

St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 10, 2024

Present: Fr. Kevin McManaman, Fr. Anthoni Jeorge, Harold (Jim) Anderson, Christine Blackwood, Alan Close, Maggie Ensing, Art Hokanson, Sandy Kramschuster, Kathy Monacelli, Camille Nicolai, Mary Sue Taft, Linda Witkowski

Not Present: Mike Wusterbarth

Gathering and get-to-know each other questions: Did you attend Catholic schooling? What is the number of parishes you have attended and why did you change parishes in the past? Council members took 5-10 minutes to discuss.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Linda Witkowski

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Anthoni
2. **Approval of September 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes** – Kathy Monacelli motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Harold (Jim) Anderson, none opposed, motion passes.
3. **Guest Presenter:** Taimi Parey, School Principal gave an update on the state of the school.
 - a. **Enrollment:** Currently 128 students enrolled. The only two 8th grade girls left this year, however we have large 1st and 6th grade classes. (Tuition grants have helped and grant writing has been successful). The middle school is now stable and strong.
 - b. **Staffing:** What was a challenge last year, has proven to be super strong this year. There is a high level of commitment and engagement by all teachers.
 - c. **Parents:** Whereas last year there were considerable concerns, this year parents are complimenting and thanking administration for the turnaround and strong educational opportunities.
 - d. **Leadership Team:** 2024 plan is now fully implemented, including literacy improvements. The science lab program is going strong, and students are very engaged. The Guidance Counselor position has been funded and is focusing on anxiety resources and support techniques. Greendale and Hales Corners Health Department Grants are helping our school community with personal needs since COVID.
 - e. **2024/25 Emphasis:** School theme is Empathy. In years past there had been service hour expectations for the students in the upper grades. This expectation is coming back so the students will participate with focus on

mission and faith goals. A “Saints Project” was developed where students picked saints to study and do presentations on. “Shout Hosanna Day” with Francis Zelinka will take place 10/21 and a “Virtues Program” will begin after the first of the year.

- f. **Misc:** Uniform modifications have been well received with Monday Unity shirts and Wednesday school logo polo shirts. The 8th grade students have confirmed that their graduation trip will be to the Oshkosh EAA Museum and lunch.

4. Old Business

- a. **Council Member Photo:** Mike Wusterbarth is the only one needed.
- b. **Google Drive access/issues:** A successful small group informal training session was held by Matthew Evrard and Linda Witkowski to help Parish Council members seeking assistance with Google Drive.
- c. **Hospitality Weekend/Name Tag Sunday:** Stewardship Committee is looking for Parish Council and Finance Council volunteers to cover the name tag table and greeting during established weekends. Future dates will include School and Christian Formation committee members. October date will include a table with an opportunity for parishioners to sign a congratulations card for Deacon Jim Leggett in recognition of his Vatican II Award.
- d. **Parish Councils Congress:** This will be held on October 19th at St Mary’s Hales Corners and Art Hokanson has signed up to attend.
- e. **Common Meeting Night Format Discussion:** Sr. Eileen is investigating ideas with the ARCH and will offer feedback once completed.
- f. **Parish Photo Book:** Matt Evrard is in the process of getting quotes for a new parish directory with professional parishioner photos.
- g. **Love One Another:** We are expected to see more requests from Sr. Eileen next month.

5. New Business: Fr. Kevin announced that Ben Rucka has resigned from his position on Parish Council.

6. Finance Council Update: Alan Close, Trustee-Treasurer reported no new info to report other than the annual appeal starts next weekend.

7. Committee Updates:

- a. **School:** Jim Anderson referred to Taimi’s detailed update for status of the school. The committee will elect officers at their next meeting.
- b. **Christian Formation:** No representative was present from this committee, but the following notes were provided:

- i. **Totus Tuus** is being planned once again for summer 2025. During the summer of 2024 we had 46 kids attend (most were homeschooled). Last summer we paired with St. Martin of Tours who have a new director so we may need to look for a different partner.
 - ii. **Enrollment of Christian Formation Participants - 59**
Confirmation, 35 First Communion, Family Program has 20 families with 26 children. The family count is down from last year seemingly because we sought a commitment of coming twice a month instead of once. Change promotes a building of community and more continuity. We now have 36 Catechists with 9 teens being leaders in our grade school program on Sunday mornings.
 - iii. **Confirmation:** Retreat will be one single day instead of overnight. Students and chaperoning adults were more and more difficult to get a commitment for overnight. This decision also tied into our location having stopped overnight retreats.
 - iv. **High School:** Hunger Meal for our High Schoolers is on 11/10 - we will have a meal that mimics food distribution- focusing on a program called Mary's Meals. Service Projects - the high school students will put together sandwiches and hygiene bags for Franciscan Peacemakers (This will be in lieu of doing the St. Ben's Thanksgiving Food Drive). During Lent we will focus on doing service for our food pantry.
 - v. **Children's Ministry:** We are going to be putting together different bags for our little folks to be utilized during Mass. These will be used for those who do not want to use the Wiggle Room
 - vi. **Needs:** More members for this committee - I will do some recruiting
Would like some parents. Would like a catechist from Sunday mornings and possibly Family Program and a New Child and Family Minister.
- c. Liturgy/Worship:** No new updates
- d. Human Concerns:** No new updates
- e. Stewardship:** Stewardship will now be known as Hands & Hearts with the goal of creating more engagement, increased volunteerism and become a more welcoming parish.
- f. Projects:**
- i. Registration Information Table at Hospitality - This was Fr. Kevin's suggestion and has been a great idea. We started last May and

have 3-4 people/families register each weekend and others stop by with questions.

- ii. Registration Drive - held Sept 21/22. We had 3 people register. I think this would have gone better if promoted more and we hadn't just had a Hospitality Sunday.
- iii. Name Tag "Sunday" – began in September and plan to hold it every Hospitality weekend. We received good feedback. A few people were a bit cranky about it, but we'll keep working on them. We've created a sign-up genius to "man" the name tag tables. The upcoming 2024 Name Tag "Sunday" dates are: October 12th/13th, November 9th/10th, and December 7th/8th. The committee is requesting members of the Pastoral Council volunteer to work
- iv. Registration Packet - we've worked with Matt Evrard to update the Registration packet. We're working on the last piece now.
- v. Volunteer "Job Descriptions" - We created a template and would like to create job descriptions for all volunteering opportunities in the parish. This will be my focus in the upcoming weeks. (Francis created one for the music ministry that you may have seen.)
- vi. Parish "Ambassadors" to new members - in addition to Fr Kevin's and Camille's welcome to new parishioners, I'd like to pair them up with a parishioner/family who will reach out to the new parishioner and welcome them, answer questions and make a connection. This will be a focus for us over the next few months.

8. Pastor's Report

- a. **Annual Appeal:** Alan Close will speak before all masses and annual appeal letters will be sent out soon.
- b. **Rescue Project:** About a dozen parishioners are considering small group leadership.
- c. **Security Grant Update:** Fr. Kevin announced that the leg work is underway to prepare for the improvements and upgrades that the security grants will provide. Projects will happen in 2025.
- d. **Bereavement Ministry:** Early November there will be an opportunity to learn more about funeral guidelines and what is required. Fr. Kevin noted that after performing a funeral at another parish, he was proud to be here, recognizing all we have to offer.
- e. **Other:** Fr Kevin indicated that he had no news on a new Archbishop. The Seminary Dinner was held 10/4 with 2000 people at the Baird Center. The Arch will be doing a separate appeal for Seminary improvements due to the

increase in seminarians. Fr Kevin also noted that he will be on a spiritual silent retreat from October 13th-22nd. He will also be hosting a presentation on Church history the second week of November. All Saints Day 11/1 with mass of anticipation on 10/31 and all Souls Day 11/2 with a mass and social that morning.

9. Closing Prayer – Fr. Kevin

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm by Linda Witkowski

Respectfully submitted by Christine Blackwood