

St Alphonus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 9th, 2025

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: How did you pray as a child? How/where/when do you pray today? How has your prayer practices changed over the years? Council members took 5-10 minutes to discuss.

Meeting called to order at 6:27 pm by Linda Witkowski

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
2. **Approval of December 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes** – Kathy Monacelli motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Camille Nicolai, none opposed, motion passed.
3. **Guest Presenter:** Francis Zelinka, Director of Music & Liturgy discussed the following:
 - a. **Bell Choir:** The bells are being refurbished in PA after roughly 40 years of use. The \$5k expense (much of which is specialty shipping costs) is being covered by donations. It is expected they will be returned before Easter.
 - b. **Choirs:** Adult choirs have 30-35 participants, and Francis hopes to grow that number. We were fortunate to have trombone players at the Christmas Mass and hope to have again for Easter Mass. The children's choir has roughly 22 participants and they hope to do some bells at Easter. They also have some additional participants and some who play instruments at the all-school Masses.
 - c. **Liturgy:** We continue to need more ushers, however we are well staffed with lectors and eucharistic ministers. We can always use more cantors. The greeter service will be overseen by the Hands and Hearts committee going forward.
 - d. **Goals for 2025 and beyond:** Growing the ministries and working on ways to get more parishioners involved. Also, Francis noted that the hymnals are getting worn and sees a 3–5-year remaining life.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Saturday night hospitality:** After a two-month trial period, with no complaints or comments regarding the lack of social time it was put to a vote to officially end the hospitality offering after the Saturday Mass on Name Tag Weekends. Camille Nicolai put forth the motion and it was seconded by Sandy Kramschuster, none opposed, motion passed.
 - b. **Common Meeting Night/ All-Committee Night Communication:** The council reviewed and finalized the communication to be sent to all committee heads regarding the new format for Common Meeting Night which will be referred to as All-Committee Night going forward. The communication will be sent out by Kathy Monacelli in the coming month. The next All-Committee Meeting will take place in May.
5. **New Business:** N/A
6. **Finance Council Update:** The December meeting will start the budget process. Looking back at November the parish had its best month with a few larger donations that served to make up for the shortfall from last year. We are ahead of plan at this point. As for the school, they will continue to tap into the endowment fund's income to help support the school into the 2026-2027 school year.
7. **Committee Updates:**
 - a. **School:** It was reported that Principal Taimi Parey is retiring, otherwise all is going well. The committee did elect officers with Alex George as head of the committee.
 - b. **Christian Formation:** Still in need of a Child and Family Minister. Looking ahead at the next budget, it will be necessary to raise some of the fees. Karen will be attending a workshop in February on Sacramental guidelines, hosted by the archdiocese.
 - c. **Liturgy:** The committee was very successful with Advent and Christmas. Committee topics last month included a discussion of regular Eucharistic Adoration for Lent and bringing the collection forward with the gifts. Please see Francis' guest speaker comments for additional Liturgy updates.

- d. **Human Concerns:** Respect Life Mass is 1/22/25 and is listed in the bulletin. Also Sr. Eileen and Sandy will contact sub-committee groups to get a meeting schedule and ask them to come to All-Committee Meeting to explain their efforts and spread their mission.
- e. **Hands and Heart (FKA Stewardship):** Nametag Weekend is next weekend 1/11 and 1/12, and they are looking for a couple additional volunteers. We will also offer hospitality with Finance as the host committee. Two new families joined St. Alphonsus in December 2024. All of which were welcomed with a phone call from Camille Nicolai.

8. Pastor's Report

- a. **School:** Taimi Parey will not continue as principal after this year. The position is now posted and so far, we have 4 strong candidates to interview.
- b. **Advent & Christmas Notes:** Reflecting back, both went well with the highest attendance since COVID. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the weekend Masses that followed were very low.
- c. **Archbishop Grob Installation:** To be held on January 14th with a 1:30pm livestream option.
- d. **Respect Life Mass:** We will have the honor of welcoming Archbishop Grob to our parish on January 22, 2025, for 6pm Mass.
- e. **Staffing:** Fr. Anthoni will be in India 1/29-2/15. He will also be finishing his assignment at St Alphonsus in June. Fr. Kevin is working with the Vicar of Clergy regarding a replacement Associate Pastor. He hopes to know more in the next couple of months. We are also still looking to hire a Child & Family Minister.
- f. **Security Grant:** Our security grant vendor proposal fair will happen on February 10th.

9. Closing Prayer – Fr. Anthoni

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm pm by Linda Witkowski

Respectfully submitted by Christine Blackwood