

ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 19, 2011

Present: C. Ayoub, M. Barnard, J. Buongiorno, Fr. Carey, K. Doran, M.B. Fessler, S. Goetz, P. Greene, J. Holec, C. Hussey, L. Karl, T. Marino, M. Pascale, R. Petronella, R. Phelan, M. Pierce, Msgr. Scheyd, and S. Staudt

Absent: Dr. Howard, Fr. Jeremiah, B. Mantilia, E. Millette, J. Otis, Deacon Pond, B. Redman and Deacon Santulli.

I Opening Prayer at 7:36 pm by Fr. Carey.

Chris Otis took photos of new Parish Council members and those who wanted a new photo. The **group photo was postponed until next month** as so many members were missing.

II The Minutes were approved as written, and the **Parish Council reports** were approved as part of the minutes.

The **Agenda** was approved as presented.

III Business Manager's Report Rich Phelan **See Report**

July 1st is the start of a new fiscal year.

Offertory income from this past fiscal year is down by 22% from the prior year.

Total income down by \$85,000, due primarily to drop in gifts and bequests.

Expenses up by \$61,000. Expenses and several repairs and maintenance were offset by the decreased lay pension costs.

Net Ordinary income for the past year amounted to \$59,000, representing a decrease of \$146,000

We completed the irrigations projects, replaced the old slate at the front entrance and are now considering portable air conditioners for the remaining warm days in the School.

Msgr: Everyone is feeling the economic pinch. We did collect \$10,000 for the lost weekend during hurricane Irene. We must appeal to those who are still prosperous. If we must cut, we would have to think about what to cut as there is not a lot of fat in the budget.

Chris: How are the finances usually at this time of year? All parishioners are back now.

Mary Beth: We have to push the **online giving**.

IV Update from Fr. Carey

Bible Study resumed. There is a membership drive especially for the evening session.

Oct. 5...Learn more about the **New Translation**...a class for Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.

Fr. Carey will write an article for the bulletin every week.

We have ordered 1000 pew cards with the new translations.

Outgrowth of the Men's Fellowship led to a proposal: Have Adoration followed by a Speaker and refreshments to help Catholic men grow spiritually as husbands and fathers.

Tom: first introduced his new administrative assistant and cantor and director of the Children's Choir, Cidalia Alves.

Tom: The Mass of Renewal was chosen from a group of submissions with the new text. We will keep this going for one year...it is very user friendly.

Tom has encouraged people to come 10 minutes early to practice before Mass.

In the back of the missals there are plastic sleeves for insertion of the new text.

Fr. Carey: we want to avoid the pitfall of having no preparation.

Fr. Ian is working with **RCIA**. Also, **Our Lady's Guild** is moving along.

Fr. Carey: St. Aloysius School has 208 pupils. They have added faculty. There are 8 to 10 new students. There is a waiting list for the lower school.

They have added a new position: **Part-time School Psychologist**.

Open House In 2 weeks, There will be a **High School night**.

Things got off to a good start except that we lost 4 days due to Hurricane Irene.

The School Newsletter comes out every week on the Internet.

Annual Fall Get Together for the Parents will be held in Rowayton. This past year, several families from Rowayton came to St. Aloysius School and are active here.

There is a large kindergarten class.

V Ministry Highlight will begin next month with **Fr. Carey: Adult Education**

VI Unfinished Business

Census: We still have some people left unidentified...about 1000 people.

Some people are here but aren't registered.

* **Some Parish Council members have not reviewed the list of names.**

Chris: suggested that Fizz Tomaselli, Barbara Bouton and the Collection Counters review the list.

Should we call the unidentified? They could let us know whether or not they want to be included in the Parish.

CCD does cross references with the Parish list.

VII New Business

Oktoberfest....Saturday, October 1 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

Kathy Garrison is in charge of food. Catholic Daughters will run their coffee and dessert table. The Knights will manage the bar. There will be s'mores and an ompahpah band.

VIII Pastor's Report

Deacon Pond is not the Youth Minister. He will assist with the Confirmation Program and other Parish projects as well.

Karen left the rectory position as secretary to take over for Mrs. Kelly who retired from her position as secretary of St. A's School.

Marie Pelletier was hired. She is a graduate of Steubenville and was an assistant to Mr. Monahan from Domino's Pizza as well as holding other positions before coming here.

Fr. Bob Uzzilio is retired, but helps out with the Masses. He is an Expert in Spiritual Exercise.

Msgr. Kevin Wallin is officially on Parish leave. He is currently not at St. Aloysius but will return this year. He may help us out until he receives a new assignment.

Fr. Ian has formed a task force to deal with the youth of the Parish. This is a group of people who will report to Msgr. Scheyd. We need a good Youth Program, and it is not easy to do.

There will be an Ecumenical Youth activity in April. We will have a small program this year. Our young reps here can contribute.

New Translation: Fr. Carey mentioned the “new translation.” A lot more preparation is going into presenting it., as opposed to post Vatican II. The priests are gathering to go over it.

On the last Sunday in September, six Parishes in Bridgeport will close or merge. This is being done after much study...attendance, old buildings, nominal income.

Every Parish will have to fill out the “Instrument of Vitality.”

St. Augustine Medal: Msgr. has chosen Lori and Marian Koch for their volunteer work.

The ceremony will be at the Cathedral on October 29.

Next meeting: October 17.

Feast of St. Aloysius will be June 16.

Unwanted soliciting in the parking lot last Sunday after the Masses. A family was asking for money. Msgr. didn't know about it. We help people in the Parish with food, fuel etc. We also give gift cards to Stop & Shop. Don't encourage people to beg in the parking lot. Msgr. will talk to members of the Clergy Association of New Canaan. He does not want a face to face confrontation in the parking lot with the people begging. Tell them to contact him.

Mary Beth: word is out (via Social Services) that St. A's is the most generous of all the Churches.

Msgr: Our mission is to know the Lord, to Love the Lord and help out in any way we can. Let us know of anyone who is in need.

Chris: We should give more attention to **Right to Life** issues....Fr. Ian started a committee last year which attended the March in January in Washington as well as sponsored the Speaker on the End of Life issues.

Marie: I would like to thank everyone, especially Msgr., Rich, Thom, Cid, Melanie and Mary Beth. We have **more than 1200 students in CCD**. The biggest challenge is trying to reach the parents.

Fr. Carey: We ordered new books for the 1st to 4th grades.

Msgr: We are so indebted to Marie for lauching this year with Anne Marie Jardon, Kathleen Redman and Chris Otis. At times, people can be so difficult and Marie has to deal and she does in a very professional and Christian way.

IX Input and Comments

Music...Cidalia announced that Music Ministry would like to start a teen choir to alternate with the youth choir

X **Closing Prayer** by Msgr. at 9:00 pm

Next meeting will be held on Monday, October 17 at 7:30 pm in Stapleton Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Pierce, acting Secretary

St Aloysius Church Parish Council

September 2011 Meeting

Committee Reports

✓ **Business Managers Report:**

Financial Report: Offertory income for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011 amounted to \$1.464 million, a slight decline of \$22 thousand from the prior year. Total income amounting to \$1.897 million was off by \$85 thousand primarily due to the drop in gifts and bequests (\$71 thousand).

Total expenses of \$1.838 million exceeded prior year expenses by \$61 thousand. Repairs & maintenance as well as utility increases were offset by a decrease in lay pension costs and contributions.

The end result is that Net Ordinary Income for the year amounted to \$59 thousand, representing a decrease of \$146 thousand from the prior year.

Buildings and Grounds:

Projects:

Irrigation: The irrigation of the Shrine to the Blessed Mother and South Avenue lawn was completed in July.

Main Entrance To Church: The replacement of the flagstone at the main entrance to the church began today. Three bids were submitted with the job given to one of our parishioners, John Buzzeo. The project should be completed by the end of the week, weather permitting.

School Air Conditioning: This project has been spearheaded by the HSA and has been in the works for some time. We have received a couple of bids but have not acted on them as yet. Given that the worst of the heat is hopefully behind us, the decision was taken to revisit all options with the intention of completing the project by next spring.

✓ **CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS**

- We had our first meeting of the season on September 15th.
- Our first social event will be the Octoberfest. Catholic Daughters will be serving their world-renowned **coffee AND**.
- Also, in October, we will be celebrating CDA Day on October 16th. Members will meet for the 8:30AM Mass. Plans following this Mass have not been finalized.

✓ **The Knights of Columbus report:**

The Knights had their first meeting back from Summer last Monday. The calendar for the upcoming year was worked on as well as the new officers for 2011/2012 (listed at the end of report). The knights are looking forward to assisting the parish council in the Oktoberfest event by manning the bar as has been the tradition for this fall event. We also are getting members of the 4th degree together to join in the Living Rosary set for October 7th. The council's next regular meeting is October 3rd at 8pm in Stapleton Hall

The knights are currently planning a "Men of the Parish" event in mid October to have all men of the parish network and socialize. Date is October 13th, just needs to be double checked with the parish office.

New Officers for K of C #2287 (2011/2012)

- Grand Knight: Peter Greene Deputy GK: Peter O'Sullivan
- Chaplain: Msgr. William Scheyd
- Chancellor: John Otis
- Recorder: JD Piro
- Financial Secretary: Pat McBrien
- Treasurer: James Walsh
- Lecturer: Bob LiCalzi
- Advocate: Mike Donnelly
- Warden: James O'Hora
- Guards: Billy Cody & Sean Brady

✓ **Grade Confirmation Preparation Program**

We have made a shift to begin to refer to our Confirmation program as Level I (7th Grade) and Level II (8th Grade). This shift will better define the fact that our preparation program is a two year program, regardless of grade level of the student. Last minute registrations are coming in, but we have approximately 130 students in Level I and 140 in Level II. St. Aloysius has 15 students who will be confirmed at our May 5 Confirmation.

We have 14 new classes in our Level I (7th Grade) program and continue to have 15 classes in Level II (8th Grade). Catechist training will be completed this week. Our Level II curriculum focuses on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and sacraments. Level I will again focus on morality.

We held our Level I and Level II Kickoff events last week. Bryan Mercier returned and presented very inspiring talks to the students. Our feedback from students and catechists to these events has been very positive.

We will continue to work with our Confirmation Preparation students in our community service program this year, "Words and Works". Students will be asked to complete a minimum of 3 of their 10 service hours each year in parish or diocesan works. We will also ask them to a corporal work of mercy and a spiritual work of mercy. Level II will have two class service projects – a living nativity on Friday, December 2 which is the night of the holiday stroll and once again will host the Simple Supper for Seniors during Lent. Level I will once again do Project 1,000 to work towards a goal of assembling 1,000 Christmas stockings for those in need.

✓ **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

We re-opened the office on August 15. Late registrations have been coming in up to and including the second week of September. Our enrollment remains strong at 1200 with over 150 catechists volunteering. **We are still in need of classroom aides and co-catechists to serve in all grade levels.** Class sizes average 15 in a class. Our classes run Sunday through Thursday.

Classes began on September 11 with a prayer service and welcome by Msgr. Scheyd. Parents were invited to come to Stapleton Hall for a Ministry Mingle where they could get information regarding other ministries and how they could get involved. Our thanks to the "E" team (Carroll Yanicelli and Sue Lione) and the Martha and Mary ministries (Melanie Barnard and Mary Beth Fessler) for their extraordinary assistance throughout the week.

Our catechists attended training sessions the first week of September.

We also had our New Parent Meeting which was affected by Hurricane Irene. Due to lack of power and computer capability we were unable to cancel or confirm meetings and events.

This week our children will be attending a presentation by Thom Marino and Cid to gain a greater appreciation of music and singing in the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Pascale

✓ **Emmaus**

An Emmaus one-day retreat for adults was 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 led the retreat day. It is the third year that this retreat was held at Stapleton. It was a very successful and well attended day.

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 the weekend. The team will begin meeting on October 2nd. Applications are available on the St. Aloysius website, www.starcc.com.

✓ **Martha & Mary Ministries**

Martha & Mary Ministries had its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13. We are hoping to work on a Parish Soup Supper on a Friday in Lent - meant for families to come together. More planning on this to come. The Visitation Ministry and the Driving Miss Daisy Ministry are both hoping to expand to serve more seniors and home-bound parishioners with a direct parish mailing to explain the various adult and senior ministries in the parish. Any input and ideas on how to expand these wonderful ministries is most welcome.

The Mom and Tot Playgroup will also work with the Visitation Ministry to reach out to the homebound with little crafts and gifts made by the children. All ideas on M&M and its role in the parish are encouraged.

