

ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 20, 2011

Present: C. Ayoub, M. Barnard, B. Boland, Fr. Carey, M.B. Fessler, S. Goetz, P. Greene, J. Holec, M. Holec, Dr. Howard, C. Hussey, Fr. Jeremiah, L. Karl, S. Lione, B. Mantilia, E. Millette, J. Otis, L. Paglialunga, M. Pascale, R. Petronella, M. Pierce, R. Phelan, Deacon Pond, B. Redman, Deacon Santulli, Msgr. Scheyd and S. Staudt

Absent: B. Doran, T. Marino and A. Munnelly

Dinner preceded meeting at 6:30 PM

I Opening Prayer and Welcome of New Members

Msgr. Scheyd welcomed the new members: Shannon Goetz, John Otis and Susan Staudt, saying that he appreciates the work of the Council which is an advisory body to him as Pastor. He also thanked those on the Council who are finishing their terms: Sue Lione, Liza Paglialunga and Melanie Holec.

II May minutes and Parish Council reports accepted as corrected...VI Unfinished Business should read, " If they ask to be removed..."

Leo: why are there copies of the minutes and reports here tonight when they have been sent out already? It is a waste of paper. Noted.

III Business Manager See report Rich Phelan

Offertory collection is flat. It has been offset in the past by gifts and bequests. Total revenue is down 9.3% due to drop in bequests. Total expenses increased by 2%. Repairs/maintenance expenses increased but were offset in other areas. Net Ordinary income of \$141 thousand through May 31, 2011 is down 60% from the prior year, estimating the end of year income just below \$100 thousand, reflecting the same percentage decline from last year.

Leo: nothing put into futures budget for gifts and bequests.

Jim: Electronic donations. There was a problem with the site so that it could not accept Amex. It was fixed and we see an increase. Msgr. will make an announcement from the pulpit and in the weekly bulletin about accepting Amex. Sue: Use an electronic blast to get the word out. Also, to remind parishioners to remember St. Aloysius in their wills.

We were blest with a wonderful bequest a couple of years ago. It helps. We have our own needy parishioners.

Ed: Why is electronic funding attractive to us? **Rich:** It makes it convenient for parishioners to continue with their offertory while on vacation or to set up a schedule of payments avoiding the need to write weekly checks.

Leo: we need slips that say "I gave electronically" for people who might want to put something into the basket.

IV Update from Fr. Carey and Fr. Ian

Bible Study concludes next week for summer. During the summer, we will use the same time to meet and discuss upcoming gospels. In the Fall, there will be a long series of bulletin inserts with articles about the new translation of the Roman Missal resulting from the meetings

Fr. Carey will be attending.

There is a nascent movement to pray to St. Joseph to assist men to become better fathers and sons.

V Ministry Highlight Our Lady's Guild Bea Boland

Bea, the outgoing president thanked "the lovely ladies" in Our Lady's Guild for all their help and support.

Our Lady's Guild promotes devotions to Our Lady and ultimately to her Son. We participate in all celebrations of Our Lady in the Parish. **We Sponsor:**

1. Recitation of the Rosary
2. Make and promote the Rosary. On the *Feast of the Holy Rosary* we gave out the Rosary instruction pamphlet and rosaries right after the homily.
3. Do Living Rosary on the Feast of the Holy Rosary, Oct 7.
4. 3 Days of Recollection and 2 pilgrimages: St. Margaret's Shrine in Bridgeport and to the Cloisters in NYC and Mother Cabrini's Shrine nearby
5. Assist with lunch for Seniors at Lapham Center in January.
6. Group of women do a religious bulletin board at St. Aloysius School
7. May Crowning of Our Lady after 5 PM Mass on Sunday
8. New Committee: sends cards to members who are ill or to family of deceased members.
9. Pilgrim Virgin
10. Meetings include 9 AM Mass, Rosary and Brunch followed by reports and a speaker.
Past Speakers included: Damian O'Connor, Fr. Rob Keneally, Msgr. Royal, Joan Kelly and Fr. Ian.

Membership is open to all in the Parish with a couple members from outside.

Dues: a stipend which includes the food for meals.

Fr. Ian stated that Bea did a great job and left the organization in a financially better place. A gift of a new Holy Water tank and stand was given in Bea's name this year.

Sue thanked all the Groups who have presented.

VI Unfinished Business Sue Lione

Census...It has been 1 ½ years. If you haven't reviewed the list of non-responders, please do. We want our Parish list to be a Live list.

Msgr: People think they are enrolled on the Parish list, but aren't. e.g. children who are grown and left their parents, with families of their own.

VII New Business Sue Lione

Election of Officers: The Nominating Committee consisted of Msgr. Scheyd, Sue Lione and Liza Paglialunga. Thank you to those who agreed to serve. For 2011 to 2012:

Chairman—Chris Ayoub

Vice-Chairman—Maggie Pierce

Secretary—Bob Mantilia

There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations closed.

The Secretary cast the ballot for vote from the floor.

Oktoberfest...Saturday, October 1. It will be warmer then. Put on Calendar.

Kathy Garrison and Jean Marie McLaughlin will organize the food and decorate, assisted by the E Team, chaired by Carroll Yanicelli. The Knights of Columbus will do the Bar and the Catholic Daughters will do the dessert and coffee!

Marie: Opening week of CCD, September 12...After the children are dropped off at Class, the Parents are invited to come back to Stapleton Hall. We're hoping that the **Ministries** of the Parish **would be present (4:30 pm)**. Hope to recruit some parents for Catechists etc. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in Stapleton. **We need some people to host the table one or two days.**

Sue: this is a good opportunity to engage people.

Ed: There is a **growing need** at St. Aloysius...there are several cases of young adults thrown out of their homes or adults with no place to stay. We don't appear to have an immediate response.

Mary Beth: We should talk to other Churches to see what they do and work as a cooperative.

Steve: These kids need counseling.

Melanie: This would fall under Martha & Mary

Chris: could we rotate families to take the person?

Deacon Steve would like to be involved.

Msgr: Some other Ministers turn to Social Services. You have to be careful. This is a good issue to bring to our attention, however.

VIII Pastor's Report Msgr. Scheyd

Thank you for arranging **Oktoberfest**.

Thank you also for the **St. Aloysius Feast**. The climate was wonderful. Everyone was outside. The Knights and Catholic Daughters did their usual outstanding job. There were 250 to 275. People came from the Inn.

We had a successful raffle, selling over 900 tickets. Sue Oates led the charge in selling the tickets.

Adult Emmaus...PIE...this weekend. It is important for adults to become involved.

Fr. Bernie is not well. He fell and is in the Hospital. Send your cards here for him.

Fr. Bob Uzzilio will be helping out in the Parish starting in August.

Msgr. Kevin Wallin is on a leave from Pastoring because of health issues. He may help out.

Welcome Deacon Bill and his wife Joanne. He is our first non-fulltime Deacon.

If you invite a Deacon to an event, please also invite his wife as well.

Melanie: Martha and Mary "Start of the year" meeting is September 13 not 14.

Parish Calendar...get on it. If you put a date on the Calendar and your event could detract from a previously placed event, **please note the conflict and change your date.**

Mary Beth and Melanie have done a lot of work. They are **revamping the Book of Ministries** for new parishioners.

Thank you to Liza Paglialunga and to our leader Sue Lione, who has helped me and the Parish in so many ways. Marie presented Sue with a lovely box with Our Lady on the top and an engraving inside.

Sue: It has been a joy for me. Thank you for your support...it is a team effort. Thank you to all the Organization Heads.

IX Inputs and Comments

Deacon Steve: 11 kids are going on a mission trip to Worcester, MA.

X Deacon Bill Closed the Meeting with a Prayer at 9 PM.

Next Meeting will be held on Monday, September 19, at 7:30 PM in Stapleton Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Pierce, Secretary

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CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS Margaret Sandstrom, Secretary

This year our **Poetry and Art Contest** awarded 12 winners from St. Aloysius School 4 of which won first prize. The first prize winners went on to win at the State level as well. Their entries were sent on to our National contest. We're happy to announce the two scholarship recipients for this year. They are: **Margaret Donnelly** for the \$1,000 scholarship planning to attend Fairfield University and **Annelise Butler** for the \$500 scholarship planning to attend Lauralton Hall. Congratulations!

Each year the Catholic Daughters of the Americas sets aside the first Sunday in June as **Priest Appreciation Day**. In honor of our priests, our Court inserted in the June 5th bulletin the poem *The Beautiful Hands of a Priest*. This year's anniversary dinner took place at John's Best Pizza on Thursday, June 16 -- we're celebrating 89 years at St. Aloysius. And lastly, we will wind down our year with our **parish's St. Aloysius Feast** together with the Knights and parish community. **As we enter our 90th year**, we are grateful for the support of our parish priests, our school families and parishioners who have participated in our programs and fundraisers. We look forward to many more years of service.

EMMAUS Sue Lione

An **Emmaus one-day retreat for adults** will be held at Stapleton Hall on **Saturday, June 25, 2011**. The retreat is led by young adults of our parish. This year Sara Sindelar and Dan Leitao will lead the retreat day. The day will begin at 8 AM. The cost is \$25 per person and open to all 18 years of age or older. Applications will be available in the racks in Church and on the parish website. For information, contact Carrie Sindelar, jsindela@yahoo.com.

The **fall Emmaus weekend retreat** for Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors in high school will be held at All Saints School on **November 11th, 12th and 13th**. Kathleen and Kevin Leitao will lead that weekend. To date, over 3300 individuals have participated in an Emmaus retreat at St. Aloysius.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Peter Greene

We are coming to the end of the year for the knights. A few highlights for June:

The **knights in 4th degree regalia** were present to welcome our new deacon to New Canaan. The Monsignor has also asked for the knights to help out at the celebration of Corpus Christi later in June.

On June 18th the knights will have assisted the parish council with the **parish feast**.

On June 23rd the council will be holding their **end of the year BBQ and smoker**. At this event our members gather to enjoy the great works they have done over the year. Also, we shall be awarding our **scholarship awards**. This year we were blessed to increase our gifts to a total of **\$4000 paid out to seven college bound members of the parish**.

The knights held their elections early in June and **Peter Greene was re-elected as head of our local council in New Canaan**. He will be meeting with his new officers over summer to plan the agenda for the upcoming year.

MARTHA & MARY Melanie Barnard

"Start the Year" meeting on Wednesday, Sept 14 in the evening.

OUR LADY'S GUILD Barbara McDonald, Secretary

Our Lady's Guild is encouraged to attend the 11:30 am mass on **June 26, Corpus Christi**. Immediately following, they are to join the procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the church and Benediction on the terrace. **Kathie Karl and her committee** were praised for **making 1200 rosaries** for our parish and sending 800 rosaries to India, Philippines and Africa. **Susan Staudt, the incoming President** for 2011-2012 announced her Board. Fr. Ian gave an introduction to the new Roman Missal which we will begin using Nov. 27, 2011. It has a more elevated style and will join us in the liturgy of heaven. Msgr. Scheyd has chosen Fr. Carey to be in charge of instructing the parish in the use of the missal in the fall.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Marie Pascale

We are in the process of registration and placing students in classes for next year. The Religious Education staff spent 3 half-days evaluating and planning the program for next year. We addressed the issues of lesson planning, enrichment, catechist training and any new policies that would be implemented. The ordering of materials and books will take place next week. We are still in need of catechists to work as a team in the classrooms. Our office closes on June 30 and reopens on August 15. While we are closed to the "outside" the staff will be answering messages and checking e-mails periodically throughout the summer.

Confirmation Report Chris Otis

This month has been spent planning for next year's programming. We tallied survey results and just about every program in the 7th and 8th grade curriculums was suggested to be repeated. As a result of this, we have begun to contact and book outside speakers. We will continue to utilize our same textbooks and will continue to use the Amy Wellborn Prove It: You book in the 7th grade. This was a new addition this year and the catechists praised its method of communication. We had overwhelming **positive response on the community service** opportunities we provided for our students, so will therefore continue Project 1,000, the Living Nativity and the Simple Supper for seniors, as well as our movie afternoons for speakers, adoration and cemetery walks. We will continue to explore other opportunities to assist our students in performing a **minimum of ten service hours**, especially in areas that are uniquely Catholic.

We also analyzed the **8th grade test results to see what areas of Catholic doctrine we might need to emphasize more and will be addressing those areas next year.** Father Ian and Deacon Steve will continue to visit classes and will assist us in addressing those areas, as well as **more in-depth teaching of the Sacraments and witness. We will be adding a catechist session for teaching the "hot topics" to support our teachers** and will investigate using parish nurses and doctors as support for catechists in presenting the church's teaching in the area of sexuality and right to life topics.

Chris Otis will be spending time this summer writing lesson enrichment plans for the 7th grade curriculum, utilizing special supplemental worksheets, activities, DVD's and appropriate websites. **Our goal is to integrate more modern methods of teaching and sharing information to mirror the way our students are learning in their schools.**

The statue of Blessed Pope John Paul II has arrived and is displayed on the altar – a permanent home in the church is being discussed.

We are in the **process of recruiting 7th grade catechist teams for next year** – we especially love when parishioners who do not have children in that grade step up to share their faith and teach. We welcome any Parish Council members to think about volunteering for this very rewarding

ministry. It is a two year commitment. Anyone interested is asked to contact Chris Otis, Confirmation Coordinator. **We are in need of two or three more teaching teams.**