



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

**May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Present:** Msgr. Scheyd, Fr. Bartolome, Deacon Pond, Deacon Santulli, C. Ayoub, M.Gayer, M. Pascale, C. Otis, John Emert, J. Eckrich, T. Marino, S. Goetz, C. Hussey, M. Doran, M Hennessey, Christina Butler, L. Karl, P. O'Sullivan, David Molloy, C. Betack, Charlotte Engel, J-P Berliet

**Absent:** Fr. Segura, A. Munnely, Beth Dwyer, S. Lione, Bardhyl Gjoka, Beverly Buonaiuto, Ben Otis, R. Phelan,

### **I. Opening Prayer at 7: 37 pm**

Offered by Deacon Pond

### **II. Approval of minutes of April 20<sup>th</sup> and reports submitted to April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and agenda for today's meeting**

Minutes of April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting as well as reports submitted on April 20<sup>th</sup> (revised) and on May 18<sup>th</sup> were approved by Members of the Council who were present. Agenda of today's meeting was approved.

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

In the absence of Rich Phelan, still hospitalized, Msgr. Scheyd reported that there were no new items to report to the Council. Msgr. Scheyd also announced that David Molloy will be leaving his position as head of the finance committee because he has accepted a new professional position in California and will be moving there with his family in August.

### **IV. Synod Update**

Chris Ayoub brought our attention to the excellent update just published in the May issue of the Fairfield County Catholic newspaper of the Diocese. The article lays out specific initiatives including the call for the creation of a Catholic Service Corps, of a Leadership Institute, and a new diocesan council. Bishop Caggiano is recommending the creation of a permanent strategic planning commission to guide renewal and reform, development of a comprehensive pastoral planning process for parishes and diocesan institutions as well as two leadership councils, one for religious and the other for laity.

Bishop Caggiano's major proposals were presented and discussed at the last delegates session on May 9<sup>th</sup>. They will be discussed with the Clergy on May 19<sup>th</sup> and with the laity on May 26<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of formal approval vote on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Msgr. Scheyd is asking all leaders, including members of the Parish Council, to plan to attend the September 19<sup>th</sup> closing ceremony and mass at the Webster Bank arena in Bridgeport. There is a need to begin planning reserving a bus to bring parish leaders and delegates to this event.

## V. Unfinished/Old Business

**Catholic Appeal:** Msgr. Scheyd reported that the parish has received commitments from 300 donors and reached its goal of \$600,000. He continues to see it as essential to increase the participation rate of parishioners. He would like to see another 200 commitments. He is planning to wrap up this fund raising project by the end of May.

**Christmas masses:** Msgr. Scheyd will be setting up a small committee to discuss how to change the schedule of masses at Christmas and what to do about the Pageant. Committee recommendations will be discussed with the Council and a final decision will be made in June

**Virtus certification:** At present, all parish volunteers who come in contact with children/youth or vulnerable elderly must, at a minimum, read the policy manual and return to the signed copy of the executive summary attesting that this obligation has been met, before May 30<sup>th</sup>. So far, too few volunteers have responded. Msgr. is urging everyone to respond urgently, so that all required requests for background checks can be submitted to the Diocese by this deadline.

## VI. New Business

**Elections to Parish Council:** deliberation of council members led to the identification of the following candidates for the June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> election.

- Adults: Jim Arliss, John Lydon, Dick Laughton, Christina Altier, Kim Mc Namara, Carrie Sindelar, Janine Pickhardt
- J-P Berliet is standing for reelection to a second three year term
- Youth: Jake O'Neill, Cameron Devitt, Jillian Gould, Taylor Cowser, JP Sloan

Msgr. will approach the candidates above to determine whether they are interested in standing for election and determine the final ballot.

## VII. Updates from Fathers Bartolome and Segura

**Father Bartolome:** Father Cyrus reported that:

- Following the formation of a diocesan Serra club to foster vocations. He indicated that the formation of the parish Serra club might require payment of a fee to the national Serra club organization. Parish members include: Martin and Margie Doran, Lenny and Liza Paglialunga and Bob Mantilia.
- Parish vocation committee members include: Martin and Margie Doran, Lenny and Liza Paglialunga, Chris Otis, Bob Mantilia, Don and Sharon Gerne, Christina Altier and Carol Mahoney.
- He will work during the summer on the establishment of a bereavement ministry

**Father Segura:** Not in attendance

## VIII. Pastor's Report

Msgr. Scheyd confirmed that everything is going well at present and provided no additional inputs.

Msgr. Scheyd reported that the Parish secretary, Mary Pelletier has resigned to take a new position with the Archdiocese of New York. The parish needs to hire a replacement. He is seeking to revamp the role and will welcome introductions to potential candidates.

## IX. Inputs, Comments and Announcements:

**Parish Picnic:** considerations of scheduling conflicts and declines in attendance led the Council to hold the picnic on June 13<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the car raffle. Maura Gayer needs help for the organization of the event. Ticket prices will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and \$30 per family. Shannon Goetz is setting up the needed "SignUpGenius". The Knights of Columbus will manage the distribution of beverages and the Ice Cream truck. The parish will rent a large charcoal grill for the event.

**Car Raffle:** the event will take place as planned on June 13<sup>th</sup>, during the parish picnic

**Feed my Starving Children:** St A has committed to assume the 2 to 4 pm shift at the New Canaan high school. All ministry members, adults, teens and families are urged to participate in and help out at the event sponsored by Pura Vida on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

**Adult Emmaus:** registration is open for the event that will take place on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

**Casting the Net:** the event netted over \$31,000. The final report on this event is being prepared. Denise Luccarelli offered to chair next year's fundraiser "Casting the Net".

**Council members' election:** it was suggested that we should tell new members what they will be asked to do once they have been elected and have joined the council.

**X. Closing Prayer:** offered by Deacon Santulli at 9:30 pm

**Meeting Closed at 9:35 pm**

**Next meeting:** Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 starting with dinner at 7:00 pm, Stapleton Hall

Submitted by Jean-Pierre Berliet, Secretary

**St Aloysius Church Parish Council**  
**May 18, 2015 Meeting**  
**Committee Reports**

Our Lady's Guild, submitted by Margie Doran

- The Guild had a meeting on April 28, 2015 that began with Mass and the Rosary followed by a light brunch in Stapleton Hall. Our speaker was Sr. Clare Matthiass, a Franciscan Sister of the Renewal who gave a beautiful talk on Our Mother Mary.
- Second grader Charlotte Olesen and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Eileen Flynn crowned our Lady at Our Lady's Guild Crowning on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- On Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> we had our outside luncheon at the Convent of St. Birgitta. Fr. Cyrus and Fr. Justin celebrated Mass in the Chapel, followed by the Rosary. Our speaker was Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, an author and EWTN host. We had a delicious lunch prepared and served by the nuns of St. Birgitta.
- Margie Doran completed her term as President of OLG and it was announced that Mary Moran will serve as President for the next two years.
- The Guild is planning a pilgrimage to The Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Ct on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, submitted by Marie Pascale

Our Catechist Appreciation Dinner took place on Tuesday, April 28, at the Roger Sherman Inn. The original location was the Italian Center but we were informed that they had mistakenly double booked. The Italian Center paid for all the beverages and the Roger Sherman honored the exact price we would have paid the Italian Center.

All three of our First Holy Communions have taken place. Approximately 140 children received the Blessed Sacrament for the first time during May.

Children who are in our Refresh & Renew program are continuing with their Religious Education and preparing to receive their sacraments in June and August.

We are currently beginning the registration process for 2015-2016 and information is now available on the website.

We are actively seeking catechists for the upcoming year. Many of our catechists return each year but we are losing some as they move to other locations or as their children get to high school and college.

Our office remains open until June 30.

### **Youth & Family Ministry, *Submitted by Chris Otis***

#### **TEEN MASS/SPIRITUALITY:**

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 our Teen Dinner n' Adoration in April that was led by 8 teens and had about 20 teens in attendance.

We took a group of 8 teens to the Catholic Underground in NYC – this is a special Holy Hour that is hosted by the Franciscan Fathers of the Renewal.

We held a 6:30 am outdoor Teen Mass on May 14 for the Feast of the Ascension which was attended by 41 teens. Nine moms came to make breakfast bags for the teens after Mass.

Our Graduation Mass is scheduled for June 14 at the 5:00 p.m. Teen Mass. Lynn LoRusso will once again take pictures of our seniors and their parents in the chapel before and after Mass.

#### **CATHOLIC ACTION:**

A group of over 23 teens took the children of Thorpe Family Residence to the Bronx Zoo in April. We will hopefully be hosting them here in New Canaan in June for the circus.

About 20 teens came together to host an event for the children of Breakthrough Options. We had a record attendance of guests from breakthrough and some of our teens ended up buddies for more than one child or teen.

We will be hosting the special needs kids from Young Life Capernaum on May 30.

We have a St. A's shift at Feed My Starving Children on Sunday, June 7 from 2-4pm. We are also participating with our teens at the New Canaan Church Youth Group session on Saturday, June 6 from 11am – 1pm.

Parishioner Sean Manzella has gotten his Eagle Scout project approved and we are working on getting a group of our teens to support his work with a St. A's work day since we began a

relationship with the project recipient, the Borroughs Community Garden during our Big Day of Serving in the fall.

We have a breakfast run coming on Fathers Day in June. We are collecting mens colored t shirts, men's new or gently used sneakers, men's athletic socks and toiletry kits.

#### **NEWLY CONFIRMED STUDENTS:**

We have our Confirmation Blowout coming on May 31 where we welcome all of our recently confirmed into youth ministry.

I have engaged the help of three 8<sup>th</sup> grade mothers to lead the installation of the Holy Spirit Garden in early June.

#### **SYNOD :**

I continue to serve on the Synod Closing Mass Committee as the Youth Representative. Our plans for the youth will include a parish-level service project that will showcased at the closing Mass with a food structure built by the youth of the diocese in the Webster Bank Arena. The Mass is September 19<sup>th</sup> – please mark your calendars! I will be helping to chair a meeting on June 2 where we, along with the Bishop will lay out the plans for the youth of the diocese.

I am also serving on a Study Commission on Family Life.

#### **CATHOLIC PARENTS CONNECT:**

We joined Our Lady's Guild for their April Meeting to hear a very inspiring speaker, Sister Clare. We are also in the planning stages of scheduling another day trip to Arthur Avenue, which will include shopping, Mass and lunch.

#### **OTHER:**

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. If your ministry wants anything special put on the app, please let me know.

We had our spring Emmaus weekend on May 1-3. We had 32 candidates and I had the opportunity to address all at the closing session – I also participated in some of the fourth day activities where the candidates and table leaders return.

MARTHA AND MARY MINISTRY, submitted by JEANNE ECKRICH

MOTHER TERESA'S CLOSET

MARY WARD WRITES THAT THEY ARE CURRENTLY ACCEPTING SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHES AND WORKING WITH CHRIS OTIS AND THE YOUTH MINISTRY REGARDING THE MIDNIGHT RUN AND HAVE WORKED WITH A NUN IN THE BRONX PROVIDING MEN'S CLOTHES AND SHOES AS WELL AS TWO FAMILIES FROM BRIDGEPORT WHO NEEDED CLOTHING. HEATHE DEVITT HAS JOINED THEIR MINISTRY

PARISH PARTNERS

JEANNE ECKRICH REPORTS THAT PARISH PARTNERS IS BEING RE ORGANIZED. AN ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP OF WOMEN HAVE FORMED THE EVENTS COMMITTEE AND WILL PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THE TWO LUNCHEONS AND TEA. THE OUTREACH TO THE HOMEBOUND WILL BE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JEANNE ECKRICH UNTIL SHE FINDS A REPLACEMENT . PARISH PARTNER'S MISSION IS TO HELP THE SENIORS OF OUR PARISH.

#### NEWCOMERS

MAGGIE PIERCE SUGGESTS MOVING THE NEWCOMERS WELCOME TO SUNDAY WHEN FOLKS ARE ALREADY AT CHURCH FOR MASS. THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAME IN LAST SATURDAY CAME FOR OTHER REASONS AND WERE NOT NEWCOMERS. MAGGIE IS GOING TO SEE WHAT THE VOLUNTEERS THINK ABOUT THE CHANGE.

#### SUNDAY COFFEES

MICHELE SLOAN REPORTS THAT COFFEES WILL RESUME IN JUNE.