

St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 13th, 2025

Present: Fr. Kevin McManaman, Harold (Jim) Anderson, Christine Blackwood, Alan Close, Maggie Ensing, Art Hokanson, Sandy Kramschuster, Kathy Monacelli, Camille Nicolai, Linda Witkowski

Not Present: Fr. Anthoni George, Mary Sue Taft, Mike Wusterbarth

Gathering and get-to-know each other questions: What did Lent mean to you as a child and how is that different than today? 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 January 9th, 2025, Meeting Minutes** – Camille Nicolai motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Sandy Kramschuster, none opposed, motion passed.
3. **Guest Presenter:** Karen Farrell, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry discussed the following:
 - a. **Faith Formation Roadmap:**
 - i. **Rescue Project – Post-Mission preparation:** Karen explained her involvement in preparing small group leaders for Parish Mission study and discussion groups centered around The Rescue Project series of videos. These small groups will meet weekly during Lent.
 - ii. **Textbook Selection Process:** Plans are underway to update the K5-5th grade textbooks in the coming year. This will involve an assessment of the current spiritual needs of our children and the available curricula to choose from. A committee of eight, representing Parents, Catechists and Parishioners will be involved in the selection process.
 - iii. **Vacation Bible Camp:** We will be partnering with St Martin of Tours again this summer. The program is tentatively starting the week of July 14th and it will be half days only.
 - iv. **Sacramental Prep:** The new curricula will allow for more parental involvement in the Sacramental Prep of our students. “The hope is to evangelize parents and so bring the family into faith”.
 - v. **Middle School, High School and Confirmation Updates:** Karen is looking to incorporate Days of Reflection/Retreat for 9th and 10th grade and eventually extend to the middle schoolers. The age for Confirmation is also being reviewed, with consideration that having earlier than 11th grade could be more impactful. More to come on this discussion by WI Bishops.
 - b. **Associate Director for Child Formation Search:** We have yet to be able to hire a candidate, therefore the decision was made to change this position to part-time.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **All-Committee Night Communication:** All committees have been informed of the changes to what was formerly called Common Meeting Night.
 - b. **March Meeting Date Change:** Since Fr. Kevin will be unavailable for the next PC meeting on 3/13/25, it is agreed that the meeting will be moved to 3/20/25. Most members noted their availability for the revised date except for the Secretary Christine Blackwood. Thankfully, Kathy Monacelli agreed to handle the March minutes in her absence.
5. **New Business:** N/A
6. **Finance Council Update:** The start of the budget process is underway. Collections are up \$70k verses this time last year and hopefully it will continue. That said, the school is running at a \$90k loss. The Endowment fund interest income has been utilized in the past and will continue into the 26-27 school year. All departments will start meeting with the Finance Committee in March to present their budget proposal.
7. **Committee Updates:**
 - a. **School:** The search for a new Principal continues.
 - b. **Christian Formation:** Please see Guest Presenter’s notes above for updates.
 - c. **Liturgy:** The Lenten theme is HOPE, which is also the theme of the Parish Mission. Planning for the Parish Mission and Lent is underway. The Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Music Ministry are all doing well, however can always use more Ushers.

- d. **Human Concerns:** This committee notified the following ministries about Common Meeting Night N/K/A All Committee Night, changes to the meeting schedule: Dementia Support Group, Community Meals Program, Emergency Food Pantry and Care for Creation. Each ministry is invited to attend and share their ministry yet are not required to do so. The Respect Life Mass was 1/22/25 and was well attended. Finally, the Rose Sale will happen on Mother's Day weekend. A reminder will be listed in the bulletin.
- e. **Hearts and Hands:** Two new families joined St Al's this past month. Ongoing volunteer opportunities will be listed in the bulletin. The Greeting Ministry is now a sub-committee of the Hearts and Hands Committee and Camille Nicolai is the contact person for the Greeting Ministry. The Hearts and Hands Committee also talked about hosting a June 8th welcome reception for new members and they are also looking at outreach to shut-ins.

8. Pastor's Report

- a. **School:** An offer to a candidate for the open Principal position is being presented next week. Open house went really well, and registrations are strong such that a second K3 classroom is being considered.
- b. **Staffing:** John Campbell, Facilities Director will be leaving his position, and the Associate Director of Formation for Children is still vacant. Fr. Kevin will be on vacation 3/9-3/18. Fr. Anthony will be finishing his assignment at St Alphonsus in June. Unfortunately, we are not yet on the list for a replacement Associate Pastor.
- c. **Budget:** The rising costs of insurance and utilities will make this next budget a challenge.
- d. **Parish Mission:** We will be providing childcare for parents that would like to attend The Parish Mission. There will also be small group meeting signup for the weeks following the mission.
- e. **Arch News:** Priest Council and Deanery Meetings are on hold as Archbishop Grob considers the needs of the diocese.

9. Closing Prayer – Fr. Kevin

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm by Linda Witkowski
Respectfully submitted by Christine Blackwood