St. Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Present: Fr. Kevin McManaman, Fr. Kevin Tanel, Julie Bates, Christine Blackwood, Alan Close, Christopher Eisold, Nadine Flemming, Art Hokanson, Sandy Kramschuster, Mary Newell, Camille Nicolai, Mary Sue Taft, and Mike Wusterbarth

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Christine Blackwood

1. **Opening Prayer – Fr. Kevin McManaman**
2. **Approval of the September 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes** – Mary Newell motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Art Hokanson. None opposed, the motion was passed.
3. **Guest Presenter – N/A**
4. **October Committee Updates**

School

- The school enrollment has increased from 2025-26 school year by twenty-three students. The total enrollment is 156 students.
- Thirteen of the twenty School Choice positions have been awarded. Nine of these students were existing students and four are new students. The committee discussed the reduced stress on the Angel Fund (Tuition Assistance Fund) due to many of the Choice students having previously been receiving Angel Funds. The Choice payments are approximately $11,300 per student for the school year.
- The growth plan for the school has been to attract the 3K and 4K students and have them remain students into 5K and up. The plan appears to be working. We now need to formalize a long-term growth program which will incorporate the maximum number of students we want to enroll. The plan will include how many classes and the number of students per grade. The school principal, Megan Sagat, and the school's two directors will meet with members of the School Advisory Committee and develop a suggested plan. There are numerous variables which will need to be considered.
- Megan Sagat was grateful for the additional funds raised at the School Paddle Raise at the 2026 Auction. She said that it assisted in not having to trim at least one more position.
- Two new people attended the School Advisory Committee meeting with an interest in joining the committee. Dawn Eisold will review the committee membership list to see who should be rotating off the committee.

Christian Formation

- Christian Formation classes have met twice so far for the 2026-27 school year.

Liturgy/Worship

- The Sacristans will now ask Mass attendees to bring the gifts up to the altar instead of the Greeters.
- The committee discussed the noise level in church before Mass. To resolve this issue, the doors to the church will be closed, music will be played, and signage will be put up to remind church attendees not to visit inside of the church.

Human Concerns

- All the groups are going well. Some of the sub committees will be participating in the November 14th/15th St. Alphonsus Ministry Fair.
- Emergency Food Pantry – They are currently serving ninety-three households. The volunteers log a total of 160 volunteer hours per month. They are grateful for everyone's help and donations. The Lions Club will be donating turkeys this year for Thanksgiving. It would be appreciated if other groups would like to help with side items. The Emergency Food Pantry is anticipating offers to help from additional groups in December. Groups are encouraged to contact the Food Pantry as early as possible to schedule activities, so they do not overlap.
- Care for Creation – They have upcoming events in 2027. They will be hosting Hospitality Sunday in March 2027. Committee members will be available to answer questions, distribute educational material or sign-up new members. The Scout Lake Spring Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2027.

Hands and Hearts

- The committee is sponsoring the Live Smart, Age Strong Nutrition Presentation on Thursday, October 8th from 9am-10:30am.

Finance Council

- The Council spent most of the meeting discussing the June 2026 year-end financials.
- This year, a second set of school financials had to be prepared for the School Choice Program.

- Notwithstanding slightly reduced parish income, we ended with a $41,000 surplus due to budget management.
- The 2026-27 Budget is $2.9 million.

5. Pastor's Report

- The Annual Report was emailed to parishioners in the first week of October 2026.
- Staff are going through training for The Catechism of the Good Shepherd. This is a Montessori-based religious formation curriculum. The Catechism of the Good Shepherd will begin with the school K3, K4, and K5 grades in the 2027-28 school year. It will begin for the Christian Formation students in the 2028-29 school year. Grants will be applied for to assist with the cost of the Catechism of the Good Shepherd.
- There will be a letter included in the bulletin the weekend of October 3rd/4th from Archbishop Grob to promote against assisted suicide. There is a link to the video Love Until Last Breath on the St. Alphonsus website. The video illustrates the Church's teaching on human dignity and end-of-life decisions.
- Father Kevin attended the Archdiocese Fall meetings. One of the topics was the State of Catholic Schools. There are 101 Catholic Schools in the Milwaukee Archdiocese, and 27,058 students are enrolled in the 101 schools. The speaker stated we need effective marketing and an admission plan. We need to collaborate with other parishes and not be competitors. Another topic that was discussed was that priests should be encouraged to live at the Church Rectories whenever possible.
- Interviews are being held for the vacant office receptionist position.
- The Annual Appeal will be October 18th.

6. Other Discussion and information items

- Leadership In-Service September 22nd: Feedback – the Pastoral Council members found the training to be useful.
- The All-Committee Meeting will be on October 20th. Father Kevin Tanel will lead the prayer service in the Chapel. Christine Blackwood will bring the beverages, and Camille Nicolai will bring the snack.
- **Combined Collections** – was held once per quarter in the past. Loose cash/coin would go to the designated charity. Approximately $1000.00 per weekend is collected in the baskets. Father Kevin McManaman will speak with the staff about suggestions for charities for the special collections.
- **Housekeeping –** please remember to email Christine Blackwood if you are not going to attend a Pastoral Council Meeting. **Safeguard Training** – Julie Bates stated she received the email regarding attending Safeguard Training. Archdiocese Pastoral Council Training will be held virtually on Thursday, October 8th and in-person on Wednesday, October 28th.

7. Closing Prayer – Fr. Kevin McManaman

Art Hokanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Nadine Flemming. None opposed, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned by Christine Blackwood at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Camille Nicolai