

# St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

**Thursday September 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, Ben Rucka, Mary Sue Taft

Not Present: Linda Witkowski, Mike Wusterbarth

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Kathy Monacelli

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
2. **Approval of June 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes** – Ben Rucka motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Camille Nicolai, none opposed, motion passes.
3. **Old Business**
  - a. **New Council Member** – Art Hokanson, appointed by Fr Kevin, will complete Paulanne Ferrito's final year of her three-year term.
  - b. **LOA projects** – Update on the progress of the kitchen rebuild at the orphanage in Uganda was made available for all to review via the parish website and Facebook page.
  - c. **Thank you to Hospitality Weekend hosts** – A thank you was extended to all the Pastoral Council members that helped during September's hospitality weekend.
  - d. **Fall Leadership In-Service** – The common meeting night for September 17<sup>th</sup> will include a presentation by parish member Janet Kloser. Parish leadership and committee members were encouraged to attend. Sr Eileen is looking for final RSVPs by September 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. **Safeguarding training** – Pastoral Council members are now 100% in compliance with the required safeguarding certification.
  - f. **Photo's** – September 27, 2024, is the make-up date for Pastoral Council members that are still in need of a professional photo for the parish website.
  - g. **Google Drive access/issues** – Matthew Evrard and Linda Witkowski will host a small group Google Drive training session for anyone looking for assistance. Google Drive is used for Pastoral Council communications.
  - h. **Name Tag Sunday** – The first Name Tag Sunday was held in conjunction with the September hospitality weekend. Consensus was positive with about 90% of parishioners participating. Fr Kevin noted that having a membership sign-up table at each hospitality weekend has resulted in an average of 2-3 new parish members per month. It was also noted that the Stewardship committee is looking for each hospitality host to provide a flyer with their

committee's information to have available on each table when hosting hospitality. This flyer will explain the committee's mission and how others could get involved in that committee.

#### **4. New Business**

- a. **Invite to Parish Councils Congress** – Fr. Kevin extended an invitation to attend the Parish Council Congress to be held on Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-Noon at St Mary's Parish, Hales Corners. This is an Archdiocese-wide presentation event which all Parish Council members are invited to participate.
- b. **Approval of any new LOA grants** – There were no new requests to approve
- c. **Common Meeting Night discussion** – There was a discussion to review the common meeting night format. Mary Sue Taft provided a brief history of the current format. The question was asked whether it is still effective or if a different format should be considered. Fr. Kevin suggested that either we continue full enforcement of the common committee meeting night, or we not have a common meeting night at all. He indicated he would discuss with Sr. Eileen. During this discussion, another topic surfaced as to the continuance of Hospitality at the 4:30pm masses. Low attendance was cited as the biggest concern. A motion was made by Camille Nicolai to suspend Hospitality at the 4:30pm masses for the next two months (October and November) and then review feedback afterwards. Art Hokanson seconded the motion, with only Ben Rucka opposing. The motion was passed to suspend Hospitality on Saturdays for the next two months.
- d. **Parish Mission and Evangelization and Discipleship Formation** – Fr. Kevin talked about a theory of the “Engine of Discipleship”, whereby discipleship grows slowly over time, one person at a time. The mission is to help “Seekers” become “Disciples” who become “Missionary Disciples” supporting a deeper relationship with the Lord. It begins with small group ministry often supporting “Seekers” who begin to form a life of discipleship, with daily habits, building their relationship with the Lord. Many of these “Disciples” then become a “Missionary Disciple” that go on to share their faith with others that become a “Seeker”, the cycle continues, and the faith grows. Fr. Kevin announced that this is our parish mission year, and we will have a guest speaker Rich Harter who will speak on our mission theme of “Jesus Our Hope for the Year”. Fr. Kevin will be working to install mission leadership prior to the mission dates. Attendees would become small group leaders and have the following traits: Faithful, Available, Compassionate/Contagious, Teachable.

SAVE THE DATES – Sunday 3/2, Monday 3/3 and Tuesday 3/4 (prior to Ash Wednesday)

5. **Finance Council** – Alan Close, Trustee-Treasurer reported that their September meeting focus was on first two months of the fiscal year. Alan indicated collections were up relative to last year, yet not at budget. He also reported that the YE 2023-2024 net loss of \$37,301 was a result of lower weekly envelope collections, however the loss would have been considerably worse if not for the expense controls that were put in place.
6. **Committee Updates** – There were no committee meetings held yet except for Stewardship. Camille Nicolai reported that they sent out welcome packets and will follow-up with emails and phone calls.
7. **Pastor's Report**
  - a. **Election** – Fr. Kevin reminded all that we must stay neutral regarding the election to maintain our tax-exempt status.
  - b. **Security Grant** – Fr. Kevin announced that we were awarded the Security Grant that we applied for covering all three buildings. Improvements such as a new generator, gates on the south lot, security doors and cameras are examples of what the grant would be used for.
  - c. **Parking Lot Issues** – We have experienced some issues with the parking lot and playground. Fr. Kevin indicated since it is private property it does not receive constant police surveillance. Fr. Kevin is looking to message via social media asking for community support.
  - d. **Other** – Fr Kevin indicated that Deacon Matthew Szymanski and Deacon Steven Boatwright will be preaching a couple times per month. Fr Kevin also noted that he will be on a spiritual retreat from October 13<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.
8. **Closing Prayer** – Fr. Anthoni

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm by Kathy Monacelli

Respectfully submitted by Christine Blackwood