



ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 24, 2015

Present: Msgr. Scheyd, Fr. Bartolome, Deacon Pond, C. Ayoub, M.Gayer, M. Pascale, C. Otis, John Emert, J. Eckrich, S. Goetz, David Molloy, C. Betack, Bardhyl Gjoka, Deacon Santulli, C. Hussey, M. Doran, M Hennessey, L. Karl, Charlotte Engel, Beverly Buonaiuto, Ben Otis, R. Phelan, J-P Berliet

Absent: Fr. Segura, A. Munnely, S. Lione, Christina Butler, T. Marino, P. O'Sullivan

I. Opening Prayer at 7: 36 pm

Offered by Deacon Steve Pond

II. Approval of minutes of January 12th reports submitted to March 24th meeting and agenda for today's meeting

All were approved by Members of the Council who were present.

III. Business Manager's Report

Rich Phelan discussed the financial report for the first half of the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2014. He emphasized that the increase of \$37,000 in net income for the period vs. the same period in 2014 was the net result of a reduction of \$56,000 income offset by a reduction of \$ 92,000 in expense. Notably, offertory income has been flat. The unusual income has declined by \$36,000 due primarily to the lack of income from bequests.

Msgr. Scheyd reported that the special appeal to parishioners for a contribution to the cost of repainting the church has generated additional donations, with total donations having reached \$22,000, still quite short of the \$78,000 cost of the project.

Looking ahead, the parish will need to incur significant expenses to repaint part of Stapleton Hall, repair damage caused by winter weather to the parking lot and replace the main electrical panel.

David Malloy is exploring new ways to increase Sunday offertory income which has stagnated for several years. Msgr. Scheyd is going to talk to estate attorneys to ask that they remind parishioners to include bequests to St. A in their wills; he also asked that Council members remind their friends of the opportunity to do the same.

IV. Synod Update

The third work session of the Synod took place on March 21st. Marie Pascale reported that the 60 challenges identified by the Diocese have been grouped in each of five areas (Liturgy and Worship, Family Life, Evangelization, Leadership and Catechesis and Education). Three speakers made presentation at the meeting, including i) one focused on Youth Ministry, emphasizing that initiatives need to be developed from the ground up and, ii) another focused on models of leadership, emphasizing that since challenges have changed solutions also need to change, starting with the observation that Catholics nowadays go where they are fed rather than where they live.

Bishop Caggiano committed to working with participants to i) identify best practices in the Diocese and outside, ii) reform the diocese, making it “invisible”. While making parishes more visible and, iii) hold local communities accountable. He stated that the time had come for every parish to engage in pastoral planning and strategic planning in a spirit of collaboration and looking to Christ to take the lead. Each parish should have its own roadmap, a rationale for making decisions and a plan that he could review and approve.

Next steps in the Synod include a retreat and other meetings at which recommendations for addressing challenges will be discussed and finalized.

V. Unfinished/Old Business

Ministries Fair: held on January 25th, went very well and generated volunteers for many ministries

St Aloysius 1st Annual Celebration: The “Casting the Net 2015” celebration attracted approximately 270 people who enjoyed each other’s company and dancing. Final financial results will be available after last bills have been paid. This was successful community building event.

Building update and other repairs: Examination of a preliminary sketch of a building that could replace the red house has confirmed that more planning needs to be done to develop a more accurate understanding of space needs and of alternative ways to meet these needs, including consideration of required financing. Examples of unresolved issues include:

- Space needs of various parish programs and ministries
- Addition/replacement/upgrading of school building, including integration of fiber optics
- Replacement/upgrading of boiler plant
- Replacement of main customized electrical panel by customized or standard electrical panel
- Modular construction vs traditional construction
- Integration of plans for the building and the school

VI. New Business

Catholic Appeal: Starting this year, the Annual Bishop’s appeal has been renamed “Catholic Appeal”. This year again, Msgr. Scheyd is seeking to increase the number of parishioners who participate in the appeal. Out of 2700 registered families, typically only 500 have contributed to the appeal. Msgr. will be sending a letter to each family shortly after Easter and will use the parish bulletin as well to make the point that all contributions, even the smallest are important. He is suggesting that families should commit to donating \$100.

The Diocese has produced a video about the appeal, showing the many important works funded by money that is raised.

Christmas masses:

Msgr. Scheyd reaffirmed that a decision to implement a new approach for Christmas 2015 should be made by June, to ensure that new arrangements are made known with the publication of the Christmas schedule in October. He has asked council members to poll people informally about this to get inputs for further planning, including ideas for alternative that might include holding the pageant a week earlier than Christmas, by itself or in conjunction with some other advent event such as the Christmas concert. At this time, the most talked about option is to offer two consecutive masses in the main church, at 4pm and 5:30 pm respectively. Msgr. indicated that all options should be considered and reviewed, including the possibility of using the school gym or renting offsite space.

VII. Updates from Fathers Bartolome and Segura

Father Bartolome: Father Cyrus reported that:

- 70 women have signed up for participating in the “Walking with purpose” spirituality group for women
- He is working to revive the vocation committee
- He will work during the summer on the establishment of a bereavement ministry

Father Segura: No input

VIII. Pastor’s Report

Mary Pelletier will send to every Council member the summary of Synod challenges dated February 7th, 2015, under the title “Discerning the Challenges and Pivoting to Solutions”

Msgr. Scheyd emphasized that Bishop Caggiano’s call to evangelization is directed at everybody. Evangelization is not a program, but rather action to which everyone is called and from which no one can be exempted.

Msgr. Scheyd announced the creation of a new Bridgeport vicariate. He also indicated that a number of parishes that have less income than St. A manage to operate without deficit by making greater use of volunteers.

IX. Inputs, Comments and Announcements:

Chris Otis invited everyone to join High school teens for Living Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 27th at 7:30 pm in the church.

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

Meeting Closed at 9:20 pm

Next meeting: Monday, April 20, 2015 at 7:30 pm, Stapleton Hall

Submitted by Jean-Pierre Berliet, Secretary

St Aloysius Church Parish Council
March 24, 2015 Meeting
Committee Reports

MARTHA AND MARY MINISTRIES, submitted by Jeanne Eckrich

E blast- Katie O'Neill is out of the office however we have received many eblasts

Parish Partners – Jeanne Eckrich reports that the Ministry Fair was very successful.

We have six new members and one is already in touch with an Homebound parishioner. Others are getting Virtus trained. One is

A handyman. The Spring Luncheon is planned for April 15.

Ministry members signed up to promote “ Casting the Net “

After each Mass the week end of February 21st

Sunday Hospitality – Michele Sloan reports that due to Msgr.'s 50th Anniversary

Celebration and school vacation there were three weeks off

but the coffees began again on Sunday, February 28th

Mother Teresa's Closet – Mary Ward reports that although they have been curtailed

by the weather there is tremendous need and they are working closely with Person to Person

Newcomers – Maggie Pierce (maggiepierce@sbcglobal.net) reported that they are

still opening the office on the second Saturday of the month and are

also calling new registrants to answer any questions. They are

hoping for more activity in warmer weather

Driving Miss Daisy – Mike Salvati reports that they continue driving for

Saturday Mass and have added the ladies from the New Canaan

Inn on First Fridays

Parish Nurses – Kim McNamara reports that they continue the blood pressures

And will be helping the Flynns with the White Mass

E Team Hospitality – Please see the attached report and lovely thank you from Carroll Yanicelli and

Sue Lione

Subject: Celebration of Monsignor's 50th

What a great day it was! Monsignor was in charge of the weather and he came through for us as always.

When the call went out to help, everyone responded and wanted to be a part of this celebration. It was great.

It had to be in the gym because there were so many people. We fed over 300 people that day and several did not stay to eat.

Clair and Lee Jones conceived of and installed all of the decorations and made the gym beautiful, a real fete.

Bianca Romano, Kathleen Agnelli and Maritza Corona came and helped put the decorations up and organize the cutlery.

Maritza Corona had a special arrangement made for Monsignor's sign in table and Clair and Lee Jones gave him a beautiful leather guest book for people to sign.

Sue Scannell, Mary Fox, Mary Moran, Jeanne Eckrich,

Jayne Benton, Maritza Corona, Karen Lynn Murray and Carol Schott made double casseroles for the occasion.

Cate Pond made a last minute Costco run for the cake and other items. Patti Potts, Ceci Murray, Pat Malone,

Cate Pond and Lea DiMuzio helped in the kitchen. Maggie Pierce went with Sue and me to Costco and helped

grate and bag 10 pounds of cheese, divide the ingredients up and deliver the ingredients and pans to the bakers.

Jayne Benton's two boys (age 10 and 6) did a masterful job clearing the tables and making sure the garbage was

emptied. Schafer Jones helped put up the decorations. Several teens came and helped clear the tables and kept

the refills of food and drink current. Patti Potts, Pat Malone and Cate helped with the clean-up while Nick, Jerry, Brian

Moran and Bill Fox took all of the supplies back to Stapleton Hall and emptied the garbage. It was a great effort by

all and much fun to do for someone who has done so much for all of us.

Everyone worked very hard to make it very special for Monsignor.

Sue Lione and I really appreciated all of the help. We had enough of everything and people seemed to really enjoy the food.

Our Lady's Guild, submitted by Margie Doran

- The Guild had a meeting on February 11, 2015 on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Msgr. Scheyd said the 9am Mass as Fr. Cyrus was on vacation. Our speaker was Fr. Gerald Murray who is the Pastor of Holy Family Church in NYC and also a commentator on religious topics on various television and radio outlets, including EWTN and Fox News. His talk was taped for Relevant Radio and was broadcasted in NYC during that week.
- Our Lady's Guild also lead "Mary's Way of the Cross" on February 20 at 7:30pm in the Church. The Stations of the Cross were prayed as seen through the Blessed Mother's eyes.
- We will pray "Mary's Way of the Cross" on Good Friday (4/3) for the residents at the Waveny Care Center.
- Our next scheduled meeting is March 25th and Fr. Peter Towsley will present a talk on "Mary, the New Evangelization."
- The Guild continues to work at St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry, 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:

The StAY Choir membership continues to fluctuate - Angelo is considering appointing grade level leaders next year and doing some teaching on song selection and including the teens in the selection process in order to help solidify commitment and consistent attendance.

Our Mass captain program continues to provide leadership opportunities for our high school teens as they coordinate the teen ushers and gift bearers.

We held Teen Dinner n' Adoration in January and February that was led by 6 teens and had about 20 teens in attendance. We have experimented with venues and the teens find the darkened church with just the altar illuminated as the preferred venue. Our next Adoration is Wednesday, March 25 where we will do a reflection on the last 7 words of Jesus on the cross.

We will offer Teen Reconciliation this coming Sunday after the 5pm Teen Mass.

We have started a monthly rosary group. We started small in February, but the teens who came had positive comments and will be returning with friends. The evening began with a short catechesis on the rosary and then each attendee lead a decade in the candle lit youth room. We are using the youth room to help illustrate that prayer can happen anywhere - when the weather gets nicer - we will go outside and pray the rosary.

We took a group of teens to the Diocesan Mass Mob Mass up at Sacred Heart Church in Danbury.

WE HAVE OUR TEEN LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS THIS FRIDAY - PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE!!!

We secured 10 slots for Steubenville East in July at UMASS and all slots are taken.

CATHOLIC ACTION:

We took group of teens to the March for Life. A group of 7 travelled to Washington on the 1:30 am train so that we could participate in the Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center. The rally was attended by about 12,000 young people. We then met up with our St. A's contingent who travelled by bus and completed the March for Life. We had about 17 young people on the bus. On the return trip, we asked the youth to share over the microphone their thoughts on the day and the right to life movement. It was very powerful witness and the adults on the bus loved the inspirations from all of the young people.

We held our annual midnight run on February 7 and took 15 teens into the city along with 7 adults. The parish community was very generous in their donations - we were only shy on winter coats. A group of 8th graders worked on Saturday afternoon and made the lunches that we distribute. We served over 100 of our brothers and sisters on the streets and met up with some of the homeless who we have seen each time we go into the city! They are always very complimentary about St. Aloysius! While our city team was in NYC, a group of 12 teens stayed behind and the homeless experience was simulated for them. They raised \$450 in sponsorship money that was donated directed to the Midnight Run organization. They built a city out of large boxes, spray painted positive graffiti and built a fire in a tin trash can to help keep warm. After an hour in the cold, the group was brought warm coats and food by parish volunteers.

We hosted a St. Patrick's Day event for the special needs kids of Young Life Capernaum. The theme of the afternoon was, "We are not lucky, we are blessed." The turn out of guests was low, but our 14 teens worked in teams to ensure those that attended had a positive experience.

We took a group of 10 teens down to the Thorpe Family Residence in the Bronx and did an afternoon event centered around recycling. Thorpe also asked us to engage the mothers, so two of our mothers did a cooking demonstration and had tea with the ladies, while our teens worked with the young children.

We will be going on a summer mission trip to a Catholic Heart Work Camp in Cumberland, Maryland July 5-11. We have 14 slots, which are filling. The mission team will be doing a springtime bake sale and car wash to help defer transportation costs.

FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL EVENTS:

We held an 8th grade TGIF in February and had 8th graders who helped with the sorting of the donations for the midnight run. We also had several 8th graders sort and deliver the business attire we had collected for the Midnight Run organization. Our timing of the donations was just at the right time, according to the executive director.

We took 7 teens to the Sean Forrest concert in Bristol last Saturday night. Sean was our retreat leader for over 10 years.

COMMUNICATION:

Communication avenues remain the same

SYNOD TEEN INVOLVEMENT:

We have another Synod Youth Co-Delegate Consultation Session with the Bishop in April during the break – we will take who is around to be a part of this great opportunity with the Bishop.

I am serving on the Synod Closing Mass Committee as the Youth Representative. I will be coordinating the youth of the diocese to do a large service project in conjunction with the closing Mass. The Mass is September 19th – please mark your calendars!

CATHOLIC PARENTS CONNECT:

We held a luncheon on January 21 – Witness Talk by a woman about abortion and forgiveness, right to life issues and chastity, entitled, "Breaking the Silence: A Testimony on the Right to Life." We had a small group of about 45 in attendance, but those that came felt the talk was so powerful. This is the challenge of "hot topics".

We sent out 67 care packages to college parishioners. The Knights of Columbus gave us a grant to help pay for the project. We thank the Knights for their generosity!

OTHER:

We had a table at the Ministry Fair and asked teens to come staff the booth throughout the morning.

I have been updating the diocesan mobile app with news and events happening here at St. A's. If you have not downloaded the app, please do – it is free

Emmaus is in full swing – the weekend will be May 1-3. Candidate applications are coming in. If you know any sophomores-seniors who would be interested in attending (especially boys), please encourage them to apply online as a candidate or let Chris know!

Youth Ministry is being honored at the Thorpe Family Fundraiser on Friday, April 24 at Waveny House. If there is any way you can support this event, we would appreciate it! There was information in the bulletin this weekend about it.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION , submitted by Marie Pascale

During the first week of February all of our catechists attended a professional development session. Jean Kechejian from St. Jude Parish and the Diocese of Hartford held an instructional session on the Mass. This took place during their regular class time. Their students, grades 1-6, came to the church for a new program called "The Mass Unmasked." Thank you to the clergy and Melanie Barnard for their participation and assistance.

The following week students in grades 3-6 attended a presentation on Eucharistic Adoration and spent quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. We closed with Benediction.

Our fifth graders participated in a church tour conducted by Kathleen Redman where they focused on the sacramental windows.

The 3rd graders learned all about the Triduum, the three Holy Days and made Paschal Candles to bring home for their Easter celebration. They heard about the liturgical celebration of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil and the symbolism of the Paschal Candle.

Our 2nd graders preparing for First Communion attended, along with their parents, "Making Connections" a dramatic presentation of Exodus, connecting those events with Jesus' Last Supper and dying to free our sins. We are grateful to Msgr. Scheyd, Fr. Ralph, Thom Marino, Deacon Steve, Bob Mantilia and Paul Sorge for their parts in bringing the story alive! Parents received a book about The Mass to read to their children and additional information on First Holy Communion.

Our first graders were learning about Lent for the first time and so they started their class by making "prayer pretzels" – The pretzels served as a reminder to pray and of the Trinity. They were then introduced to all the Signs & Symbols of Lent: ashes, palms, purple, Stations of the Cross, etc. This week all of our students are praying The Living Rosary in church with the help of Sue Lione and Margie Doran. Margie focused on St. Dominic and the rosary while Sue spoke of the secrets of Fatima.

All of our students (grades 3-8) received the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent.

The Level 2 Confirmation students attended their retreat on February 1. They have completed their letters to Msgr. Scheyd requesting Confirmation and handed in all assignments. They are currently in the process of taking their final assessment.

Confirmation is Saturday, April 18.

Level 1 Confirmation students attended a program "Crossroads". This talk by Carol Pinard details the lives of 20th century's martyrs. It includes articles, news clips and relic of martyrs such as Maximilian Kolbe, Miguel Pro and others.

Their community service projects are ongoing until they fulfill 10 hours.