



ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 17th, 2016

Present: Msgr. Scheyd, Deacon Pond, S. Goetz, J. Emert, C. Butler, C. Mahoney, C. Sindelar, M. Pascale Vandall, C. Otis, J. Otis, R. Laughton, L. Karl, M. Gayer

Absent: Fr. Bartolome, Fr. Segura, Deacon Santulli, R. Phelan, D. Castrovinci, C. Hussey, JP Berliet, S. Socci, B. Gjoka, T. Marino, M. Moran, M. Hennessey, S. Lione, C. Betack, R. Walker, H. Montano, E. Smith

I. Opening Prayer at 7:35 pm

Offered by Msgr. Scheyd

II. Approval of minutes of September 26th meeting, reports submitted on October 17th and of agenda for today's meeting

Minutes of September 26th meeting were approved with one change on page 4: Bishop's Mass to consecrate the diocese of Bridgeport to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be held on November 5th at 4pm. Reports submitted on October 17th were also approved by Members of the Council who were present. Agenda of today's meeting was approved.

III. Business Manager's Report

Msgr. Scheyd reported that he and Rich Phelan met with an Energy Audit company last week. Potential projects include: solar panels for the school (~\$500k-\$600k installation with projected savings of \$30k annually) and electrical controls on the heating system. When the final Energy Audit proposal is received, it will be submitted to the Finance Council for review. Msgr. noted that a new school roof was installed in the mid 1990's, but the gym roof is original to the building (approximately 65 years old). Some parishes are moving ahead with solar panel roofing, so this type of work has been done in the Diocese.

Upon final approval by the Finance Council, the 2015/2016 fiscal year Financial Report will be mailed out to all parishioners in the middle of November.

IV. Unfinished/Old Business

Oktoberfest: Shannon Goetz offered thanks to all who volunteered, especially the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters, to make the Oktoberfest a success. Although it was a smaller crowd than in the past, it was a very enjoyable evening! Approximately 30 calls were made to new parishioners inviting them to Oktoberfest, and a few of those invited did attend. Msgr. noted that events like Oktoberfest are important for the parish community. He also noted other ideas, e.g. Pot Luck Supper or progressive dinner parties could be considered.

Pastoral Planning Town Hall: Feedback on the Town Hall meeting was discussed. Some Parish Council members noted the meeting was well attended but not many “new” faces were present. The meeting did engage those present in the process of pastoral planning. The next step is to draft a plan with goals to the Diocese. The Pastoral Planning Committee is still gathering comments and is also completing a needs assessment. Msgr. Scheyd noted that two fundamentals the plan needs to address are:

- (1) communication (keeping current with new technologies that improve communication), and
- (2) space requirements (storage needs for maintenance equipment, additional meeting spaces, religious education needs, school needs, youth ministry needs, etc.).

Marie Pascale Vandall highlighted some of the results of the informal survey of Religious Education families that was done last month as part of getting feedback for the pastoral planning. Four families out of the 100-110 families surveyed are involved in activities in the parish other than Religious Education.

In light of all the issues discussed related to pastoral planning, Msgr. Scheyd encouraged all present to read Bishop Caggiano’s Easter 2016 letter. See link below:

<https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/27-III-2016-Synod-Letter3.pdf>

Msgr. Scheyd will distribute copies of the Bishop’s letter at the November Parish Council meeting.

The next Pastoral Planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19th.

Maple Street Parking: At this time, after five public meetings, all input has been given to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The P&Z meeting regarding the final decision is a closed meeting not open to the public. Msgr. Scheyd reiterated that the construction phase of the Merritt apartments will be quite impactful to St. Aloysius. Demolition alone and debris removal will require substantial construction equipment. To prohibit use of the parking lot during construction and after completion, the parish may have to install control gates on Maple Street that will be closed when access to the school or the church is not needed.

V. New Business

Msgr. Scheyd’s Reception: Msgr. will celebrate the 11:30am Mass on Sunday, November 20, 2016 with a reception immediately following. Invitations have been printed and will be mailed out this week.

Fr. Carey’s Reception: Fr. Carey will celebrate either the 10:00am or 11:30am Mass on December 4, 2016 with a reception immediately following.

Christmas Masses and Greeters 2016: The Christmas Eve Mass Schedule will be the same as last year: 4:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, and Midnight Masses. Msgr. Scheyd will again ask the Knights of Columbus to help with directing traffic in the parking lots and he will also have a NCPD presence.

Discussion ensued regarding distribution of another Matthew Kelly book as we did last year. The latest book, Resisting Happiness, has an accompanying online program, so a Book Club program as we did last year may not be applicable this year.

Consecration of the Diocese of Bridgeport to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – 11/5/16, St. Augustine Cathedral, 1-5pm: Msgr. Scheyd encouraged all to attend. He will check if a prayer card/handout regarding the Consecration is available for distribution at the parishes.

VI. Updates from Fathers Bartolome and Segura

Father Bartolome: Father Cyrus is on vacation.

Father Segura: Not in attendance

VII. Pastor's Report

The year is unfolding with the usual activities. Fr. Kinnally continues to complete his other responsibilities and will participate in meetings and events at the parish before January 1st as his time allows.

Msgr. Scheyd is considering some issues with Christmas 2016 falling on a Sunday. There may be a 2nd collection at the 7:30pm and Midnight masses on Christmas Eve, as well as 2nd collections at the four Christmas Day Masses. The parish may not be producing a bulletin for Sunday, December 25th, Christmas.

VIII. Inputs, Comments and Announcements:

Welcoming Committee: The monthly Welcoming Table at weekend Masses has been put on hold until the Pastoral Planning Committee completes their work. The Welcoming Committee continues to make calls to newly registered parishioners. A new parishioner registration form and new Welcome packet are being prepared. Marie Pascale Vandall presented a "You Are Welcome Here" card produced at another parish which she received at a recent workshop for potential use for our parish Welcome packet.

John Emert: Thanked Deacon Steve and Chris Otis for the St. Francis Blessing of the Animals held on October 2.

Leo Karl: Raised the issue that this meeting may not have a full quorum (consisting of a simple majority) with only 13 members present of the Council's 30 members.

John Otis: The Love Your Neighbor Food Drive will be held on November 19th and 20th with the grocery bags/lists being distributed the weekend before (November 12th and 13th).

IX. Closing Prayer: offered by Deacon Steve at 9:00 pm.

Meeting Closed at 9:05 pm

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

Submitted by Maura Gayer

St Aloysius Church Parish Council
October 17, 2016 Meeting
Committee Reports

Parish Partners, submitted by Carrie Sindelar

Our Fall Mass and Lunch event took place on October 6th. We began with mass celebrated by Msgr. Scheyd followed by a wonderful lunch of hot chicken salad and pumpkin pie. Our speaker was Ronnie Lazzaro who spoke about her journey of faith having converted to Catholicism and how her faith has helped her to overcome great loss and also to deal with her personal disabilities. Her talk was truly inspirational. We had approximately 75 parishioners' in attendance.

Our annual Christmas Tea is scheduled for December 7th.

Religious Education, submitted by Marie Pascale Vandall

As part of our catechist training, John Collins from Sadlier Publishing, came to St. Aloysius on Wed. September 28 with strategies and ideas for catechists teaching in grades 1-6. Two sessions were offered and both were well attended.

We are now about five weeks into our program and all classes are underway. All students have participated in a fire drill conducted by religious education.

Our home school program has kicked off and will have their first meeting on Sunday, October 23. Our Refresh & Renew program has begun as well.

Our first graders will participate in a Church Tour beginning on Sunday, October 16 and continuing through that week.

Our second graders and families attended our Commitment Mass on Sunday, September 25. Parents recited the promises made at their child's Baptism to raise them in the faith. Sacramental Preparation Handbooks were distributed to all second grade families.

Our 4th graders are preparing for the All Saints Liturgy and committing to either dressing as a Saint at the 10 a.m. Mass on Oct. 30 or researching the life of a saint and making a "saint shield". Saint Shields will be featured at the coffee after the 10 a.m. Mass.

Informational meetings have been held for parents of students in Level 1 and Level 2 preparation for Confirmation. Our Level 1 students have begun to raise money for Project 1000 – filling Christmas stockings for the poor in Appalachia. On October 16 there will be the Rite of Welcoming for Confirmation Candidates at the 5 p.m. Mass.

Mary Karen Keneally, our Confirmation Coordinator, will be leaving her post at the end of December. Marie Osterndorf will shepherd the Confirmation program until June 2017. This is an interim step until our new pastor comes on board.

Our Lady's Guild, submitted by Mary Moran

Our Lady's Guild monthly meeting was held on Oct. 5, in honor of Mary and the month of the Rosary. Thom Marino and Marjorie Donalds, Director of Music at St. Mary in Greenwich presented a program on Marian music. Marjorie sang a selection of Marian hymns as well as gave the history behind each selection. All who attended found the program beautiful and inspiring.

On Friday, Oct. 7, The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, the Living Rosary was held in the Church after the 5:30 Mass along with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Deacon Bill Santulli presided and The Knights of Columbus as well as the Catholic Daughters assisted. After the Rosary a candlelight procession was held with participants singing Marian hymns. Light refreshments followed in the narthex.

Eucharistic Adoration was coordinated by OLG and held on Friday, Oct. 7 in the chapel from 7:30am to 6pm.

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 21, The Feast of the Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary, with Rev. Frank Hoffman, pastor at St. John Church, Darien, as speaker.

Our Lady's Guild continues to collect nonperishable items for St. Vincent de Paul food pantry in Norwalk, visits Waveny to pray the Rosary for the residents on both floors, makes rosaries for overseas missions and helps to promote the Pilgrim Virgin.

Emmaus, submitted by Sue Lione

The St. Aloysius Emmaus retreat for teens will be held on Nov. 11-13 at All Saints School in Norwalk. Team meetings are underway. Over 150 teens and adults are participating on the team to prepare the retreat. The retreat can accommodate 36 Candidates. The applications are already at a record pace.

Bereavement Ministry, submitted by Father Bartolome

The ministry members had a meeting on October 4, 2016 after the Bereavement support group. The purpose of the meeting is to review and evaluate the ministry, looking closely on how we can make it more effective to the people. During the meeting, the members would like to continue to help with the ushering, greeting etc. for the funeral liturgy.

The members also suggested to have a rose or flower at the Tabernacle in memory of someone and also put the name in the bulletin (of course we will ask for a donation for the flower). Parishioners can sign up as they do with Masses and for Tabernacle candles. One question was "How much stress would it put on the office to have another "Sign-up?"

The ministry looked at the idea of having electronic board/monitor in the entrances of the church for “Parish Information” instead of the old cork board, pins and paper. This will be wireless and connected to the office. The monitor will serve as a new welcoming addition in the church.

The ministry would like also to continue the “Having the Conversation” talk with different urgent topic like “Drugs and Alcohol.” The ministry will reach out to the Youth Ministry, Religious Education and Confirmation Program Coordinators to develop the dynamics of the topic and help.

Walking With Purpose, submitted by Carol Mahoney

Walking With Purpose began 10/4 and currently we have 68 registrants:

Day Discovering Our Dignity study: 36

Day Opening Your Heart study: 10

Evening Discovering Our Dignity study: 22

This is almost exactly where we were in numbers last year, and we expect that number to grow throughout the year.

The founder of Walking With Purpose, Lisa Brenninkmeyer, will be the keynote speaker at a Fall WWP Luncheon at the Italian Center in Stamford on Wednesday, November 16th at 11:30 am. The talk is titled “Brave and Beloved: Overcoming Fear”. Tickets are \$50 each and it is open to everyone.