

St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 14th, 2023

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

Not Present: Elizabeth Hanson

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

- 1) **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
- 2) **Approval of December 14th, 2023 Meeting Minutes** - A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kathy Monacelli. Seconded by Maggie Ensing, none opposed, motion passes.
- 3) **Guest/Visitor Comments**
 - a) **Karen Farrell and Emily Comfort – Directors of Christian Formation** – Karen and Emily started by giving a quick overview of enrollment in the Christian Formation program. They have 128 grade school students, 72 middle school students, and 126 high school students. They then discussed what was currently happening in the different classes at the different grade levels. They ended with ideas that they would like to implement to continue to grow the program.
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a) **Discussion of fourth chapter of Forming Intentional Disciples** – The pastoral council again had a lively discussion on the fourth chapter of Forming Intentional Disciples. The discussion centered on the capacity to receive grace vs the active use of grace.
 - b) **Agendas on Shared Drive** – Linda confirmed everyone could access the agenda on the shared drive.
 - c) **Committee Reports Linked to Agenda** – Linda also showed everyone how the links on the agenda open the linked items in the Google drive. This will allow committee liaisons to update the file with what was discussed at common meeting night and get the information to the pastoral council sooner.
 - d) **Common Meeting Night Discussion** – Christian formation was assigned to have the prayer to start the next common meeting night.
 - e) **LOA Charitable Giving Guidelines** – Fr. Kevin gave the pastoral council members an updated copy of the LOA Charitable Giving Guidelines. The updates were based on the feedback from last month's meeting. The council decided that we should confirm the charity is a 503C to validate the tax-exempt status of the applicant. A motion to approve the guidelines was then made by Ben Rucka. Seconded by Matthew Evrard, none opposed, motion passes. With the

guidelines approved, Fr. Kevin will work with Sr Eileen to create an ad hoc committee to review any submissions.

5) **New Business**

- a) **Deanery Meeting Review** – The deanery meeting was cancelled so there was no update.
- b) **Ministries and Politics** – Fr. Kevin was approached by a parishioner about the importance of remaining non-partisan in the upcoming election year. Fr. Kevin suggested we create a statement for our volunteers and ministers reminding them not to wear political apparel during their ministry to St. Alphonsus Parish. Matthew Evrard volunteered to help Fr. Kevin draft a statement.
- c) **2024 Outreach Recommendations** – The pastoral council reviewed the list of outreach recommendations submitted by Sr. Eileen. The pastoral council had concerns on the charities listed for June and August. A motion to approve the listed charities excluding the two months above was made by Mary Binder. Seconded by Paul LaRosa, none opposed, motion passes.
- d) **New parishioner onboarding** – Fr. Kevin would like to see if we could implement a new parishioner onboarding process. Ideas proposed are a tour of the campus, finding out their interests, and potential nametag hospitality. The council decided to reflect on this and discuss it further next month.

6) **Finance Council Report** - The finance council reviewed the November financials. They also looked at the budget cycle and current pledges. They discussed ideas to increase parishioner's tithing. The school will join them in February. They are also looking into a potential FEMA grant for security.

7) **Committee Updates**

- a) **School** – Taimi Parey has been named as the principal. They are working on a PA system upgrade. They are also updating the teacher handbook. The cookie walk they hosted was also a success.
- b) **Christian Formation** – No further updates as they were the guest speakers above.
- c) **Liturgy/Worship** - Most of the sub-committees of liturgy/worship had their schedules completed until the end of the year. Advent plans were also discussed.
- d) **Human Concerns** – No update.
- e) **Stewardship/Endowment** - Stewardship/endowment has updated the bulletin board. Fr. Kevin spoke with Sue Reudinger and she will join the committee, but it will still need more members.

8) **Pastor's Remarks** - Fr. Kevin started by informing the council that the community room AV equipment will begin being installed the week after New Years. After it is installed, the painting will occur, and the update will conclude with the new carpet installation. He then thanked Francis for the Christmas concert. He also mentioned that vespers were successful, and he will continue them in Lent. He then informed the council of the

upcoming volunteer appreciation luncheon on January 14th. He concluded with an update that he would be away from December 26th to the 29th visiting friends and Fr. Anthoni would be away from January 15th to February 19th to visit his family and renew his visa.

9) **Closing Prayer** – Fr. Anthoni

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 by Linda Witkowski.

Respectfully submitted Matthew Evrard