

St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 12, 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, Mike Wusterbarth

Not Present: N/A

Gathering and get-to-know each other questions: Did you celebrate St. Nick as a child? If so, what are your childhood memories of St. Nick coming to your home? Council members took 5-10 minutes to discuss.

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

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
2. **Approval of November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes** – Kathy Monacelli motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Maggie Ensing, none opposed, motion passed.
3. **Guest Presenter:** Sr. Eileen Kazmierowicz our Pastoral Associate, gave an update on the many forms of leadership and support she is involved with for the benefit of our parishioners, parish and community. Her efforts include but are not limited to: RCIA which is now known as OCIA, covering various forms of adult faith formation, education and development. She is a connector for various ministries and support missions such as the St. Al's Mom's Group, the St Joseph, Dementia and Grief Support Groups, the St. Al's Women's Group as well as works of charity like the Giving Tree at Christmas, Human Concerns and Care for Creation. Sr. Eileen also shared her December Pastoral Sharing's newsletter with the group.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Common Meeting Night**
 - i. **Goal:** To have all parish committee members gathered collectively to build community, pray and share information. The expectation is that all committee members are in attendance and that the individual committees would then meet afterwards without exception.
 - ii. **Schedule:** The meetings will take place 3 times per year in addition to Sr. Eileen's in-service formation meeting each September. These meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of October, January and May each year.
 - iii. **Format:** The Common Meeting Night will be comprised of 4 parts:
 1. **Prayer Time:** We will begin with prayer lead by the designated meeting host. The host for each meeting will rotate between core committees.
 2. **Social Time:** A designated time for personal interaction with refreshments supplied by the meeting hosts.
 3. **Information Sharing:** Each committee will take time to inform and update the attendees about their specific ministry. The committee updates are to be forward looking emphasizing what the committee is working towards as opposed to what has already happened. Following the committee updates, the Pastor will have time for his commentary.
 4. **Individual Committee Meeting:** All attendees will break into their individual committee meetings for that month.
 - iv. **Communication:** Formal communication of these changes and expectations will be sent out to all committee heads in January.
5. **New Business:** N/A
6. **Finance Council Update:** The committee notes reported that budget preparation will begin with their December committee meeting and individual departments preliminary meetings are to begin in February. As for the Annual Appeal, 430 pledge cards were received thru 11/19/24. This was the result of a 2,250 initial mailer and a 1,900 second mailer. A final mailer will go out in December. The average pledge amount is showing an increase over last year.
7. **Committee Updates:**
 - a. **School:** It was reported that all is going well, and the committee still did not elect officers.

- b. **Christian Formation:** Since this committee is currently made up of only three representatives, the committee members have decided to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30am (except October, January and May when the Common Meeting is held). Retreats were well attended by the confirmation candidates with only one doubtful to finish the program. There are currently 20 families in the Family Program.
- c. **Liturgy/Worship:** The committee has been very busy with Advent and preparation for Christmas Masses. The draft of the Advent call to worship was reviewed. Other notable dates and happenings: Anointing of the Sick for December 22/23rd, December 7th Reconciliation Service at St Mary's, Tuesday night Vespers at 6pm, Monday December 9th is the Immaculate Conception. Due to a low number of ushers, it appears that bringing the gift offering to the altar will not be feasible at this time. They are considering a regular Eucharistic Adoration for Lent. The liturgical ministries are largely doing well; however, we need more ushers and sometimes short on sacristans. They recently trained 10 new Eucharistic Ministers.
- d. **Human Concerns:**
 - i. The Giving Tree Gift Drive continues thru 12/15 with very positive results thus far.
 - ii. Care for Creation hosted the movie Kiss the Ground on 12/3 with good feedback.
 - iii. The Respect Life Rose Sale held on Mother's Day weekend needs one or two people to head up the sale. A notice will be placed in the February bulletin.
 - iv. Upcoming Life Events will be forwarded by Deacon Jim Matthias from the Archdiocese for inclusion in the bulletin.
- e. **Hands and Heart (FKA Stewardship):** Six new families joined St. Alphonsus in November 2024. All of which were welcomed with a phone call from Camille Nicolai. The committee is also continuing to work on job descriptions for the volunteer committee opportunities available at the parish. Lastly, Name Tag Weekend was held December 7th and 8th with Liturgy committee hosting hospitality.

8. Pastor's Report

- a. **Busy Times:** Unfortunately, funerals have been plentiful with three this week and two scheduled for the following week, continuing the high trend in 2024. Advent season is also a very busy time for our pastoral staff. The focus going forward will shift to sacraments with upcoming Reconciliation opportunities and Anointing of the Sick scheduled for next weekend. The school will celebrate Las Posadas and then enjoy a two-week Christmas break. There will also be an expectant mother blessing in January.
- b. **Christmas Mass Notes:** We need people to sign up for Mass participation. Also, the overflow room will be set up but not opened until the church is full.
- c. **Archbishop Grob Installation:** This will be held on January 14th and Fr. Kevin and Sr. Eileen will attend.
- d. **Respect Life Mass:** We will have the honor of welcoming Archbishop Grob to our parish on January 22, 2024, for this Mass held at 6pm.
- e. **Other:** Our security grant vendor proposal and selection process will happen in the new year. Lastly, after many attempts to collect delinquent tuition payments from the 2022-2023 school year, we were successful in small claims court. This was a last resort effort to settle.

9. Closing Prayer – Fr. Kevin

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm pm by Linda Witkowski

Respectfully submitted by Christine Blackwood