



## **ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Present:** Fr. Kinnally, Deacon Santulli, Deacon Pond, S. Goetz, C. Betack, C. Mahoney, C. Sindelar, M. Moran, S. Lione, H. Montano, M. Pascale Vandall, L. Karl, M. Gayer, J. Emert, E. Smith, J. Otis, J. Michniewicz, D. Laughton, R. Walker, JP Berliet,

**Absent:** Fr. Segura, Fr. Bartolome, S. Socci, C. Otis, C. Hussey, C. Butler, B. Gjoka, R. Phelan, N. Yanicelli.

### **Preliminary remarks:**

- John Emert reminded the Council that April 14<sup>th</sup> was the centenary of the death of Father Stapleton, who built the second Catholic Church in New Canaan, converted into the present parish center building named after him.
- All good wishes and many blessings on Trustee Leo Karl today, on the day before his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday

### **I. Opening Prayer at 7:35 pm**

Offered by Erica Smith and Hazel Montano

### **II. Approval of minutes of March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and of reports submitted on April 17<sup>th</sup> and of agenda for today's meeting**

All of them were approved in separate votes by Members of the Council who were present.

### **III. Business Manager's Report**

The report covering the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, January-March 2017, will be discussed by Rich Phelan at the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council, after it has been presented to and reviewed by the finance committee at their May meeting.

## IV. Unfinished/Old Business

**Lent/Easter Recap:** The Lenten program was well attended and many parishioners took the time to offer positive feedback, especially about liturgies offered during the Holy week and the music. The Easter vigil received high praise, as did the parish retreat preached by Father Jack Rathschmidt. Attendance at the Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Celebration of the Lord's Passion was significantly higher than last year.

Parking was well managed by volunteers, including of Dick Laughton and the assistance of two officers of the New Canaan police Department. Everyone responded well to the confusion about Easter mass times, which had been printed on the front page of the bulletin, but next to the regular schedule, that could easily be mistaken for the Easter schedule. This will be corrected next year.

Melanie Barnard helped the one person who fell in the church during mass on Sunday.

**Ushers/Greeters Program:** John Emert reported that many volunteers participated as ushers or greeters for Easter and that there is an opportunity to enlist them for duty during ordinary Sundays. This follow-up needs to occur soon. Ideally, we should assign a head usher for each Sunday mass. J Lydon could be the point person for this initiative. Ushers need to give the music books to people who come in for mass, retrieve these books at the end of mass and give copies of the Bulletin to people who leave after mass.

Next year, Ushers need to be ready to prevent people from reserving seats for family members who have not arrived.

**Parish Feast:** Plans for the feast, to be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> after the 5:30 mass, need to be further developed and finalized. This feast of the parish should be family friendly, but also an opportunity for catechesis and celebration of St. Aloysius. We are looking for an additional statue of our patron saint for display at the event.

The feast will use the entire campus of the school. Its high point will be the tuition raffle. It is intended to strengthen ties between the parish and the school.

There will be a live band, games for children and adults.

**New Parishioner Orientation:** Since many families have been joining the parish, the parish has an urgent need for a point person to lead this initiative

**Emmaus Pass It On Day BRITE Boxes:** On Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, our teens and their families will partner with Save God's Kids to provide food boxes for families in need. This event is being organized by Nancy Leville, Rectora of the adult Emmaus retreat, and Chris Otis.

## V. New Business

Father Rob shared with the Council that, from his point of view, there might be an advantage in modifying the composition of the Council, reducing the frequency of its meetings, the number of its member and their selection process as well as adjust its by-laws.

Father Rob mentioned that some of the parishes in our Diocese have a different approach. St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Fairfield, for example, has quarterly meetings on Saturday, which combine prayer, reflection and brainstorming about parish needs, with a focus on discerning how the Holy Spirit might want the parish to move forward.

Members might be drawn from a pool of potential participants under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, rather than elected. They can include lay people, trustees, parish priests. Under this format, the Pastor would hold separate periodic meetings with individual heads of parish ministries.

The change does not have to occur immediately. There must be a decision soon, however, about whether to conduct an election in June, push back an election, reconduct present members for an additional year or plan and prepare a transition to a new format.

## **VI. Updates from the Clergy**

**Deacon Santulli:** The Easter Vigil was wonderful, with three members of the parish community receiving sacraments of initiation. We need to be on the lookout for people who might want to participate in next year's RCIA program starting in September, to investigate whether they might want to become Catholic and pursue the program to its completion at next year's Easter Vigil.

**Deacon Pond:** The vesper services were very prayerful and well attended. Should the parish schedule such services regularly?

## **VII. Pastor's Report**

Father Rob is grateful for the response of the parish community to the Lenten program, Father Rathschmidt has already accepted to come back and preach a retreat next year at St. Aloysius from March 17<sup>th</sup> through March 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **VIII. Inputs, Comments and Announcements**

Please consider attending and encouraging attendance by others to the following events:

- April 26<sup>th</sup>, mass and reception for recently retired priests at 7 pm at St. Matthews. Msgrs. Scheyd and Cullen will be honored.
- April 29<sup>th</sup> Malta House gala at the Woodway Country Club, honoring Bishop Caggiano
- May 5<sup>th</sup>. New Canaan benefit for Thorpe Shelter and Supportive Housing at Waveny, honoring Msgr. Scheyd

**IX. Closing Prayer:** offered by Fr. Kinnally at 9:10 pm.

**Meeting Closed at 8:45 pm**

**Next meeting:** May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, Stapleton Hall

Submitted by Jean-Pierre Berliet

**St Aloysius Church Parish Council**  
**April 17, 2017 Meeting**  
**Committee Reports**

**EMMAUS**, submitted by Sue Lione

A one day Emmaus retreat for adults will be held at Stapleton Hall on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and will be led by Nancy Leville and Ben Otis. It is open to anyone over 18. Historically, Candidate ages have ranged between 18 and 84. Applications are available on the St. Aloysius website. Emmaus LXXIV, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders, will be held in the fall. Arthur and Kristen and Arthur Hall will lead the retreat. Their assistants will be John and Chris Otis.

**Parish Partners**, submitted by Carrie Sindelar

Our next Parish Partner's event will be our Spring Mass and Luncheon which is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> and Father Rob will be our celebrant and our luncheon speaker. Mass will include the anointing of the sick for those in attendance.

Our next membership meeting will be scheduled for May and all parishioners are welcome attend the meeting and to volunteer. The actual meeting date will be announced in the Parish bulletin.

**Our Lady's Guild**, submitted by Mary Moran

Eucharistic Adoration was held during the Fridays of March and April and due to the number of adorers and initiative of Gretchen Gertsen and Susan Engel, Fr Rob has decided to extend Eucharistic Adoration to the following Fridays: April 21, April 28, May 5 (First Friday), May 12, May 19, May 26 and June 2. Time will be 7:30am-6:30pm. There will be a break for the summer and then resume in September.

OLG held its monthly meeting on March 24, in anticipation of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. Mass and Rosary were followed by brunch and speaker, Mr. John Harper, from Relevant Radio. Mr. Harper spoke on evangelizing through radio programs and Our Blessed Mother as evangelizer.

On Good Friday at 11:15am Fr. Cyrus and Our Lady's Guild members will lead the Stations of the Cross with the residents of Waveny Care Center.

Our Lady's Guild bylaws have been updated and will be presented to the membership for approval at our April meeting.

OLG's next meeting on Friday, April 28, will begin with Mass at 9am followed by recitation of the Rosary. Brunch will follow in Stapleton Hall and the speaker will be Kathleen Leitao. Kathleen will present a program on "Mary and Art".

Upcoming May events include luncheon on May 11 at 11:30am at Giovanni's in Darien with Damien O'Connor's talk on "Our Lady of Fatima". Also, the Crowning of the Blessed Mother will be held during the 5pm Mass on Sunday, May 14.

Our Lady's Guild continues to collect nonperishables for St. Vincent de Paul food pantry, volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul pantry, visit Waveny and pray the Rosary with residents on both floors, and promote the Pilgrim Virgin.

**As an update, here is also the summary for the seven (7) days of Lenten Adoration coordinated by Susan Engel, Gretchen Gertsen and the members of OLG:**

**AVERAGE ADVANCE SIGNUP - 19 people**

**AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE - 54\* people** (\*actual attendance higher - not everyone signs the register)

**ATTENDANCE RANGE: 40-77 people**

**As a result of favorable Lenten participation and the response to an email inquiry, WEEKLY ADORATION will continue until June 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**, submitted by Marie Pascale Vandall

Formal religious education classes for 2016-2017 have come to an end.

At this time we are preparing for our students to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Confirmation is scheduled for Saturday, April 22 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Bishop Caggiano will anoint our candidates. Approximately 83 students are assigned to each. First Holy Communion for our second graders will take place on three consecutive Sundays at the 11:30 a.m. Mass: April 23, April 30 and May 7. In total we have approximately 130 + students receiving Holy

Communion for the first time. Rehearsals for Confirmation will take place on Friday, April 21; First Holy Communion rehearsals are scheduled for the four days prior to the child's First Communion date.

Those children with more than 5 absences from class will be required to do make-up work due to be handed in to the office by August 15.

We will begin planning for next year in the next couple of weeks, working closely with the public-school calendar in terms of scheduling parent meetings, catechist training and special programs.

Our catechist appreciation dinner is April 19 and we begin our recruiting of catechists immediately following the dinner. Our program is in need of 160 volunteer catechists.

**Walking With Purpose**, submitted by Carol Mahoney

Walking With Purpose completed 22 weeks of studies on April 4th, and will be celebrating with a luncheon on April 18th with Fr. Bob Uzzilio as a speaker, and a dinner on April 25th with Sue Lione presenting her very relevant Emmaus talk.

Highlights this year include guest speaker Elaine Clark who spoke to us about her onslaught of grief in her life and how a simple, childlike faith, sitting at the feet of Jesus, can get us through the toughest times. Our Lenten Morning of Reflection on the spiritual gifts was well received. Speaker Joanne Marcinek was "one of us" who shared her current journey in discerning her spiritual gift of evangelization, and the women participated in confession and a Eucharistic Holy Hour, followed by the parish Mass. This was the first year we had two programs running simultaneously, "Opening Your Heart" and "Discovering Our Dignity". This was so successful, that we will attempt to do the same next year, including the evening.

Registrations will open for next year on Tuesday, April 18. We will be offering the foundational course, "Opening Your Heart" for new women, and "Touching the Divine", a study on the Gospel of John, for returning participants. All fees will remain the same. We will offer babysitting only if we have a minimum of 4 children registered.

Carol Mahoney will remain the pastoral co-coordinator. Although the operational co-coordinator has not been determined, Brooke Buccieri will be helping with registrations and social media, and hopefully will step into the operational co-coordinator role. Joan Woodroof will remain the evening coordinator. We are in the midst of identifying next year's leadership team, and Carol Mahoney will be meeting individually with all the leaders during the month of May. Training of all leadership will occur through videos and meetings over the summer.

Summer activities will include a weekly rosary group, and a discussion on the Walking With Purpose book, "7-Priorities that Make Life Work" which will meet three times, dates and times to be determined. We will plan a "fun and different" Open House, which will be held in June, God willing!