

# St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

**Thursday November 14, 2024**

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

Not Present: Fr. Anthony Jeorge, and Camille Nicolai

Guests: Matt Evrard, Sr. Eileen Kazmierowicz

Gathering and get-to-know each other questions: Do you own a rosary? Do you have a favorite one? When did you use it last?

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

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin McManaman
2. **Approval of October 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes** – Maggie Ensing motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Sandy Kramschuster, none opposed, motion passes.
3. **Guest Presenter:** Matt Evrard: Director of Ministerial Support, gave an update on his support of our parish administration. These duties include:
  - a. **Parish and School Website Updates**
  - b. **Facilities Audit/Campus Security**
  - c. **Phone System Updates**
  - d. **Facebook Updates and Email Blasts**
  - e. **Google Calendar Updates**
  - f. **Special Events and Misc. Tasks as Assigned by Fr. Kevin:**
    - i. **Grand Raffle:** Unfortunately, only 799 tickets were sold of the 1087 needed to proceed with the raffle. Gratefully, a significant number of tickets sold have resulted in donations back to the church vs. refunds. Matt is working on sending letters out to those that donated and issuing checks for any refunds. Roughly \$25,000 was raised by this event.
    - ii. **Annual Appeal:** Currently recording pledges as they are returned by parishioners.
    - iii. **Parish Professional Photo Directory:** Researched the viability, pricing and logistics of creating an updated parish photo directory. Fr. Kevin indicated that this topic received an unenthusiastic response from the Parish staff with prior efforts not resulting in a strong percentage of parishioner's participation. The consensus was that the real need is for a complete, up-to-date parish database

and that the necessary manpower and expense would be better spent upgrading our outdated system. Art Hokanson motioned that we shelf the photo book project and revisit it in a year while we focus a new Parish database system. Harold (Jim) Anderson seconded the motion and with no opposition, the motion was passed.

4. **Guest Presenter: Sr. Eileen Kazmierowicz** gave a brief overview of the four-decade history of Common Meeting Night. This meeting was designed for all standing committee's membership to come together to pray, inform and socialize. Some challenges exist today in that a couple committees do not meet on that same night and time, therefore they have not been present for Common Meeting Night. Fr. Kevin is looking for full engagement if the Common Meeting Night is to continue. Sr. Eileen therefore posed a few options:
- a. **Leave as-is** - No change to the current format.
  - b. **Eliminate** – Common Meeting Night would cease to meet monthly and Parish Council liaisons would be responsible to bring committee information back to the Council. Other committee members would not have to opportunity to hear directly from other standing committees as to their needs, agendas, progress and mission success.
  - c. **Compromise** – Meeting three times per year, with mandatory participation and under the same format as we currently operate in.

Fr. Kevin circled the room for input as to what each council member thought of the options proposed. A few felt that the meetings were not effective and should be eliminated, a few that thought that a compromise with some modifications to Sr. Eileen's example would be the appropriate, but no one suggested leaving the meetings as-is. Fr. Kevin envisions having an increased prayer and reflection component, include some social and networking time between committees, and include the Pastor's report as we do today. He suggested a fall in-service meeting, a December meeting and holiday social, and a late-spring meeting, prior to summer when some committees do not regularly meet. Fr. Kevin's expectation is that ALL standing committees will meet AFTER the Common Meeting Night agenda on these three dates and that attendance is mandatory.

Information about this will be disseminated at the November Common Meeting Night, and that this December Common Meeting Nights will continue as we have in the past. New schedule and format to begin in 2025.

5. **Old Business:**

- a. **Parish Council Member's photo's:** This is now complete
- b. **Google Drive/Access Issues:** No one is asking for additional assistance.

- c. **Hospitality/Name Tag Weekend:** November went well with high engagement and Sign-Up Genius was effective for volunteers.
- d. **Parish Council Congress Sharing:** Linda attended this event at St. Mary's Hales Corners and found it interesting and helpful.
- e. **Common Meeting Night:** See above - Guest Presenter Sr. Eileen Kazmierowicz
- f. **Parish Photo Book:** See above – Guest Presenter Matt Evrard

## 6. New Business:

- a. **Deanery Meeting Report:** Kathy Monacelli and Christine Blackwood attended the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting at St Gregory the Great Parish. St Alphonsus is part of the Southwest District of parishes, and we meet with representatives from roughly 10 parishes. The exchange was very positive with each parish explaining areas of momentum and accomplishments they are experiencing regarding evangelization within their parish. Each talked about increased small group ministry, community building, parish and school challenges and growth.
- b. **LOA Grant review:** Sr. Eileen submitted a LOA Charitable Fund Update and the current distribution of the \$25,000 one-time funding. There are currently 3 recipients granted a total of \$10,500: Beyond Beauty for Survivors, Fabric Purchase Project and Street Angles Mobile Shower. Two new requests were made:
  - i. \$5,000 for Divine Intervention to the Homeless @ Tippecanoe Church. This is an overnight homeless shelter with no outside funding. They need a new stove, blinds and solar shades for 15 windows. They serve up to 25 adults at a time.
  - ii. \$3,000 for A Doll Like Me. This is an individually run non-profit charity in New Berlin that provides hand sewn dolls reflecting the physical disability of each unique child. This charity receives no public funding and has been providing services since 2015. This donation grant will provide the resources for 30 dolls.

Harold (Jim) Anderson moved to approve both requests and Art Hokanson seconded the motion with no one in opposition, the motion was passed.

**7. Finance Council Update:** Alan Close, Trustee-Treasurer reported no new info to report, with the next committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 11/17.

## 8. Committee Updates:

- a. **School:** Jim Anderson reported that they were given a presentation on the School Choice Program with further discussion to follow. They also have not yet voted in officers for their committee.

- b. **Christian Formation:** The following notes were provided last month from the 10/15 committee meeting. No updates since:
- 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:**
- i. Changes will be made to having the collection at mass being brought to the alter with the gifts. Details to come.
  - ii. Eucharistic Adoration and Worship Night is being considered, but not yet defined.
  - iii. Advent wreath lighting sign up available for families via Sign Up Genius and in person after mass

- iv. New Call to worship prayer is under discussion for the new season with theme of hope tied to Advent
- v. The Liturgy Committee is the hospitality sponsor for November
- d. **Human Concerns:**
  - i. Dementia Support Group, Community Meal Program and Emergency Food Pantry are all going well.
  - ii. Care for Creation is hosting the movie “Kiss the Ground” on 12/3 in the Community Room
  - iii. Respect Life opportunities and information is being researched with Deacon Jim Matthias from the Archdiocese.
- e. **Hands & Hearts/Stewardship:** There were four new members who joined the Parish in October. Each received welcome emails and phone calls within the first two weeks of November. The committee also arranged for the November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Name Tag Weekend.

## 9. Pastor’s Report

- a. **Fr. Anthony:** Has been out for the last two weeks. Currently, he is spending time studying Parish Councils. The US is considerably more advanced in this area than the rest of the world. Ian Close will speak before all Masses and annual appeal letters will be sent out soon.
- b. **Confirmation and Reconciliation:** Retreat for confirmation candidates recently took place and all went very well. The reconciliation retreat is this coming weekend and the sacrament will take place 12/7.
- c. **All Saints and All Souls Masses went well.**
- d. **RCIA: Older children will be getting baptized at Easter**
- e. **Rescue Project:** Fr Kevin indicated that the small group leadership recruitment is going well with 12 moving forward to lead the Parish Mission.
- f. **Coffee with Fr. Kevin will resume in January**

## 10. Closing Prayer – Fr. Kevin

Meeting adjourned at 8:26PM pm by Linda Witkowski

Respectfully submitted by Christine Blackwood