



ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 19th, 2015

Present: Msgr. Scheyd, Fr. Bartolome, Deacon Santulli, Deacon Pond, S. Goetz, R. Phelan, D. Castrovinci, M. Gayer, M. Pascale Vandall, C. Otis, J. Emert, C. Sindelar, T. Marino, M. Hennessey, C. Butler, J. Otis, D. Laughton, M. Moran, C. Altier, J. O'Neill

Absent: Fr. Segura, C. Hussey, L. Karl, J-P Berliet, B. Buonaiuto, B. Gjoka, S. Lione, C. Betack, J. Eckrich, JP Sloan

I. Opening Prayer at 7:40 pm

Offered by Msgr. Scheyd

II. Introduction of New Council member

Msgr. Scheyd and Shannon Goetz introduced Christina Altier as a new Parish Council member representing the parish Walking With Purpose (WWP) Women's Bible Study ministry. Mrs. Altier is the Coordinator for the WWP group.

III. Approval of minutes of September 21st meeting, reports submitted on October 19th and of agenda for today's meeting

Minutes of September 21st meeting as well as reports submitted for October 19th were approved by Members of the Council who were present. Agenda of today's meeting was approved.

IV. Business Manager's Report

Rich Phelan presented the July 2014 through June 2015 financial report. Overall, there is a net income of \$42.9K from the previous fiscal year. Major expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 2015 included: repairs to the school and church roofs, resealing and restriping the church parking lot, enclosing the entrance to the school as part of security enhancements, sidewalk reconstruction in front of the main church entrance, and consultant fees for the architect for a potential new building in place of the Tudor House.

Mr. Phelan then presented the July 2015 through September 2015 financial report. Major expenditures during this quarter include: painting the public spaces of Stapleton Hall, replacing the boiler, replacing the main electric switch in the church, and maintenance repairs at the rental apartment units on Maple Street.

Rich Phelan also highlighted that there has been an overall decline in the offertory. A discussion to address this issue ensued. When the Annual Report is distributed to the parish in November, Msgr will note in his cover letter that donations are down this year.

Msgr. Scheyd also noted that a second, back-up boiler will need to be installed next year.

V. Unfinished/Old Business

Oktoberfest: Over 260 people attended the event, the weather was perfect, and all agreed it was a success! Msgr. Scheyd noted that next year's Oktoberfest could be the venue for a welcome party for the new pastor.

Christmas Masses: Msgr. Scheyd met with a small committee and the schedule of Masses for Christmas Eve 2015 will be 4 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm and Midnight. The Christmas Schedule of Masses will be mailed out to the parish in the near future. Msgr. will also be meeting with the coordinators for the children's Pageant to decide the date and time for that event.

Second Sunday office hours: Only a few people came to the office for the October Second Sunday. The Council then discussed ideas on how to approach new parishioners, including: personal home visit/house blessing by a clergy member, a Sunday Brunch for new parish members, a personal invitation to a Sunday Hospitality Coffee, etc. Shannon Goetz will check with Maggie Pierce regarding current outreach to newly registered parishioners.

New building: Joe Rucci is planning to meet with the Zoning Board to discuss the footprint of the new building, based on preliminary drawings and renderings prepared by the architect retained by the parish. Msgr. Scheyd is hoping for a preliminary approval, but such an approval would not require us to build within a certain timeframe.

VI. New Business

Distribution of "Casting the Net" Proceeds: The deadline for requests for funds was due October 16th. Msgr. and the trustees will review the requests; approximately \$30k will be distributed.

The second "Casting the Net" event will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Water's Edge in Darien. Denise Luccarelli is the event Coordinator and will be approaching the ministries for assistance in various ways.

VII. Updates from Fathers Bartolome and Segura

Father Bartolome: Father Cyrus reported that:

- A Catholic Identity and Spirituality Committee will be formed at the school.
- The Vocation committee is preparing cards with pictures of the seminarians for an "Adopt A Seminarian" prayer program.

- The Bereavement Ministry will be meeting on November 10th and the meeting is open to all parishioners.
- Our Lady's Guild had a wonderful morning with Mother Dolores Hart on October 14th. Fr. Cyrus is also working with Fr. Justin to bring the relics of St. Faustina to the parish next April.

Father Segura: Not in attendance

- Fr. Ralph is currently training new altar servers from the school.

VIII. Pastor's Report

Msgr. welcomed Christina Altier again and thanked her for spearheading the Walking With Purpose ministry.

Msgr. gave a brief update on the school:

- Enrollment is 212 students;
- An Annual Fund is being launched;
- School will be having a Fall Fundraiser gala on Saturday, Nov. 21st at Waveny House.

IX. Inputs, Comments and Announcements:

Msgr. encouraged all Parish Council members to attend the Day of Prayer and Training on November 7th, 10am-3pm, at St. Matthew's Parish.

Chris Otis: Jean Desmond, parish secretary, is taking over the production of the Parish bulletin. Deadline for submissions remains Tuesday at Noon.

John Otis: The K of C will be having their collection this weekend for persons with intellectual disabilities. Additional schedule of events will be included in the Committee Reports for this month.

X. Closing Prayer: offered by Father Cyrus Bartolome at 9:15 pm

Meeting Closed at 9:20 pm

Next meeting: November 16th at 7:30 pm, Stapleton Hall

Submitted by Maura Gayer

St Aloysius Church Parish Council
October 19, 2015 Meeting
Committee Reports

Vocation Ministry Meeting, October 8th, 2015, submitted by Fr. Cyrus Bartolome

Present: Fr. Cyrus, Sharon, Liza, Lenny, Christina

Vocation Week planning

- Nov 1-8th
- Banner to be place in Narthex next week and a table with vocation brochures/prayers
- More brochures need to be ordered and prayer cards for seminarians
- Request brochures from various Orders of Sisters: Brigittines, Sisters of Life, Carmelites, Franciscans, etc.
- Look into additional resources from St. John Fisher Seminary
- First Fridays Holy Hour Adoration for Vocations confirmed with Father Cyrus. Next one is planned for Nov. 6th 4-5pm. Sharon has worked on format with Father Cyrus and meditations will rotate.
- Ad for Holy Week and Adoration will be put in bulletin, then in on monthly basis.
- Flyer will be made, image to be confirmed, for church bulletin boards and chapel
- Prayers for Vocations possibly be said after Petitions during weekday masses
- Announce First Friday Vocation Holy Hour at Emmaus

Future Planning

- Another Vocation week set by the Diocese in January
- Confirm date of previous dinner in January with Chris
- Discuss and possibly plan this dinner
- Next meeting TBD

Bereavement Ministry, Meeting October 13th, 2015, submitted by Fr. Cyrus Bartolome

Present: Mary Aldrich, Melanie Barnard, John Emert, Stephen Johnson, Pat Linehan, Cecilia Murray, Deacon Bill Santulli, Marie Vandall, Kathy Patten, Fr. Cyrus Bartolome

- A.) The meeting started with prayer followed by a presentation given by Nanette Greene, MA, LPC from the Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Fairfield County. Ms. Greene gave us many good points on handling person and family who are experiencing loss. She also gave us different definitions and stages of bereavement and how to interact with the person in grief.
- B.) After the presentation of Ms. Greene, Thom Marino our Music Director gave a talk on the yearly celebration of Mass of Remembrance that will be held on November 2 at 7:00 pm in the church. He asked for help in the preparation of the reception after the Mass and also during the Mass.
- C.) The Ministry also discussed ways on how to invite other people to join the ministry by bulletin insert. Inviting people to be ushers, adult altar servers for funerals, greeters before the funeral Masses, assists for funeral planning especially receptions (if requested), funeral Mass programs (if requested).
- D.) The ministry also discussed on how to assist the elderly who lost loved ones to attend the Mass of Remembrance on Nov. 2 because they do not drive at night. The ministry volunteered to pick them up from their houses and bring them back. The ministry also mentioned with the help of the confirmation candidates to assist those elderly who are having difficulties walking to help them during Mass and especially during the candle remembrance.
- E.) Next meeting will be on November 10 at 7:00 pm, location to be determined.

Emmaus, submitted by Sue Lione

The teen Emmaus weekend for sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school will be held at All Saints Michele & Rob Sloan. There are 5 team weekly meetings which began on September 27t. The teams, composed of teens and adults, have been formed. All team members over 18 must be Virtus trained. A web based application has been set up to sign up for the team. At his point, applications to be a Candidate are oversubscribed. This is the 70th teen Emmaus Retreat held by St. Aloysius. We have also held 28 Emmaus Retreats for adults. At this point, over 3800 teens and adults have participated in an Emmaus retreat at St. Aloysius.

RELLIGIOUS EDUCATION, submitted by Marie Pascale Vandall

All religious education classes are underway.

Grade One has begun the story of Creation and learning the Sign of the Cross and their prayers. Students in grade two are preparing for their first confession which will take place on December 12. Third graders are learning about Pentecost and the early church. Fourth graders have been assigned their "saint shield" project. They will be participating in the 10 a..m. Mass on Sunday, November 1, All Saints Day.

Our fifth grade has begun their study of the sacraments. Our sixth graders participated in a prayer service at the Mary Garden at which time they received their blessed Bibles.

Students in Level 1 preparation for Confirmation came together for a Kick-off/Commitment Mass on Sunday, September 27 at 5 p.m. On October 3 & 4, collections were taken at all Masses for Project 1,000. 7th Graders spoke to parishioners about the fundraiser. Project 1,000 delivers 1,000 Christmas stockings to poor children in Appalachia whose families cannot afford Christmas presents. 7th graders will be stuffing and packing the stockings on October 28.

Students in Level 2 preparation for Confirmation have begun their classes and are active in community service in the parish and throughout the community. Both 7th & 8th graders are asked to do 10 hours each year of community service. They are also in the process of submitting their sponsor names for Confirmation.

Those children in the Home School program will have their first meeting with their parents and the Home School Coordinator, Ursula Hennessey on Sunday, October 25.

The month of November celebrates religious education in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

PARISH PARTNERS, submitted by Jeanne Eckrich

THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY SERVES THE SENIORS OF OUR PARISH AND IS LOOKING FOR A NEW COORDINATOR. ANYONE INTERESTED SHOULD CALL MSGR SCHEYD AT THE PARISH OFFICE OR JEANNE ECKRICH AT 203 966 6108.

AFTER A QUIET SUMMER PARISH PARTNERS HAS GATHERED TOGETHER TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THE FALL LUNCHEON UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CARROLL YANICELLI. KATHIE KARL RECRUITED BARBARA BENJAMIN WHO WILL SPEAK ON "FINDING MEANING IN YOUR WISDOM YEARS". THE ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON WILL BEGIN WITH MASS AT 11:00 FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AND OUR SPEAKER WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST. ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME. PARISH PARTNERS WILL CONTINUE TO VISIT, PROVIDE RIDES, DO ERRANDS, OR JUST CALL THE TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY HOMEBOUND. WE HAVE A NEW BROCHURE WITH ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO VOLUNTEER TO BE A PARISH PARTNER OR TO REQUEST SERVICES. RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, JEANNE ECKRICH, COORDINATOR

Our Lady's Guild, submitted by Mary Moran

Our Lady's Guild organized First Friday Adoration for October 2.

Our Lady's Guild sponsored the Living Rosary on October 7, The Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary after the 5:30 Mass. The Knights of Columbus participated as well. A reception took place immediately following in the narthex.

Our Lady's Guild met October 14 for Mass at 9:00 and recitation of the Rosary. Brunch and a talk by Mother Dolores Hart took place in Stapleton hall. A book signing by Mother of her book **The Ear of the Heart** followed.

Two rosary making workshops are scheduled for October 19 and October 28 at 10:30 in Stapleton Hall. These rosaries are then sent to third world countries.

Our Lady's Guild is in the process of updating their by-laws.

The Guild continues to work at St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry by both volunteering time as well as donating nonperishables at our monthly meetings, visits Waveny to pray the Rosary for the residents on both floors, coordinates the First Friday Adoration, makes rosaries for third world countries and helps to promote the Pilgrim Virgin.

Youth & Family Ministry, submitted by Chris Otis

TEEN MASS/SPIRITUALITY:

We continue to utilize Mass Captains at the Teen Mass to provide leadership opportunities for our high school teens. We have a roster of 26 teens who have trained to be teen lectors – we had a fellowship dinner/training last month.

We held our Teen Dinner n' Adoration on September 23 and had 27 teens in attendance. Our next Teen Adoration is this Wednesday.

We are testing a new concept for our Teen Rosary group which utilizes film clips from The Hope dvd to help our teens better visualize and focus on the mysteries == we are sharing some teen – friendly reflections as well.

We have been asked to lead the prayer portion of Project 1,000 so will be calling upon some of our high school teens who have had mission experiences to share with the 7th graders and lead prayer for the impoverished children and families in Appalachia.

CATHOLIC ACTION – CATHOLIC SERVICE CORPS:

We hosted the children from Breakthrough Options on Sunday, October 18 here at St. A's. This Saturday, we will be taking a group of 10-12 teens to the Thorpe Family Residence in the Bronx and on October 31, we are hosting our special needs friends from Young Life Capernaum.

We will be doing another breakfast run in October and are currently collecting men's jeans, hooded sweat shirts, colored t shirts, underwear and socks – as well as toiletry kits. We are working with the house managers at Mother Teresa's Closet as our collection site and the 8th graders will help sort on October 30.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS:

We held our first TGIF on Friday, October 16 and brought the public and St Aloysius School students together in fellowship. It was social in nature and we did a cell phone scavenger hunt around church property. Our next one will be October 30.

OTHER:

I continue to post events on the diocesan mobile app. If you have not downloaded the app, please do – it is free. If your ministry wants anything special put on the app, please let me know.

I will continue to serve on the Vocations Committee. To bring awareness to November as Vocation Awareness Month, we will focus on praying for vocations during our November Teen Adoration and will invite some of the seminarians.

I will be working on the fall Emmaus and will be spearheading the Fourth Day program, which will entail a service project for the candidates.

Our Catholic Parents Connect group will be doing a college care package program this year, in which parents can register their students to receive 3 packages that will contain spiritual messages/things and goodies. We are asking all parents to cover the postage this year – our first stuffing event will be on October 26. If any ministries wish to include something with a label or note from your ministry, please contact Chris Otis before then.

We have 17 teens/young adult pilgrims and 5 adults from St. A's signed up to go to World Youth Day with the Pope in Poland next summer. We conducted a "Sell Your Old Gold" fundraiser this past weekend to assist those that need help with the pilgrimage cost. We will be attending a meeting of all pilgrims and their parents this week and there will be several formation programs between January and June to prepare us all for the pilgrimage. I ask you to pray for our contingent.

Our new secretary Jean Desmond is now officially the new bulletin editor. She works on the bulletin throughout the week so if you have a submission, it **MUST** be sent to Please continue to bulletin@starcc.com by noon on Tuesdays to be considered. Please designate *one person* from your ministry, office or group to make submissions. She understands that many groups have multiple people involved, but if all submissions, changes, corrections, etc. come from one person, there will be a lesser chance of duplications and errors. Please take into consideration she will do her best to fit everything in the bulletin each week, but at times we are short of space and must edit your submissions or publish them at a future date.