

St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 11th, 2024

Present: Fr. Kevin McManaman, Fr. Anthoni Jeorge, Linda Witkowski, Kathy Monacelli, Christine Blackwood, Paul LaRosa, Ben Rucka, Maggie Ensing, Mary Binder, Alan Close, Elizabeth Hanson, Matthew Evrard.

Not Present: Mary Sue Taft, Paulanne Ferrito.

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

- 1) **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
- 2) **Approval of December 14th, 2023 Meeting Minutes** – One small spelling error was noticed. A motion to approve the minutes with the correction was made by Kathy Monacelli. Seconded by Elizabeth Hanson, none opposed, motion passes.
- 3) **Guest/Visitor Comments**
- 4) **Taimi Parey – School Principal** - Taimi started with a brief overview of school closure procedures due to the heavy snowfall in recent days. She then discussed the leadership team that has been in place since September. She stressed the importance of sharing that we have no intention of closing the school. She then explained that two positions, science mentor and counselor, funded by grants, are having the grant funding end this year and are looking into how to proceed. Next, she spoke about a Love One Another grant that they got from the Archdioceses to purchase new curriculum. She ended by speaking about the plans for the open house for Catholic Schools week.
- 5) **Old Business**
 - a) Discussion of fifth and sixth chapters of Forming Intentional Disciples – The pastoral council had an in-depth discussion on the fifth and sixth chapters of Forming Intentional Disciples. The discussion revolved around the first two thresholds of conversion: trust and curiosity.
 - b) Communication with ministries regarding politics – Matthew Evrard and Fr. Kevin had drafted a letter to be sent to the ministries regarding political apparel while serving the parish. The message was sent out to the ministries and received well.
 - c) Outreach Committee Replacements – Sister Eileen supplied an updated outreach recommendation with replacements for the two charities the pastoral council did not approve. A motion was made by Elizabeth Hanson to approve the replacements. Seconded by Mary Binder, none opposed, motion passes.
 - d) New Parishioner Onboarding – The pastoral council discussed ideas for new parishioner onboarding. Items discussed included if it should be one individual or a small group, figuring out a way to connect them to people, getting a commitment from the new member, finding out their interests, or “adopting” a family. It was also mentioned that Pat Kempen had been working on a welcome

packet in the past as well. The discussion ended with the idea of forming a small group to work on this and discussing it more at the next meeting.

- 6) **New Business** - There was no new business at this meeting.
- 7) **Committee Updates** – There were no committee updates as there was not a common meeting night in December.
- 8) **Finance Council Report** – No update.
- 9) **Pastor's Remarks** – Fr. Kevin started with the update that most of the work on the Wiggle room has been completed. He also said the AV equipment was updated and the community room repainted and will be ready for the volunteer appreciation luncheon on the 14th. The carpeting for the community room is still a few more weeks out. Next, he spoke about how wonderful the Christmas masses were and that the 4:30 mass was the largest he had seen since Covid and even the community room was full. He is starting to look forward to Lent, which will begin on February 14th. He has also stated that Sister Eileen is working on our Love One Another charitable giving. He ended by informing us that we will be hosting a deacon in training at St Alphonsus, and he will give us more information as he receives it.
- 10) **Closing Prayer** – Fr. Anthoni

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 by Linda Witkowski.

Respectfully submitted Matthew Evrard