

# St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

## Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

Not Present: Maggie Ensing

Guests: Sr. Eileen, Nadine Flemming and Mary Newell

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

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
2. **Approval of April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting Minutes** – Camile Nicolai motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Sandy Kramschuster, none opposed, motion passed.
3. **Discernment of Potential New Pastoral Council Members:** Lead by Sr. Eileen, we began with the Prayer of the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Linda Witkowski confirmed that there are two open positions. One replaces herself and one replaces Ben Rucka who resigned from the council earlier in the year. Sandy Kramschuster, Art Hokanson and Jim Anderson all agreed to serve a new three-year term. The council voted and unanimously agreed to retain them for a new three-year term.
  - b. Parish Leadership Profiles/Discernment: Nadine Flemming and Mary Newell were introduced to the committee as potential new members. They each shared individually a little bit about themselves, their history with the Parish, what they had to offer and their motivation for wanting to serve this ministry. This was followed up with a question/answer session with all council members. Then the candidates were excused so that current members could interact and reflect on the candidates.
  - c. Vote and Acceptance: Both candidates received a unanimous vote in favor of them joining Council and Fr. Kevin officially asked them individually for their commitment to serve. Both candidates accepted the invitation to serve as new three-year members of Pastoral Council. Congratulations to Mary and Nadine.
  - d. Sr. Eileen then closed Discernment with a word of thanks and a reminder that new candidates are invited to the 6/12/25 transition meeting as guests, with their respective terms beginning thereafter.
4. **Old Business:**
  - a. **Parish Adjustments to One Priest:** ‘Help-outs’ priests are being sought out to aid Fr. Kevin with masses etc. Deacon Ted has also agreed to step in on occasion when scheduling conflicts arise.
  - b. **All-Committee Meeting:** Our first official All-Committee Meeting (F/K/A Common Meeting Night) will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The format will include 20-30 minutes in the chapel for prayer, followed by 10 minutes for social time and refreshments. The next 20-30 minutes will be designated for Fr. Kevin’s comments and committee reports. The meeting is scheduled to end at 7:30 for the committee meetings that follow.
  - c. **Hospitality:** June Hospitality takes place after all masses (including Saturday) on the weekend of June 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>. This month’s gathering will be a celebration of Fr. Anthoni as he performs his final masses at St Alphonsus.
5. **New Business:**
  - a. September Leadership In-Service: This will take place in September as the new parish fiscal year begins. Sr. Eileen does the planning. This may be in lieu of a September PC meeting. More to come.
  - b. **Appendix to Bylaws:** Fr. Kevin asked that an appendix to the Bylaws be drafted to clarify that the Council membership includes 10-12 adult parish members and up to 2 youth representatives “as optional members”. The motion was put forward by Art Hokanson to restate the Bylaws to note that there may be up to 2 youth members, but it is optional. Mike Wusterbarth seconded the motion and all agreed so the motion was passed. Linda will ask Sr. Eileen to draft so we can present to the Arch.
  - c. **Proposed reorganization of PC meeting flow and order:** With a greater priority on the committee reports, it was proposed that we follow the below format:
    - i. Opening Prayer
    - ii. Approval of Prior Month’s Minutes
    - iii. Guest Speakers (if applicable)

- iv. Liaison Committee Reports
- v. Pastor's Report
- vi. Discussion of Old/New Business along with open time for "what are you hearing?"
- vii. Closing Prayer
- d. **Strategic Planning:** Fr Kevin will explore and evaluate the need for utilizing a strategic, long term planning committee.
- e. **Proposed Goal of Next Year:** Greater focus on Human Concerns and/or Pastoral Care Committees
- 6. **Finance Council Update:** The 2025-26 Budget was discussed last month with optimism since this year is ending strong. The new committee focus is on the year-end financial statement as it will need to be reconfigured to meet the Arch's requirements.
- 7. **Committee Updates:**
  - a. **School:** It was suggested that the School Committee chairperson come to speak at an upcoming PC committee meeting or All-Committee meeting next year. It was further suggested that they come with the principal.
  - b. **Christian Formation:** Proudly announced the hire of Rachel Kroes as the Assistant Director of Child Formation. Also, that 60 young adults were confirmed and 34 second graders received their first holy communion in May. This summer we will co-host vacation bible camp with St. Martin of Tours and need volunteers. As for the fall formation classes, the schedule has not been confirmed yet.
  - c. **Liturgy:** No new business.
  - d. **Human Concerns:** Rose Sale will be held this weekend, which is also Mother's Day.
  - e. **Hearts and Hands:** Two new members/families joined St Al's this past month. Ongoing volunteer opportunities will be listed in the bulletin. We will be partnering with the School Committee to staff a booth at the Downtown Greendale Market this summer. There are currently 17 homebound parishioners that the committee has made calls to. The committee also discussed additional ideas, such as: "Name that Tune" night, a Children's bulletin, Kids table in the community room, and more ways to inform about the Saints.
- 8. **Pastor's Report**
  - a. **New Pope Named Today:** Fr Kevin gave his reflection
  - b. **Holy Week Attendance:** Fr. Kevin was happy with the attendance as it was strong at all masses and volunteers were plentiful.
  - c. **Rescue Project:** Overall, the mission and Rescue Project involvement and feedback went very well.
  - d. **Spring Priest Assembly:** This was held last week and Fr Kevin reflected on it being a very positive experience.
  - e. **Sacrament Season:** Has come and gone for confirmation and first communion.
  - f. **Server training:** Fr. Kevin will be hosting training soon for 4<sup>th</sup> graders or older, before Fr. Anthoni leaves.
  - g. **Next Week** – Fr Kevin will be attending Spiritual Director-in-training in Mundelein
  - h. **Prayers are needed:** Fr. Kevin asked for our prayers for Deacon Matthew as his mother is not doing well.
- 9. **Closing Prayer** – Fr. Kevin

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm by Linda Witkowski  
 Respectfully submitted by Christine Blackwood