

St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 14th, 2024

Present: Fr. Kevin McManaman, Christine Blackwood, Mary Sue Taft, Mary Binder, Ben Rucka, Paul LaRosa, Elizabeth Hanson, Kathy Monacelli, Matthew Evrard, Maggie Ensing, Linda Witkowski

Not Present: Fr. Anthoni Jorge, Alan Close, Paulanne Ferrito

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

- 1) **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
- 2) **Approval of February 8th, 2024 Meeting Minutes** - Two minor spelling errors were noticed. A motion to approve the minutes with the corrections was made by Elizabeth Hanson. Seconded by Ben Rucka, none opposed, motion passes.
- 3) **Presenter: Kathy Jaeckels, Director of Finance** - Kathy began by stating how she started in 2004 as a bookkeeper and in 2012 moved to Director of Administrative Support. The majority of her focus at St. Alphonsus has always been on financials. Her current responsibilities include managing St. Alphonsus' Bank and Investment accounts for both restricted and unrestricted funds, managing deposits, paying bills, running payroll, overseeing benefits and working on the annual budget with the Finance Council. She also reports to the Archdiocese about our fiscal year and is part of a business manager group within the Archdiocese to communicate best practices. The help she would like from the Pastoral Council is feedback on her stewardship articles that give transparency to the parishioners of St. Alphonsus' spending.
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a) **Discussion of 8th and 9th chapter of Forming Intentional Disciples** - The next two chapters the Pastoral Council discussed were about the final threshold of conversion: Seeking and Intentional Discipleship. As in previous meetings the council had a lengthy discussion of this topic and started discussing how we could go about increasing the number of Intentional Disciples at St. Alphonsus. The idea of increasing the number of Intentional Disciples was started in chapter 9 but will continue in 10, 11 and 12 which the council will discuss next meeting.
- 5) **New Business**
 - a) **Preliminary discussion about open council positions** - Both Matthew Evrard and Elizabeth Hanson have reached the end of their three year terms so there will be two open positions on the Pastoral Council to fill.
 - b) **Common Meeting Night Discussion** - The main question regarding common meeting night was do we have it this week since the community room will be closed for the carpet installation. The council agreed that we should continue to have the meeting and Fr. Kevin will work with Sr. Eileen to determine a new location.
 - c) **Food and drink in the Church** - Fr. Kevin mentioned that he saw someone in church with a large Starbucks drink in church. He suggested placing a sign by the entrance to the church stating that food should not be brought into church. The Pastoral Council agreed that would be a good idea.
 - d) **Auction donation from Council** - The idea was suggested to the Pastoral Council that they donate a Solo Stove for the parish auction. After a short

discussion the Pastoral Council agreed that as a group we would be able to donate this item to the auction.

6) **Finance Council Report** - The Finance Council met with department leadership and reviewed the budgets they submitted.

7) **Committee Updates**

a) **School** - All the teachers will return next year. So far 94% of students will return as well. They have 11 new students and year over year attendance will be approximately the same. They are waiting on the final budget meeting with the Finance Council.

b) **Christian Formation** - No Update

c) **Liturgy/Worship** - Liturgy/Worship had their Holy Week meeting. They went over all the liturgy guides for Holy Week and addressed any special needs. Fr. Kevin is still working on volunteers for the feet washing on Holy Thursday.

d) **Human Concerns** - No Update.

e) **Stewardship** - The Stewardship Committee is working on getting an updated welcome packet for new parishioners.

8) **Pastor's Report** - Fr. Kevin started by stating that a large part of the budget meeting was focused on the school. From that meeting the school has a plan in place for next year that was shared with the teachers yesterday. This plan will be shared with the School Advisory Committee next, the parents second and the Pastoral Council next meeting. Fr. Kevin reiterated that the enrollment for the school is looking good. Next he shared that Symphony Advancement, a consulting firm, will be working with St. Alphonsus on obtaining a FEMA Security Grant. He stated that on March 17th the 9:00 am mass will have a Scrutiny for the catechumens. After Easter the sacrament season will begin: April 14th and 28th will be First Communion, May 4th will be Confirmation, three weddings will occur, and funerals have continued with at least one a week. Fr. Kevin ended with informing the council that in the last week of April he will be attending a spiritual training class and then the next week will be the priest assembly.

9) **Closing Prayer** - Fr. Kevin

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 by Linda Witkowski.

Respectfully submitted Matthew Evrard