Maggie Ensing, Linda Witkowski

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Paul LaRosa.

- 1) **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
- 2) **Approval of January 11th, 2023 Meeting Minutes** - A misspelling of Pat Kempen's name was noticed. A motion to approve the minutes with the correction was made by Elizabeth Hanson. Seconded by Mary Binder, none opposed, motion passes.
- 3) **Presenters: Sister Eileen Kazmierowicz, Pastoral Associate - Adult Formation** - Sister Eileen started by discussing how her position has changed over the last 29 years. She started on 8/15/1995 as Director of Adult & Family Ministry. In 2008 this was updated to Director of Adult Formation and Development and in 2018 to Pastoral Associate. Adult formation has always been a major piece of her ministry. She then discussed three main parts of Adult formation: Faith Formation, Spiritual Renewal, and Lifelong Learning. She ended discussing some of the events she had planned over the next few months including the Lenten Retreat on February 24th.
- 4) **Staffing Update** - Fr. Kevin announced that Matthew Evrard has been hired as the new Director of Ministerial Support and will start on February 19th. Since he is in the last year of his term on pastoral council he could be made an Ex Officio member of the council to finish off the remaining few months. A motion was made by Mary Binder to name him as an Ex Officio member. Seconded by Elizabeth Hanson, none opposed, motion passes.
- 5) **Old Business**
 - a) Discussion of 7th chapter of Forming Intentional Disciples - This chapter of the book discussed the threshold of openness, the idea of being open to a personal relationship with Jesus. The pastoral council had another lively discussion of this concept and how we help foster this in our parish.
 - b) New Parishioner "onboarding"; name tag Sunday - Fr. Kevin had a meeting with the volunteers of the Stewardship Committee and gave them his vision for the updated welcome packet. They are starting to work on this and will present it to the council.
- 6) **New Business** - There was no new business this meeting.
- 7) **Finance Council Report** - The council has reviewed the December financials. Kathy Jaeckels is starting to review Accounts Receivable for the school tuition. The council is also starting to review the annual appeal pledge statistics to start the next budget. They also brought up mass attendance which has increased which is helping with collections. Another topic discussed was bequeathments and the two types that they may be: General or Specific.
- 8) **Committee Updates**
 - a) **School** - The primary topic for the school committee was the upcoming Catholic Schools Week. The school is planning fun activities for the students and making sure the rooms are cleaned up for the open house. Smaller topics included

reading testing beginning, music class having a virtual field trip to the opera, and the kindergarten bunny dying. They also discussed that the school's snow day notification system worked for the snow days and that the school calendar is under review for snow day revisions. They ended by mentioning that budget discussions are being started.

- b) **Christian Formation** - The 9th and 10th graders will be making sandwiches for the Guest House. On March 17th there will be reconciliation for the students of the eligible grades. Finally, they are working on Totus Tuus and their budget.
 - c) **Liturgy/Worship** - Most of the volunteer groups under liturgy and worship have been maintaining the status quo. They all keep schedules up to date for their volunteers and can always accept new volunteers. They discussed that the Advent and Christmas season went well. They then discussed Lent and set a meeting for February 24th to go over Holy Week Liturgy Guides.
 - d) **Human Concerns** - No update.
 - e) **Stewardship** - As mentioned earlier they are working on the welcome packet.
- 9) **Pastor's Report** - Fr. Kevin started by mentioning that Fr. Anthoni will return on February 10th. Over the last few weeks there have been a number of funerals and three weddings planned. Fr. Kevin mentioned that he will be on vacation from March 3rd to the 12th. He also stated that Alan Close was working with the school on their budget. While on the subject of the school he stated that the drama of the fall has been rescinding. He then discussed that Lent will be starting on February 14th and the Ash Wednesday masses would be at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 6:30 pm. At 6:00 pm on Tuesdays there will be evening prayer and 7:00 pm Fridays there will be stations of the cross. There will also be an anointing of the sick during Lent. St. Matthias will host the 12 hours of reconciliation during Lent as well. Fr. Kevin ended by informing the council that Sr. Eileen is starting a committee for the Love One Another Charitable Fund.
- 10) **Closing Prayer** – Fr. Kevin

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 by Paul LaRosa.

Respectfully submitted Matthew Evrard