

St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 10th, 2025

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

Not Present: N/A

Gathering and get-to-know each other question: What do you remember about the day you celebrated your First Holy Communion? Council members took 5-10 minutes to discuss.

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by Linda Witkowski

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
2. **Approval of March 20th, 2025, Meeting Minutes** – Art Hokanson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Camille Nicolai, none opposed, motion passed.
3. **Guest Presenter: None**
4. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Rescue Project:** The consensus of those who attended enjoyed the new perspectives of Fr. John Riccardo's recorded talks and the dialog within the small groups that followed. The small groups were comprised of roughly 70 participants of which about 30 were scheduled to attend the Saturday retreat to be held on 4/12/25.
 - b. **Parish Adjustment to One Priest:** Fr. Kevin's pastoral letter explaining the changes was emailed at the beginning of the month and hard copies were made available upon request. Scheduling challenges will exist especially when things come up on short notice. Fr. Kevin indicated that he has received several supportive emails sent to him from parishioners.
 - c. **All-Committee Night:** Just a reminder that this meeting will be held 5/20/2025 at 6:30pm in the community room.
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Auction:** This year the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee are doing a joint donation to the auction. Each member is asked to donate \$35 for the purchase of an outdoor movie projector that the auction committee requested.
 - b. **Monthly PC Agenda:** Going forward we will not be publishing the monthly Pastoral Council meeting agenda in the bulletin, but we will continue to post the monthly meeting minutes on the parish website.
 - c. **Pastoral Council Open Position Nominations:** The sub-committee (comprised of Sr. Eileen, Linda Witkowski, Christine Blackwood, and Kathy Monacelli) gave an update on the 1-2 open positions available. A youth position is also available. There are currently 2 nominees that will attend a training and discernment meeting on 5/1/2025. The appointment vote will be held at our May 8th PC meeting.
 - d. **Hospitality:** On June 14th and 15th, we will host a farewell to Fr. Anthoni, thanking him for his service and wishing him well with his future assignment. Unlike other hospitality weekends, we will include the Saturday evening mass for this special hospitality celebration.
 - e. **Church Environment:** Maggie Ensing posed the possibility of adding kneelers to the church. Her heartfelt presentation was in support of adding for the sake of reverence, devotion to prayer and in teaching our youth. Some PC members explained the history regarding the removal of kneelers in the church. The discussion was passionate and informative with many members agreeing that the kneelers are missed but understand that they may be cost prohibitive and less practical due to the sloping structure of the church. Because we do not have recent cost estimates, Maggie volunteered and motioned for her to explore the cost of acquiring and installing kneelers and Art Hokanson seconded the motion. All members were in favor, and none opposed, the motion passed.
6. **Finance Council Update:** The 2025-26 Budget was approved at the 4/8 Finance Council meeting. It was also noted that weekly envelope collection was up in 2024-25 and there was no Grand Raffle. The 2025-26 budget is projected to generate sufficient revenue to cover expenses with a surplus of \$16,498.

7. Committee Updates:

- a. **School:** The school is doing well and have been enjoying Fr. Kevin's visibility in the school. Concerns were expressed whether this will be affected by the elimination of the Associate Pastor position.
- b. **Christian Formation:** April 12th the Confirmation students will participate in a food pantry field trip. Also, it was confirmed that the summer school program will happen again this year with more details to follow.
- c. **Liturgy:** Focus was on the Easter Triduum, and it was reported that all service needs are covered.
- d. **Human Concerns:** Rose Sale will be held Mother's Day weekend May 10th and 11th and we need volunteers.
- e. **Hearts and Hands:** Five new members/families joined St Al's this past month. Ongoing volunteer opportunities will be listed in the bulletin.

8. Pastor's Report

- a. **Holy Week Preparation:** Much of Fr. Kevin's time is consumed with the planning and preparing for Holy week. Confessions at St. Mathias were very busy during the sessions that Fr. Kevin attended and reconciliation for the school was held today. Camille, Alan and Sandy volunteered for feet washing on Holy Thursday.
- b. **School/Youth Formation:** Confirmation will be held on April 30th and First Holy Communion will be the weekend of May 2nd. Archbishop Grob came to the school upon Fr. Kevin's invitation as the "Mystery Reader" for the younger students and stayed for a tour of the school. Fr. Kevin noted that the school is doing well with a very positive spirit.
- c. **Staffing:** There is a new interview scheduled for this week for the Facilities Director position. The Custodian position has been filled, and we continue to search for the Associate Director for Child Formation.
- d. **Community Room Meals:** Fr. Kevin would prefer meals served in the community room on Fridays during Lent to be meatless. He is also exploring the possibility of having the school's lunch program director provide catering for the community room events such as funerals etc.
- e. **Schedule Update:** Fr. Kevin will be out May 5th-7th at the Annual Priest Assembly and then in Mundelein IL for additional training the following week.

9. Closing Prayer – Fr. Kevin

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm by Linda Witkowski
Respectfully submitted by Christine Blackwood