



ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 15th, 2015

Present: Msgr. Scheyd, Fr. Bartolome, Fr. Segura, 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, P. O'Sullivan, David Molloy, C. Betack, Charlotte Engel, Ben Otis, Bardhyl Gjoka, Dick Laughton, Jake O'Neill, Carrie Sindelar, J-P Berliet

Absent: Deacon Pond, S. Lione, Beverly Buonaiuto, R. Phelan, L. Karl, JP Sloan (newly elected youth representative)

I. Opening Prayer at 7: 53 pm

Offered by Father Cyrus Bartolome

II Introduction of Council members and welcome to newly elected members

Newly elected members (Dick Laughton, Carrie Sindelar, Jake O'Neill and JP Sloan, in absentia) are welcomed by Msgr. Scheyd and the Council members who introduced themselves.

III. Approval of minutes of May 18th meeting, reports submitted on June 15th and of agenda for today's meeting

Minutes of May 18th meeting as well as reports submitted June 15th were approved by Members of the Council who were present. Agenda of today's meeting was approved.

IV. Business Manager's Report

In the absence of Rich Phelan, Msgr. Scheyd reported that the financial report for the fiscal year ending on June 30th and the budget for the year 2015-2016 will be presented to the Council at the September meeting.

Public areas of Stapleton hall will be repainted during the summer

The Casting the Net event generated a net profit of \$31,400 on a revenue of \$55,000 because the drinks were graciously gifted for this event. Distribution of the event's profit to the ministries will take place in the fall, once all the requests of the ministries have been submitted and

evaluated. Msgr. Scheyd expects that all funds will be distributed except for a very small reserve to be used for starting next year.

Next year's event will be held at another location. Water's Edge, in Darien, is being considered. Denise Luccarelli will be chairing the committee organizing next year's event. Denise has already begun to recruit members and to organize this committee.

There is need to consider the amount of subsidy provided by the parish for religious education. Msgr. does not want to follow the example of many other parishes that charge a sacramental fee for first communion or confirmation. There is also a need to continue offering scholarships to families who cannot afford to pay full tuition, especially when several children are involved in the program. Msgr. reminded the Council that the Parish has an obligation to offer religious education to all youth.

V. Synod Update

Bishop Caggiano's major proposals were presented, discussed at the last delegates' session on May 9th, with the Clergy on May 19th and with the laity on May 26th and by a formal approval vote on May 30th. The implementation schedule has been set with the expectation that work on the major initiatives will start immediately after the closing of the Synod, except for certain initiatives that involve the clergy for which work has already begun. The schedule of implementation of the six major initiatives is as follows:

- Establishment of Diocesan Strategic Planning Commission, by October 2015
- Beginning of Comprehensive Pastoral Planning Process by November 2015
- Establishment of a catholic Service Corps by November 2015
- Establishment of a leadership Institute by January 1, 2016
- Creation of a Council of Religious and Diocesan Pastoral Council by December 2015
- Creation of a six-month consultative process leading to a Presbyteral Assembly on February 25, 2016 to draft concrete measures supporting the Synod's call for priests to live "holy and healthy lives"

Msgr. Scheyd is asking all leaders, including members of the Parish Council, to plan to attend the September 19th 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. Registration tickets will be included in the Bulletin.

VI. Unfinished/Old Business

Catholic Appeal: Msgr. Scheyd reported that the parish has received commitments totaling over \$700,000, exceeding 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 June. At present, Diocesan commitments of \$9.2 million fall short of the \$11 million objective.

Christmas Masses: Msgr. Scheyd has set up a small committee to discuss how to change the schedule of Masses at Christmas and what to do about the Pageant. This Committee has not yet met recommendations will be discussed with the Council and a final decision will be made in June

Virtus certification: The process has resulted in the identification of 800 volunteers who must be verified and qualified. Work is continuing.

Parish picnic: The event held on Saturday, June 13th was a very successful. 310 parishioners attended. Weather, food and music contributed to making the occasion a great event.

Parish Partners/Martha and Mary: Kim Mc Namarra will succeed Jeanne Eckrich. There is a need to make these ministries better known in the Parish. One possibility to accomplish this would be to use the parish bulletin to introduce one ministry each month.

These ministries need more nurse volunteers. At present, there are only two volunteers to perform the monthly blood pressure screening.

VII. New Business

Casting the Net 2016: Msgr. Scheyd indicated that this event might have to be held during the second week of March, before Easter (March 27th).

Oktober Fest: tentative date of September 26th is being considered and needs to be confirmed

VIII. Updates from Fathers Bartolome and Segura

Father Bartolome: Father Cyrus reported that:

- The first meeting of the Parish vocation committee will be held on June 26th in the holy Spirit Courtyard
- He will begin soon the work required to establish a bereavement ministry

Father Segura: No input

IX. Pastor's Report

New secretary: Jean Desmond has been hired and will start on June 22nd. Meanwhile, Maria Malloy has been helping since Marie Pelletier's departure. The parish needs to plan for Maria's replacement in anticipation of her forthcoming move out of area. Msgr. is planning to reorganize the office space at Stapleton Hall to enhance the secretary's ability to interact with and help all visitors. He is also planning to train whoever replaces Maria as a backup for the new secretary.

Departing Members: Msgr. thanked Chris Ayoub, departing President of the Council for her dedication and leadership as President, as well as Margie Doran, also departing from the council for her tireless contributions. Msgr. also thanked Ben Otis and Charlotte Engel for their service as youth representatives. They are both leaving for college.

Council Officers election: Shannon Goetz was elected President of the Council, Christine Betack was elected Vice-President and Jean-Pierre Berliet was reelected as Secretary. Jake O'Neill and JP Sloan were elected youth representatives.

X. Inputs, Comments and Announcements:

St. Aloysius School: Bardhyl Gjoka reported that the school year will finish on June 23rd and that he is pleased with all the progress accomplished to establish and enhance school programs as well as significantly upgrade school technology. Enrolment is expected to be at the same level next year as this year.

Adult Emmaus: registration is open for the event that will take place on Saturday, June 27th

Reception for Cidalia Kettles: Please attend a reception in her honor after the 11:30 am mass on June 22nd at which she will sing for the last time before leaving her role of cantor. She will continue her work in music education at the school.

X. Closing Prayer: offered by Father Ralph Segura at 9:20 pm

Meeting Closed at 9:25 pm

Next meeting: September, 21st at 7:30 pm, Stapleton Hall

Submitted by Jean-Pierre Berliet, Secretary

**St Aloysius Church Parish Council
June 15, 2015 Meeting
Committee Reports**

Our Lady's Guild, submitted by Margie Doran

- Ten Guild members traveled with Fr. Cyrus to The Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Ct on June 9th. The Abbey was founded in 1947 and is a community of contemplative Benedictine women dedicated to the praise of God through prayer and work. We visited the main Church, Jesu Fili Mariae, and then we met with Sr. Angele who gave us a tour of the Crèche, the Monastery Chapel and the Monastic Art shop. We enjoyed meeting many of the nuns at the Abbey and we ended the day with lunch in Woodbury, Ct.
- 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:

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 June that was led teens and had over 20 teens in attendance.

We held our Graduation Mass June 14 at the 5:00 p.m. Teen Mass. Msgr. did a beautiful candle lighting and blessing over all seniors and seniors, Nancy Leville and Nina Larson sang a communion meditation. Lynn LoRusso took pictures of our seniors and their parents in the chapel before and after Mass and our new parish council teen reps organized and hosted the ice cream

social. All seniors received a small gift from the parish of a cross with a reminder to pray daily.

Our third year of Summer Teen Bible Study will begin June 29 and run for 5 Mondays. This year, we are using the Chosen high school program, which is dvd based and incorporates small groups facilitated by young adults. Our summer Teen Adoration will be incorporated into this. We will also offer the students the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Teen Rosary group will meet on June 23 to make the rosary and pray the rosary.

CATHOLIC ACTION:

We had about 15 teens who came to spend an afternoon with the special needs kids from Young Life Capernaum on May 30.

Teens and their families participated in the St. A's shift at Feed My Starving Children on Sunday, June 7 from 2-4pm. We also had a few teens work at the New Canaan Church Youth Group session on Saturday, June 6 from 11am – 1pm.

We took a group of 8 teens back to the Burroughs Community Garden to assist Parishioner Sean Manzella on his Eagle Scout project. Our teens were complimented for their work ethic. We are working on getting Msgr. there to bless the garden for a bountiful harvest.

We held a bake sale this weekend to raise money to help cover transportation costs to the mission trip. Rose Walker of CTBling has also set up a June fundraiser of her Catholic and Christian jewelry with part of the proceeds going to the mission trip.

We have a breakfast run coming on Fathers Day in June 21. We are collecting mens colored t shirts, men's new or gently used sneakers, men's athletic socks and toiletry kits.

We are hosting a picnic and taking the children of the Thorpe Family Residence to the circus on June 20.

Summer plans include our mission trip to Cumberland, Maryland, Steubenville East, Fan the Fire and work at the Missionaries of Charity Day Camp, the St. Stephens Food Pantry and Vacation Bible School.

NEWLY CONFIRMED STUDENTS:

We hosted about 30 rising freshmen at our Confirmation Blowout on May 31.

Our rising freshmen can together for a TGIF and the planting of the Holy Spirit Garden, in the courtyard on the Maple Street side of the parish center.

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. There will also be a Sunrise Holy Hour before the Mass to which youth will be invited to and to process with the Bishop through the streets of Bridgeport to the Arena. The Mass is September 19th – please mark your calendars! I presented the plan at a meeting of 75 youth ministers on June 2.

I have finished my work on Synod Study Commission on Family Life.

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.

I will be serving on the Vocations Committee.

I attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony of Max Marsh.

Youth Ministry was awarded an appreciation award for our work with Breakthrough Options. Teen Leader Kailey Pickhardt and teen mentors Cameron Harris and Caroline Sarda all spoke at the tea and were there to accept the award.

Martha and Mary Ministries, submitted by Jeanne Eckrich

Driving Miss Daisy – Mike Salvati continues to coordinate drivers, but could use some additional volunteers.

Mother Teresa's Closet – Mary Ward was sorry to see Annette Picioletti retire to Florida, but Heather Divitt has replaced her. They have just finished helping Chris with tee shirts and shoes for the youth ministry project and are helping Person to Person as needed.

Parish Partners – Kim McNamara, our Parish Nurse, will continue the mission of outreach to the homebound and events for seniors. A Senior Events sub committee is already planning the Fall luncheon . They are Kathie Karl, Mimi Rafferty, Terry McGrath and Pat Malone. Kim and the public relations person, Judy Wren, will meet with members of the Senior Events committee and Jeanne Eckrich, past chairman, this week so that the transition goes smoothly.

Sunday Hospitality – Michele Sloan reports that the coffees will continue through the end of July. Although the numbers have dwindled the coffees are still going strong/

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, submitted by Marie Pascale

Registrations are coming in to our office. June 19 is the deadline for the first wave of enrollment. Those who register by the deadline will have access on August 25 to sign-up genius and choose the day and time for their child. All those who register after June 19 will be offered what is available.

We continue to have a great need for catechists in every grade (except 2nd grade). With our parish religious ed population at just under 1200 we need to recruit approximately 160 catechists to effectively deliver the Word of God.

On June 16, we will hold a planning meeting to evaluate last-year's programs and to add, subtract, or enhance where necessary.

We have received official notification from the Diocese that Bishop Caggiano will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, May 14, 2016 here at St. Aloysius.

The religious ed office will close for the summer on Tuesday, June 30 and will reopen on Monday, August 17. The staff will check voice mail and e-mail periodically.