

ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
May 16, 2011

Present: C. Ayoub, M. Barnard, Fr. Carey, B. Doran, P. Greene, J. Holec, M. Holec, C. Hussey, Fr. Jeremiah, L. Karl, S. Lione, B. Mantilia, T. Marino, M. Pascale, R. Petronella, M. Pierce, Deacon Pond, and Msgr. Scheyd.

Absent: B. Boland, M.B. Fessler, Dr. Howard, E. Millette, A. Munnely, L. Paglialunga. R. Phelan and B. Redman.

! Meeting opened with prayer by Fr. Carey.

II April Minutes and Parish council reports for May accepted as presented.

III No Business Manager's Report

Rich, our new Business Manager is going over the numbers and budgets for the Parish and all the different ministries to be presented in June. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

IV Update from Fr. Carey and Fr. Ian

Fr. Carey: Bible study will conclude in June. In the Fall he will prepare the Parish for the new translation of the Mass. In the new Budget for the Fall, there will be funds for Adult Education under Religious Education.

Fr. Ian: Bea Boland, will end her 2 year term as President of Our Lady's Guild. We are very grateful for her years of service.

The **Life is Love Committee** is sponsoring Deacon Tom Davis and his wife, both lawyers, to speak on May 22 at 12:45 PM on **End of Life Issues and the Role of Suffering**. Will be sending a flyer on email for you to send out. There will be copies of Advanced Directives and Power of attorney. It will be one hour with Q & A.

V. Nominations for Parish Council Sue Lione

There are 3 slots to be filled. Ed Millette is eligible to run again.

Everyone submitted 3 names for their choices to fill the slots from the names that had been submitted by the Council. We again voted for 3 names. The results in order were:

1. Maura Gayer (10)
 2. John Otis (9)
 3. J.P. Berliet (8)
 4. Joe Bongiorno (6)
- Tie breakers:
5. Shannon Goetz (9)
 6. Debbie Bernard (7)
 7. Lea Di Muzio (8)
 8. Paula Ryan (7)
- And Ed Millette.

Youth nominees:

1. Kerriane Doran(14)
- Tie breaker:
2. Jay Bongiorno (10)
 3. Evan Turiano (7)

VI Unfinished Business Sue Lione

Census Update: Forms were resent, 1314 this time. 1136 were NOT returned. There was a total of 2560 individual census forms made and sent out for the Parish. Our Goal was too lofty....should ask if information is correct and are they still active. **We are asking members of the Parish council, the Finance Board and the Staff to look over the list and mark "Yes" next to any name of a person you see in Church. Please do this by the next Council meeting. Go to Karen for the list.** Then we will accept that person's card even though they did not respond.

Msgr: By Canon Law every Catholic person in New Canaan is Msgr's responsibility. If they are asked to be removed from the roster, then so be it.

VII New Business

Deacon Steve: There is a Food packing project for Haiti, **Feed My Starving Children** in which St. A's Youth Group is involved. St. Aloysius is assigned to go from 12:30 to 2:30 PM at New Canaan High School Sunday, June 5th. Anyone who can help is welcome.

VIII Ministry Highlight: Knights of Columbus Peter Greene

Started in New Haven in 1882 by Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney. It was set up as a benefit society, taking care of widows and orphans of deceased workers. From a few members, it has grown to 14,000 Councils in the US, Canada, Philippines and Puerto Rico etc.

They embody **Charity, Unity, Paternity and Patriotism.**

They are interested in Pro-life activities as well as helping the developmentally disabled.

They support the Church in any way that they can.

We have **200 members at St. Aloysius.** You must be 18 years old, a practicing Catholic, give 20 hours of service/year and attend monthly meetings. You can give as much time as you want.

The Social events focus on **youth activities:** free throw, soccer competitions, etc.

Members **attend the Right to Life trips.** They also set up the lovely **Creche** on our corner at Christmastime as well as promoting the "**Keep Christ in Christmas**" campaign. They sponsor Charity events. The **tootsie roll drive** helps mentally disabled, going to St. Catherine's in Fairfield.

The Knights have their own endowment and also donate money to **Scholarships.**

The Knights and the Catholic Daughters will run **St. Aloysius' Feast on June 18th** as always.

Sue: there were glowing reports on Confirmation this year. Thank you to Marie and her staff.

IX Pastor's Report Msgr. Scheyd

It was a wonderful Easter. We had a beautiful Music Program. There was a fine turnout even though it occurred during School vacation. There were 4000 people in attendance on Easter Sunday. He is thinking of tweaking the Parish Mass schedule next year: 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11 AM and 12:30 PM.

The Parish was very generous in donating \$20,000 to snow removal. Cost: \$44,000. Usually \$15,000.

The Sacraments: There were 2 Confirmation Classes and 4 First Communions. Marie Pascale and her crew did a fantastic job. It is the culmination of a lot of work. Thom did a great job and the music was wonderful. Thanks to Steve Pond who shouldered the load of being sole Deacon over the Easter time. Bill Santulli, hopefully, will be a Deacon here at St. Aloysius after his ordination.

Rich Phelan works 8:30 am to 5 pm. He was a good choice. It is working very well. He is reviewing all Parish finances so we are in compliance with all rules and regulations of the Diocese. He is working on a Budget so we know what we do and how we do it.

X Inputs and Comments

Sue: Holy Week and Easter Liturgies were just spectacular.

Thom: Anne Munnely did a lot of work behind the scenes.

The Tales of Wonder....a Choral presentation of Old and New Testament in story and song will be held Sunday, June 5. It is a musical Bedtime Story for your Soul.

Kids can come in their PJ's. Cookies and drinks to follow. We would like to build up a good following. Ivan Sarta is doing tee shirts which can be used as a fundraiser in general to defray cost. Will forward the flyer. **No Charge.**

9:13 PM Fr.Ian closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next Meeting is Monday, June 20 at 7:00 PM in Stapleton Hall. It is our closing dinner. Please invite the new succeeding Board members. The newly elected Council members will be included.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Pierce, Secretary

ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS
May 11, 2011

IMPORTANT: NEW SIGN BOARDS

On a separate note, we would like to call attention to our **new sign boards at the entrances** to the Church. They will be **used to communicate to parishioners information about upcoming** events and programs. Typically, Chris Otis will pull events from the bulletin to publicize in the signs. . The First Friday Adoration signs have been re-designed to fit in the new sign boards and will take priority weekends prior to First Fridays.

If any ministry needs something promoted in the signs, they are asked to contact Chris Otis

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS Margaret Sandstrom, Secretary

Our **Communion Breakfast** is scheduled for Sunday May 15th following the 8:30AM Mass. Breakfast will be held at the **Italian Center** in Stamford with guest speaker, William Santulli, soon to be deacon.

Winners to our **Poetry and Art Contest** will be awarded in June as well as our scholarship recipient.

Priest Appreciation Day is Sunday, June 5th. *The Beautiful Hands of a Priest* flyer to be inserted in our Church's bulletin the week prior. Plans are underway for the St. Aloysius Feast as well as our Anniversary Dinner on June 16th.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Peter Greene

The Knights had a very successful time hosting an event for the men of the parish; the theme was **Cinco de Mayo**. We also collected several good applications for our **college scholarship award**; we plan on announcing the winners soon.

The Knights are looking forward to marching in the Memorial Day parade.

June is the end of the fraternal year for the Knights and we will be assisting in the **St Aloysius Feast** as well as having our end of year BBQ at Stapleton.

In June we elect **new officers** that will be serving 2011-2012.

MARTHA & MARY MINISTRIES Melanie Barnard

Martha & Mary continues to be the umbrella for many ministries, and is currently shepherding the new Visitation Ministry. This ministry is clearly needed and many volunteer "visitors" have come forward. If anyone knows of someone in need of a single or a regular visit, please let us know. And please pass this on to your ministries and organizations as well.

OUR LADY'S GUILD Barbara McDonald, Secretary

On May 8th at the 5:00 pm Youth Mass, Our Lady's Guild had the **Crowning of Mary**. Roses were provided for the parishioners to place in front of Mary. Fr. Ian spoke at all weekend masses about devotion to Mary, the rosary and scheduling to bring home the Fatima Statue. Our **last meeting will be May 31st** beginning with **the 9:00 am Mass, Rosary and Pot Luck Luncheon** in Stapleton. Fr. Ian will be the speaker.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Marie Pascale

We have had **three first Holy Communion** ceremonies. As of **May 15** we will have had 180 second graders receive First Holy Communion. All of the ceremonies have been beautiful and parents have joined the children for the final rehearsal. Although our classes concluded before **Easter**, all second graders reported back to Religious Ed for additional sacramental instruction

and rehearsal.

Religious Ed hosted the Vicariate Meeting for DREs here and showed our presentation on our activities throughout the year.

We have asked our catechists to give us feedback through evaluation forms so that we could have a better understanding of what works, what to repeat and what programs might need to be revised or eliminated. When these are all returned we will meet as a group to finalize our planning for next year.

The staff and catechists will be attending a learning retreat with the Bishop and also receiving instruction on the changes that will take place with the Mass beginning in Advent.

On May 22 we will hold Enrollment Sunday after the 8:30, 10:00 am. And 5:00 p.m. Masses. Families who register on that day will receive a 10% discount on their fee.

Due to space restrictions, we have had to change our schedule to accommodate a large 5th and 6th grade. 5th grade will now be offered Sun, Mon. Tues. Wed. and 6th grade on Thurs and Sun.

As always we will be recruiting catechists for the upcoming year with the goal to have two catechists in each class.

We encourage all those (with or without children in the program) to consider volunteering in this important ministry. Our numbers continue to stay at the 1200 level and we are in need of 155 catechists each year.

Confirmation Preparation Program Chris Otis

We confirmed 154 candidates on Saturday, April 30. This included our religious education students, 19 from St. Aloysius School, two from St. Thomas More and one from St. John. The two Masses went beautifully and due to the beatification of Pope John Paul II, Bishop Lori, who was called to Rome appointed Msgr. Scheyd to confirm our candidates. He did a beautiful job and was presented with a bronze statue of Pope John Paul II in appreciation from the Confirmation class. All Confirmandi were presented with a Holy Spirit cross and a medal commemorating the beatification. There were many compliments about the Mass and the beautiful music. The class performed 4,400 hours of service which were presented to Msgr. Scheyd in the offertory. We had five 7th grade students who acted as ushers and were led by Ed Millette and Debbie Bernard.

All 7th graders took their end of the year final test on their study of morality which was in an essay format. Classes ended just before Easter. We are in the process of collecting all service hour logs and tallying them for the year. We urge our 7th graders to work on their service over the summer. We have called upon them to act as ushers at the Communion Masses and they will help out at Vacation Bible School. The Gayer/Paglialunga Class did a cemetery walk and visited 16 gravesites in early April. A special thanks to Joan Quick for making rosaries for the class to leave at the gravesites which they did a little spring cleaning and prayed at. Over 20 students made Easter baskets for parish homebound – the baskets were beautiful and brought smiles to many at Easter time. We found that our new service requirements this year resulted in service that had a more direct effect within our parish, diocese and faith. We plan to continue the requirements of hours dedicated to parish/diocesan activities, a corporal work of mercy and a spiritual work of mercy.

We have sent surveys out to our catechists to evaluate the year and our programs as we begin to plan for next year.

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.

StAY...YOUTH GROUP Deacon Pond

My focus is on building relationships with the newly confirmed teens who seem to be receptive to getting involved with the Church. The Blowout Celebration happens **May 22nd** and I hope we have a good turnout. Older teens will be running the games for that event and parents will be helping behind the scenes.

Feed My Starving Children, June 4th & 5th, will need St. Aloysius youth and families to help with food packing; I hope to snare some future freshmen for that! I would also love to see our youth and families participating in the **Third Annual Pray-for-Peace Walk June 12th from New Canaan to Darien.**

The mission trip to Worcester, MA, July 17-23, has eight teens and two adult leaders so far. I hope this will be a transforming experience for all participants. If you know of a teen that would benefit and is available, please let me know.

USHERS REPORT Bill Redman

We came through **Easter Week** and all associated regular and special masses with flying colors. All masses were covered with the proper number of ushers, and any special requirements coordinated in advance. Knights continue to be a blessing as members are great about asking head ushers if they need help (thank you Peter). First communion masses have also been coordinated the last several weeks as has a special 5th grade mass.