



ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 21st , 2016

Present: Msgr. Scheyd, Fr. Bartolome, Deacon Pond, Deacon Santulli, S. Goetz, R. Phelan, J. Emert, C. Butler, C. Mahoney, C. Sindelar, S. Socci, M. Moran, M. Hennessey, S. Lione, C. Betack, R. Walker, H. Montano, E. Smith, M. Pascale Vandall, C. Otis, J. Otis, R. Laughton, L. Karl, M. Gayer, C. Hussey, JP Berliet,

Absent: Fr. Segura, D. Castrovinci, B. Gjoka, T. Marino.

I. Opening Prayer at 7:37 pm

Offered by Msgr. Scheyd

II. Approval of minutes of September 26th and of October 17th meetings and of reports submitted on October 17th and on November 21st and of agenda for today's meeting

Minutes of September 26th and reports submitted on October 17th that could not be approved on October 17th due to insufficient quorum of council members in attendance were approved, as corrected. Reports submitted on November 21st were also approved by Members of the Council who were present. Agenda of today's meeting was approved.

III. Business Manager's Report

The net income of \$54,000 in the first quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30th 2017 compares with a loss of \$46,000 in the previous year. This improvement of \$100,000 resulted from a net reduction of \$77,000 in expenses and improved portfolio performance, that made up for declines of \$8,000 in offertory income and \$38,000 in gifts and bequests.

Projects underway for removal of asbestos in the school (\$13,000) and the installation of a backup furnace (\$49,000) are being completed as planned.

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

IV. Unfinished/Old Business

New Welcome Process: It is now in effect. There is a need to verify that ministries are requested to contact newcomers and that such calls are being made.

Christmas giveaway: The parish has ordered 1000 copies of “Resisting Happiness”, by Matthew Kelly, that will be distributed at the end of Christmas masses. Chris Otis will make sure that these books will be declared to be gifts from the parish. The distribution of this book may be followed up by a presentation on the theme of the book by a speaker at a later date.

Christmas Greeters: 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.

Volunteers need to sign up on the Sign-up Genius on-line tool. A captain will be appointed to oversee individual assignments of volunteers for welcome before masses and for distribution of the books after the masses. Ideally, volunteers will be wearing tags that identify them. There may already be an inventory of such tags that could be put to good use.

Parish calendars will be made available to parishioners in the Church starting on the Tuesday following Christmas.

Strategic Planning: Chris Ayoub will be posting on the website the current version of the strategic plan of the parish that has been submitted to the Diocese. The planning committee will meet again in December to address issues that will be raised by the Diocese.

V. New Business

Casting the Net: Modifications of the format of the event will be discussed with Father Kinnally. Denise Luccarelli has graciously accepted responsibility for leading the preparation of this event but has indicated that she needs more support than has been provided in the past.

The planning committee of the event will need to decide whether the event should be a sit-down dinner or a cocktail party, whether an auction or a car raffle should be organized, and on which day the event should be held, given all other activities being scheduled by the parish. April 8th, May 20th and June 3rd appear to be feasible dates.

In marketing the event, we should be sure to publicize that prior events have raised funds that provided support for important ministries and activities, to establish clearly that the event is highly beneficial to the parish community.

Second Sunday opening of parish office: Based on the experience to date, volunteers staffing tables are not receiving enough traffic to justify continuation of this service. Consideration should be given to providing this service again in the future if and when the need can be demonstrated.

VI. Updates from Fathers Bartolome and Segura

Father Bartolome: Nothing to report at this time

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.

The Planning and Zoning commission will announce on November 29th its decision and counterproposal for the re development of the Merritt Apartments by Mr. Karp who will have the opportunity to accept it. It remains to be seen how he will accept conditions imposed by the town, that essentially include consideration of the objections and suggestions raised by St. Aloysius, especially with regard for parking, safety and traffic control during and after construction.

Similarly, the Planning and Zoning commission has been asked to grant an abatement for the construction of four new single family homes on Park street, adjacent to the now closed Mrs. Green's store. While construction of these houses will add to traffic, it is not anticipated that the new residences will have a material impact on traffic/safety/parking on Park street once construction is completed.

The welcoming ministry is very important and challenging for all churches. Among Catholic churches, St. Matthew appears to have the most effective approach. They are set up to provide food through a catering arrangement, which may make contribute to their success.

The St A school is not going to have a car raffle during the present 2016/2017 academic year.

The parish needs to formalize a plan for the development of its physical plant, with consideration for needs of the St. A school.

Msgr. Scheyd thanked everyone for the farewell party held in his honor on November 20th.

VIII. Inputs, Comments and Announcements:

Fr. Carey's reception: Carroll Yanicelli is organizing the event that will be held after Father Carey's 10 am mass on December 4th. Father Carey will be moving to the Queen of Clergy residence in Stamford during the following week.

Thom Marino's reception: will be held following the Christmas concert on December 11th.

Food drive: 352 bags were delivered. The food pantry reported that this exceeded last year donations.

Thanksgiving baskets: 46 baskets were distributed to DCF families in Norwalk and to residents of a homeless shelter in Bridgeport.

Living Nativity performance: Costumed members of the confirmation class will be performing on Friday, December 2nd at 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00 pm at the corner of Cherry street and South Avenue.

Kentucky Mission: a team of 30 high school teens will depart on December 2nd to bring 1000 Christmas stockings to needy children in Appalachia.

New Director of music: new Director will make an apparition at the Christmas concert on December 11th. He has been in charge of the choir program at Sacred Heart University and is known to Father Rob Kinnally.

IX. Closing Prayer: offered by Msgr. Scheyd at 8:55 pm.

Meeting Closed at 9:00 pm

Next meeting: January 9th at 7:30 pm, Stapleton Hall

Submitted by Jean-Pierre Berliet

St Aloysius Church Parish Council
November 21, 2016 Meeting
Committee Reports

Parish Partners, submitted by Carrie Sindelar

Our annual Christmas Tea is scheduled for December 7th. All senior parishioners are invited to attend. We will serve a formal tea complete with sandwiches and sweets. Members of the Youth Choir, led by Cyd, will perform Christmas Carols for our guests. Flyers have been distributed and announcements have been scheduled for placement in the parish bulletin. Council members are encouraged to promote this annual event with parishioners that they interact with.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, submitted by Marie Pascale Vandall

Our students have been very busy since our last parish council report.

Our First Graders went on a Church Tour. Here they learn all the basics and become familiar with some Catholic vocabulary: Pew, Genuflect; Baptismal Font; Tabernacle, Altar, etc. They also receive a small bottle of holy water to bless themselves and their family each night.

Our 2nd Graders and their parents attended “Jesus Our Good Shepherd Program” on Saturday, November 5. Using music, story telling, illusions, drama, crafts and a puppet show, JMT Productions taught the children about Jesus, our King, Moses and the Ten Commandments and forgiveness of sin. JMT Productions recently presented this program during the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia attended by Pope Francis.

The clergy helped our 3rd graders to become familiar with the sacred vessels and vestments used during Mass. Students met in the chapel and had an opportunity to see up close the chalice, paten, pyx, purificator, etc. In addition, the clergy also demonstrated how they dressed for Mass, explaining the significance of the alb, chasuble, etc. They also took part in a church tour, which focused on the Bible stories represented in the stained glass windows in the church.

4th grade students celebrated All Saints by dressing as their favorite saint at the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, October 30 and participated as Lectors and Gift Bearers also.

All 4th graders made “saint shields” with pictures and facts on the life of a particular saint. These were hung in Stapleton Hall for parishioners to see at the coffee. 4th graders also participated in a “Church Search” where they located on church grounds particular places or things: Mary Garden, Picture of Monsignor; Holy Spirit window in church, etc.

5th graders are focusing on sacraments, sacramental and catholic traditions. They participated in a “reenactment of a Baptism and also made cards for the sick in our bulletin after their lesson on Anointing of the Sick.

Our 6th graders continue their study through the Old Testament and will present the “Living Jesse Tree” to the religious ed community the week before Christmas. This program takes place in the church and brings to light the people of the Old Testament who waited for Jesus. The children also sing the traditional religious Christmas hymns.

Confirmation: All Level 1 students participated in Project 1,000. The 7th graders spent the evening viewing a video on poverty, filling 1,000 Christmas stockings to be delivered to the children In Appalachia and praying for those in need. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners over \$7,000 was raised. Kaster Moving donated the shipping and the teens of Youth Ministry will make personal deliveries in December.

All Level 1 and Level 2 Confirmation Students and their parents attended Family Faith Night on Thursday, November 3. Sean Forrest was the featured speaker. Sean used music and storytelling to address some important issues relevant to middle schoolers. He has been a part of our program in the past, leading our Confirmation retreats for 8th graders.

December finds us preparing for the Living Nativity and First Reconciliation.

Emmaus, submitted by Sue Lione

The Emmaus Retreat weekend for sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school was held last weekend at All Saints Catholic School on West Rocks Road in Norwalk. The 36 Candidate spots were oversubscribed and all places were filled with parishioners from St. A's. 60 teens and 90 adults participated on the team to serve the 36 Candidates. Regina and Brian McGough led the retreat as Rectora/Rector. Fr. Ralph was the Spiritual Director and Deacon Steve was the Assistant SD. Msgr. Scheyd and Deacon Bill also participated. The next weekend, Emmaus LXXIII, will be held on March 10-12. Heather and Tom Devitt will lead the weekend. Emmaus retreats have been taking place in our parish uninterrupted since 1981.

Our Lady's Guild, submitted by Mary Moran

On October 19 members of Our Lady's Guild helped serve lunch to seniors at Lapham Center at their Pizza/Bingo event.

Our Lady's Guild is once again participating in a 33 day self retreat in preparation for Marian Consecration which will take place at our meeting on Dec. 8, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary. Books have been provided and are available for any others who are interested.

We will be collecting Christmas gifts of unwrapped clothing for male and female residents at St. Camillus Nursing Home at our December meeting.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration was held on November 4.

Our November meeting is Nov. 21, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Frank Hoffman, pastor at St. John in Darien will be the speaker. His talk is entitled "Mary in the Liturgy and Devotions of the Church".

Our Lady's Guild continues to collect nonperishables for St. Vincent de Paul food pantry, visit the residents at Waveny and pray the Rosary with them on both floors, make rosaries for the missions, and promote devotion to the Pilgrim Virgin.

Youth & Family Ministry, *Submitted by Chris Otis*

TEEN MASS/SPIRITUALITY:

We continue to hold monthly Teen Dinner and Adorations and our participation rate continues to grow, as in October we had 26 teens attend on a school night and this month, we had 46, a direct result of our Emmaus weekend. Our goal is now to retain our new adorers! Our two priests continue to have a steady stream of teens coming to confession during adoration.

Our Teen Rosary Group met in November with a couple of confirmation students joining the group. The group continues to make rosaries for Emmaus and we may begin to explore other avenues for rosaries as we are making more than Emmaus needs.

We held a before school Mass for All Saints Day that was attended by 35 teens. Parents served breakfast bags afterwards.

A group of our teens who have gone on the mini mission trip to Kentucky in the past, along with some of those going this year, led the prayer portion of the Project 1,000 night and did a wonderful job leading the 7th graders in prayer and giving witness to their service in Appalachia.

We held our Blessing of Teen Drivers at a Sunday Teen Mass – unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, so we had to cancel the outside blessing of cars.

All of our new teen lectors have had their one on one training and have had their first Mass opportunity to lector.

CATHOLIC ACTION:

We had a group of teens take the children of Thorpe Family Residence to the Botanical Gardens in the Bronx on their day off of school from Election Day.

We did our annual fall breakfast run and feed/clothed about 75 homeless men and women.

Our St. A's Buddies Group took special needs children/teens to the Maritime Aquarium.

SOCIAL:

We took a group of 18 to Lake Compounce for a purely social fellowship gathering for our teens. We plan to do one social event every quarter.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS:

Our students came together for a TGIF to do the sorting for the Breakfast Run and helped to cook for the breakfast run. They also did a great job supporting the Love Your Neighbor Food Drive by prepping the bags, handing out the bags and receiving/sorting the donations of over 500 bags dropped off.

OTHER:

Our Catholic Parents Connect group sponsored a “Never Too Young To Serve” opportunity our families – they decorated the breakfast bags and put together toiletry kits for the breakfast run. These families worked in their homes to put together 45 food baskets that are being distributed to DCF families in Norwalk, single mother families in Norwalk and 6 families who have recently come out of homelessness in Bridgeport.

Our Catholic Parents Connect Group sponsored a college care package mailing to 30 college parishioners. Moms helped by donating items for the boxes – the boxes also included some religious items.

Emmaus 72 was held and was a success with 36 candidates and more on the wait list that could not be cleared. We will hold our Pass It On Day on Sunday, December 18 to bridge Emmaus with Youth Ministry.

Some of our high school teens attended the Sean Forrest Family Faith Night.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Our mini mission trip team of 20 high school students and 10 adult chaperones will be headed to Kentucky the weekend of December 2-4 to deliver some of the Project 1,000 Christmas stockings.

Our teens will be taking the children of Breakthrough Options to the Nutcracker in December, attending a concert at St. Rose of Lima, painting at the Thorpe Family Residence and decorating the priest’s tree.

Business Manager, submitted by Richard Phelan

Financial Report: Net Income of \$54 thou for the 1st Qtr of the Fiscal Year Ending June 30 2017 compares favorably to the loss of \$46 thou last year. The variance of \$99 thou resulted primarily from improved portfolio performance as well as lower expenses.

Total Revenue for the qtr. of \$525 thou was \$23 thou higher than last year. The declines in **Offertory Income** (\$8 thou) and **Gifts & Bequests** (\$38 thou) were more than offset by an increase in **Other Income** of \$69 thou. The contributing factors within Other Income were an increase in portfolio performance of \$84 thou compared to last year offset by lower Rel Ed fees of \$13 thou.

Total Expenses for the qtr. of \$471 thou were \$77 thou below last year. The increase in **Compensation & Benefits** of \$13 thou is the result of an extra pay period in the current year (\$8 thou) and higher medical premiums (\$3 thou). Offsetting this is a decline in **Supplies, Repairs, etc.** of \$86 thou resulting in fewer major project costs (\$59 thou) and lower textbook costs (\$8 thou), landscaping (\$4 thou) and other General supplies (\$14 thou).

Buildings and Grounds:

Current Projects

School: asbestos removal (\$13 thou); installation of backup furnace (\$49 thou)