



ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 21st, 2015

Present: Msgr. Scheyd, Fr. Bartolome, Deacon Santulli, Deacon Pond, S. Goetz, M.Gayer, M. Pascale Vandall, C. Otis, B. Buonaiuto, J. Emert, T. Marino, C. Hussey, M Hennessey, C. Butler, J. Otis, B. Gjoka, D. Laughton, M. Moran, J. O'Neill, JP Sloan, L. Karl, J-P Berliet

Absent: Fr. Segura, S. Lione, R. Phelan, C. Betack, C. Sindelar, J. Eckrich

I. Opening Prayer at 7:36 pm

Offered by Deacon Steve Pond

II. Introduction of Council members and welcome to newly elected members

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

III. Approval of minutes of June 15th meeting, reports submitted on September 21st and of agenda for today's meeting

Minutes of June 15th meeting as well as reports submitted September 21st 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 October meeting.

Diane Castrovinci has been appointed Chair of the Finance Committee, for a two year term.

A new boiler serving the church and the school has been installed. There is a need to install a second boiler, as back up.

Mr. Gjoka, Principal of Saint Aloysius School was pleased to report that 212 students were enrolled in the school, which compares with 206 last year. The school could accommodate three more students at this time. He also gave a short presentation on changes that are taking place at

the school to improve the learning environment for the student including: curriculum design, investment in technology, teaching materials (textbooks and subscriptions), security enhancements, etc.

V. Synod Update

The celebration of the closure of the Synod, at a mass held at the Webster arena in Bridgeport on September 19th gathered close to 8,000 people in a strong demonstration of the Catholic life in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

At the end of mass, Bishop Caggiano signed the documents of the Synod, making them the new law of the Diocese as of that very moment.

Work on the major initiatives will start immediately. 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 October 2015
- Establishment of a Leadership Institute by January 1, 2016
- Creation of a Council of Religious and Diocesan Pastoral Council by December 2015
- A 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" has already begun.

Bishop Caggiano has requested that all parish leaders get involved in the Strategic Planning process that all parishes of the diocese are required to conduct. To this effect, he expects all such leaders to attend a day of prayer and training on Saturday, November 7th, 2015 at St Matthew (Norwalk), from 10 am to 3 pm, starting with mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano.

VI. Unfinished/Old Business

Catholic Appeal: Diocesan commitments have reached the \$11 million objective that had been set by Bishop Caggiano. St. Aloysius contribution, slightly over \$1 million, exceeded the \$600,000 target.

Christmas Masses: Msgr. Scheyd will be meeting shortly with a small committee to discuss how to change the schedule of Masses at Christmas and what to do about the Pageant. His tentative plan is to have masses at 4 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm and Midnight. The committee will also come to a final decision about whether and how the Pageant might go ahead, in light of the new mass schedule. Msgr. Scheyd will advise the council at the next meeting, in October.

Virtus certification: The process has resulted in the identification of 800 volunteers who must be verified and qualified. Beth Dwyer is continuing to get the process completed.

Second Sunday office hours: Since only four people came by, this experiment is going to be further tested before a final decision to pursue it or continue is finalized.

Mass card business: It is difficult for the Parish to meet all parishioners' requests, because we do not have enough masses. Msgr. is looking at the possibility to share such requests with other

Parishes that have excess capacity, including parishes/dioceses/orders involved in missionary activities overseas.

New building: Joe Rucci is planning to go to the Zoning Board to have a discussion of the footprint of the new building, based on preliminary drawings that have become available.

VII. New Business

Oktober Fest: volunteers' sign-up sheet is being passed around to staff this important parish event to be held on September 26th.

VIII. Updates from Fathers Bartolome and Segura

Father Bartolome: Father Cyrus reported that:

- The Vocation committee is developing a "Praying for Vocations" brochure and is designating the 4 to 5 pm slot on First Friday adoration as "Vocation Hour"
- Next meeting for launch of a bereavement ministry will be held on October 13th. Initial focus is on training of volunteers for this important ministry.

Father Segura: Not in attendance

- There is a continuing need for more volunteers (Grade 3 and up) to sign up as altar servers.

IX. Pastor's Report

Msgr. Scheyd reminded the Council that the Synod for the Family will be held in October in Rome and that we need to pray for its success.

X. Inputs, Comments and Announcements:

Chris Otis: arrangements for buses to drive people wanting to attend the papal mass to be celebrated in Philadelphia have been completed. St. A is a stop for buses driving to this event. We encourage people to sign up.

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

Marie Vandall: Denise Luccarelli will be chairing the committee working on the organization of the 2016 Casting the Net event. Meanwhile, the committee will begin working on the allocation of the funds raised by the last event among parish ministries.

Chris Hussey: There is a need for more volunteers to sign up as Eucharistic Ministers for the daily 5:30 pm mass

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

Meeting Closed at 9:20 pm

Next meeting: October 19th at 7:30 pm, Stapleton Hall

Submitted by Jean-Pierre Berliet, Secretary

St Aloysius Church Parish Council September 21, 2015 Meeting Committee Reports

Vocation Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2015, submitted by Fr. Cyrus Bartolome

Present: Fr. Cyrus, Deacon Bill, Margie Doran, Marty Doran, Sharon Gerne, Chris Otis, Liza Paglialunga, Lenny Paglialunga, Christina Altier

General Vocation Discussion:

- Possibly follow the three step model from Diocesan website under Vocations and look into resources
(Step 1 – Faith based Model with Prayers for Vocation Ministry)
 - Choose posters, flyers, brochures to order from websites
 - Apostolate of Prayer - confirm amount to order (Fr. Cyrus)
 - Outreach to homebound/sick for the Apostolate of Prayer (Margie)
 - Vianney website from Diocesan vocations has additional resources
 - Meet with Vocation Office to look at available Resources (Margie)
- Gear up for Vocation Week Nov. 1-8
 - Make prayer cards for Adopt-a-Seminarian (Marty)
 - Confirm time for the Hour of Adoration for first Friday Mass (Sharon)
 - Tables at Church with posters, flyers and brochures
- Vocation Dinner possibly in January or Spring with Seminarian/Priest and Sister
- Add Prayer for Vocations to Daily Missals to start –to be confirmed by Fr. Cyrus

Communication:

- Bulletin awareness for Vocation Week in November and related events (Chris)
- Possible weekly/monthly saint or seminarian/religious vocation story in Bulletin -TBC
- Past notes from Deacon Bill for ideas

New Members:

- Identify teens for vocation committee

Family Vocation Ideas:

- Possible assembly at school with seminarian/priest and sister/religious for boys and girls separately
- Discussion of creation of a school vocation committee
- Research family/faith publication for distribution school/religious for parents, possibly from Our Sunday Visitor

Next Meeting:

- October 8th, Thursday at 7pm

[KEEP PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS!](#)

Our Lady's Guild, submitted by Mary Moran

The Guild had their first meeting of the year on September 8, 2015, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother. It began with Mass and Rosary followed by a light brunch and meeting in Stapleton Hall. Sr. Lorraine Tiani was the speaker. The title of her talk was "Mary, Friend of God and Our Companion on the Journey".

The 2015-2016 Board of Our Lady's Guild is as follows:

Spiritual Director, Fr. Cyrus

President, Mary Moran

VP, Kim McNamara

VP Membership, Joanne Santulli

Treasurer, Fiz Tomaselli

Secretary, Heather Devitt

Past President, Margie Doran

Our Lady's Guild will sponsor The Living Rosary on Oct. 7, after the 5:30 Mass, in celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. Refreshments will be served in the narthex immediately following.

Next month The Guild's meeting will be Oct. 14 and Mother Dolores Hart will speak on "Our Lady and Her Sorrowful Mystery of Today". A free will donation will be requested for those attending to benefit the Abbey of Regina Laudis Renovation Project. The Abbey has seen a growth in vocations and needs to expand their dormitory space.

The Guild continues to work at St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry by both volunteering time as well as donating non perishables 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, *Summer – September 2015, Submitted by Chris Otis*

TEEN MASS/SPIRITUALITY:

We are in the process of recruiting and scheduling new students for our Mass captain program which continues to provide leadership opportunities for our high school teens as they coordinate the teen ushers and gift bearers. We will be holding a fellowship dinner and training for our teen lectors of October 4. We have 20 teens returning to lector and will be adding new freshmen who will be paired with our senior lectors for mentoring.

Angelo is recruiting new StAY Choir and Praise Band members and is trying to incorporate more leadership opportunities.

We held our Teen Dinner n' Adoration in June and July. Our next Teen Adoration is September 23.

We ran our third year of Summer Teen Bible Study and used the Chosen high school program, which is dvd based and incorporates small groups facilitated by young adults. We took the teens to Teen Adoration one week and offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation the last week. We had about 15 teens who participated and 6 young adult leaders.

Our Teen Rosary group met in July to make rosaries and pray the rosary. Our next teen rosary is September 29.

We took 14 teens to Steubenville East which was attended by almost 3,000 Catholic teens who gathered at UMASS for inspirational talks, Mass, Adoration and small group time. We took 25 teens to Fan the Fire up at St. Rose of Lima in Newton, which attracted almost 500 teens this year.

We took a contingent of 30+ teens and adult chaperones to participate in the Bishop's Synod Mass. We attended Morning Prayer/Holy Hour with the Bishop and then walked with him as he processed a statue of Our Lady to the Arena. We joined our parish for Mass.

We offered our annual Blessing of Drivers and the priests also gave blessings over cars after Mass on Sept 20.

CATHOLIC ACTION:

Over the summer, we did a breakfast run into NYC in June, performed the skit at Vacation Bible School, worked at the St. Stephens Food Pantry and helped at the Missionaries of Charity day camp for three days. While working with the sisters, they indicated that the children had backpacks but no supplies – we did a backpack supply drive and delivered 65 backpack supply kits before school began.

We held our first mission trip in several years. Our team consisted of 12 high school teens and 4 adults who travelled to Catholic Heart WorkCamp in Cumberland, Maryland where we did work for a 91 year old woman and her special needs son, a woman who had been hurt in a factory accident and a blended family of 10+ who needed their house painted. The teens drew very close to one another and worked extremely hard at our assignments. Our time in Cumberland also included inspirational talks, praise and worship music, Mass, reconciliation and small group time.

Our teens came together to test build the lighthouse which was made out of 2,000 cans of tuna. Another group came in to dismantle and take the food down to the Webster Bank Arena for the Mass. The lighthouse was sponsored by St. A's and all food will be donated to Catholic Charities St. Stephen's Food Pantry.

We will be doing another breakfast run in October and have dates scheduled with our ministry to the children of Breakthrough Options, Thorpe Family Residence in the Bronx and Young Life Capernum. We will also be helping the confirmation students with Project 1,000.

NEWLY CONFIRMED STUDENTS:

We will begin our monthly TGIF's in October.

SYNOD :

I have finished my work for the Synod Celebration Mass Committee as the Youth Representative. We rallied the youth of the diocese to build mini lighthouses or other structures in over 12 parishes and came together in collaboration to build the official lighthouse at the Synod Celebration Mass. This is an example of what the Bishop's new Catholic Service Corp may accomplish.

OTHER:

I will be loading our fall events to update 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 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 attended the Eagle Scout Project celebration of George Molloy.

I will be working on the fall Emmaus.

The youth ministers of New Canaan have begun meeting and we will target to do 2 cooperative service events a year bringing teens of all faiths together to serve our brothers and sisters in need.

I am transitioning off doing the bulletin. Our new secretary Jean Desmond will be the new bulletin editor. Please continue to send all submissions to bulletin@starcc.com by noon on Tuesdays.

We have 8 teens and 5 adults from St. A's signed up to go to World Youth Day with the Pope in Poland next summer. We have 7 more teens on the wait list. To help defray the almost \$4,000 person cost, we will be doing a Sell Your Gold fundraiser October 16-18.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, submitted by Marie Pascale Vandall

The Religious Education office reopened on August 17. On-line registration was held on August 25 and August 26.

Catechist training sessions took place September 1,2,3 for catechists teaching grades 1 -6. Two sessions were held for each grade: one in the morning and one in the evening. All catechists received their book, curriculum, syllabus and lesson plans for the next three weeks. Second grade catechists took part in additional training to prepare their students for the sacraments.

Catechist training sessions were held the following week for Level 1 (7th grade) and Level 2 (8th grade) in preparation for Confirmation. Two sessions were held: one in the morning and one in the afternoon. All catechists were trained in the use of our new program called "Chosen." Sessions were conducted by Mary Karen Keneally and also attended by Msgr. Scheyd and Marie Pascale Vandall.

Parent Information sessions were held so that parents would be familiar with this new program, what it entails (study and community service) and how they can participate. All information regarding Confirmation was reviewed at this time. Important forms and deadlines are accessible on the parish website.

Religious Education begins Sunday, September 20 and continues during the week with the exception of Wednesday (School holiday). All sessions begin with a prayer service attended by child and one parent. Class assignments follow.

We will be utilizing all spaces for classrooms in the school including the faculty lounge, art room and computer room as well as space in the McGuire House.

THIS YEAR WE HAVE RECRUITED 197 CATECHISTS IN GRADES 1 - 8.

All information relative to Religious Education is updated regularly on the parish website and through weekly bulletin announcements.

In addition we have a group of Home School students working with our coordinator, Ursula Hennessey. We continue to offer a Refresh & Renew program for those children who need to return to the church after a period of time.

Sunday Coffees, submitted by Michele Sloan

The coffees resumed on Sunday, September 13th and have been very well attended. They continue to be very a fantastic opportunity for parishioners to meet and socialize with one another.