



ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES November 21, 2011

Present:	C. Ayoub S. Eckrich C. Hussey E. Millette R. Phelan Msgr. Scheyd	M. Barnard M.B. Fessler L. Karl J. Otis M. Pierce S. Staudt	J. Buongiorno S. Goetz R. Mantilia M. Pascale Deacon Pond	K. Doran Dr. Howard T. Marino R. Petronella B. Redman
Absent:	Fr. Carey Deacon Santulli	P. Greene	J. Holec	Fr. Jeremiah

I Opening Prayer:

- Deacon Steve Pond opened the meeting with a prayer to focus our work for the good of the Church. We especially prayed for the Saugatuck Congregational Church which burned the previous evening.

II Approval of October Minutes, Parish Reports, Agenda:

- The **October Minutes** were approved as written.
- The **Parish Council Reports** were approved as part of the minutes.
- The **Agenda** was approved as presented.

III Business Manager's Report:

- Rich Phelan provided a comprehensive update on the 1st fiscal quarter results. His report was sent in advance along with the income statement summary. Several points were highlighted: We have a new full time hire, there is a timing catch up on the pension as the plan was converted from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan this past calendar year. Catch up payments will stop at the end of December. Religious Education purchased books earlier to take advantage of discounts resulting in a timing overage rather than a budget overage.
- The front entrance slate has been replaced and sprinkler system installed.

- Projects on the horizon include a new sign for the front of the school on South Ave. and the installation of air conditioning for the school.
- The financial report will be mailed/is in the mail.
- A special envelope will be included in the envelope packages in January to encourage additional support for the Music Ministry program.

IV Update from Clergy and Staff:

- **Fr. Carey:** excused: conducting class on the **Revised Liturgy**
- **Fr. Ian:** excused: conducting **RCIA** meeting.
- **Dr Howard** The school continues to be a shining star at St. Aloyisus.
 - A pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 3rd conducted by a community group.

V Unfinished Business

- No issues

VI New Business:

- Discussion took place regarding the Romanian families (Gypsies) panhandling outside the church. Rich Phelan noted the license plate of the vehicle they were using. Msgr. spoke to the police. No action will take place. Do not call the police. We are to ask them to leave. We need to be careful, especially for unsuspecting parishioners being followed. If it continues, we may put signs up against soliciting.

VII Old Business:

- No issues discussed.

VIII Pastor's Report:

- The collection of food for the local Food Bank has been successful. More than 150 turkeys & other food was collected.
- Covenant of Care, DCF is increasing their requests for food & other support such as Thanksgiving baskets and food cards.
- Big thank yous go out to Karl Chevrolet and The Peturzos who donated the pickup truck and UHaul for gathering the food.
- The Gift Box will be in front of the Altar for Advent.
- STAR program is in full swing. Gifts will be collected to begin Saturday, December 10th and run through Sunday, December 11th following the 11:30 mass. Similar to last year, dinner will be served for the participants as a community building event.

- The Living Nativity will be held Friday, December 2 at the new and improved Creche. The Creche was rebuilt this year as an Eagle Scout project with help and supervision from the KofC.
- The Christmas Concert will be Sunday, December 11th .
- Msgr. Scheyd had two handouts to discuss:
 - Diocesan Program: “**God and Modern Biology: Educational Enrichment and Religion For Catholic Parish Leaders.**” The program is an in depth education “to help our people to understand the harmony between faith and created reality.” There was interest in the program. Msgr Scheyd will get back to the diocese to find out specifics of when and how often the classes will take place so we can discuss the details with those who might have interest.
 - **CONNECT**, an organization “standing for Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut.” A platform for action will be held on November 30th including issues concerning predatory lending, healthcare, and safe travel for our families. The event will be held from 7:30-9:00 at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 729 Union Avenue, Bridgeport. There was some differing discussion of the underlying agenda of the group.

IX Input and Comments:

- None

X Closing Prayer:

- Msgr. Scheyd led us in the closing prayer to end the evening and go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11th at 7:30 pm in Stapleton Hall.
PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FROM MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Mantilia, Secretary

**St Aloysius Church Parish Council
November 2011 Meeting
Committee Reports**

✓ **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Financial Report: Offertory income for the 1st fiscal qtr. ended September 30, 2011 amounted to \$246 thousand, a slight decline of \$5 thousand from the prior year. This is due primarily to the cancelation of masses during hurricane Irene. Total income amounting to \$395 thousand was off by \$13 thousand primarily due to the drop in gifts and bequests (\$ 21 thou) offset by an increase in rental income (\$11 thou).

Total expenses of \$ 411 thousand exceeded prior year expenses by \$ 43 thousand. Compensation & Benefits increased by \$22 thousand due to a new hire in Music Ministry and a delay in lay pension billing in the prior year. An increase in Textbooks & Classroom Supplies of \$21 thousand resulted from the acceleration of orders by RE to take advantage of discounts and free shipping promotions.

The end result is that the qtr. ended with a Loss of \$15 thousand compared to income of \$40 thousand in the prior year.

Buildings and Grounds:

Projects:

Main Entrance To Church: The project was completed.

School Air Conditioning: This project has been spearheaded by the HSA and has been in the works for some time. Three bids were received all of which exceeded what we are willing to invest. We are still optimistic to completing this project by spring and continue to review all options.

School Sign: A sign identifying the school, similar to the one in front of the church, is in the planning stage. The required paperwork has been submitted to the town and the cost of the sign donated by a school family.

✓ **CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS:**

No Report

✓ **CLERGY REPORTS :**

Fr. Bill – No Report

Fr. Ian – No Report

Msgr. Scheyd – No Report

✓ **EMMAUS :**

The fall Emmaus weekend retreat for Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors in high school was held at All Saints School on November 11th, 12th and 13th. There were 31 Candidates. The maximum is 36, but due to the storm a few had to drop out as sports finals were postponed a week.

However, it was definitely a quality group of candidates and a number of new adults joined the team.

Kathleen & Kevin Leitao were the leaders of the weekend, which was the 62nd Emmaus held at St. A's. To date, over 3,400 people have participated in an Emmaus weekend retreat at St. Aloysius.

The spring Emmaus will be led by Colleen & Tom Baldwin and will be held on March 2, 3 & 4, 2012 at All Saints. The Baldwins will be assisted by Mary Karen & Bill Keneally.

✓ **GRADE CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM:**

Our Level II classes have been attending their required Kiss A Frog events. This workshop has been part of the Confirmation Preparation program for many years and shares an important message for our candidates. The facilitator recently retired and so, we developed a presentation team of Chris Otis, Marie Pascale, Deacon Steve Pond and High School Senior, Kellianne Hickey to present the workshop. The

program has been well received and our last group will come for the event on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

The group's next big event is their class community service project, The Living Nativity on Friday, December 2 in the crèche on the corner of South and Cherry streets. The Confirmation candidates bring the story of the birth of Jesus to life. This year, our live animals will return, the Knights of Columbus will graciously provide buttons to be handed out and we have two full casts splitting the acting roles. Please pass along word to stop by between 6 and 8pm to see their rendition of this wonderful story.

Father Ian and the two deacons continue to visit all Level II classes to talk about the Sacraments.

Our Level I classes have just finished their class service project, Project 1,000. The class raised over \$6,000 in cash and in-kind donations which made it possible for them to come together and fill 1,000 stockings that will be shipped down to impoverished children in Appalachia. All stockings contained a personal note from a student.

The class also came together in early November for their grade level Mass and took part in the liturgy as greeters, ushers, gift bearers, altar servers and readers.

The students continue their community service including taking cemetery walks to pray for deceased loved ones, hosting the senior movies, becoming prayer partners for parishioners, working the Sunday hospitality coffees and attending special prayer services like the All Souls Day Mass. They have also worked hard to support the Love Your Neighbor Food Drive.

All Level I and Level II students will go to reconciliation during Advent.

✓ **THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

No Report

✓ **MARTHA & MARY MINISTRIES:**

The "Friendly Visitor" Ministry of the Martha & Mary Ministries hosted a luncheon for our seniors on Wednesday, October 26. The day began with Mass at 10 a.m. and then a wonderfully inspiring speech from Fr. Audette, followed by a lovely lunch prepared by the "E-Team" **Hospitality Ministry** from Martha & Mary. Thom Marino provided beautiful music throughout. The **Parish Nurses** of Martha & Mary put together great "goodie bags", and the entire day was a home run for over 85 seniors.

Martha & Mary is also planning to host a Lenten Soup Supper for the Parish, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 26 after the 5 p.m. Mass. Any thoughts of ideas on this are most welcome.

MUSIC AND LITURGY:

No Report

✓ **OUR LADIES GUILD:**

Our Lady's Guild met on Oct. 18, 2011:

Fr. Ian opened the meeting with the celebration of Mass and said the recitation of the Rosary.

Susan began the meeting with the various reports.

Kathie Karl had about 10 people at her recent rosary workshop. She received a thank you from the Sisters in the Philippines. If anyone is interested in learning the knots please contact her.

Leigh Barnard stated the First Friday Adoration went fairly well considering it was a holiday weekend. She has several slots open especially from 7:30am to 9:30 am. Leigh mentioned she would provide rides to anyone in need.

Honey Karl reported a great turnout for the Living Rosary even though it was a holiday weekend. She thanked all who worked on it and all who provided refreshments.

Susan reported for Betty Flynn that there was still a need for some volunteers for serving lunch at Lapham in January.

The guild's next meeting is scheduled for November 15th and it will be the silent auction. Susan also reminded us to bring the gifts for St. Camillus residents at our December meeting.

Our featured speaker was Fr. Ian who gave a talk and slide show of his trip this past summer to Madrid for World Youth Day as well as his visits to the shrines at Fatima, Avila, and Santiago de Compostela.

✓ **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

Our 4th graders participated in the All Saints Liturgy by dressing as saints and doing a written project on the saints. In light of the October snow, there was good attendance at the Mass and great enthusiasm among our students.

Our 3rd graders all took part in a "Doers & Tellers" program about the early church and evangelization. Throughout the year they will be given "missions" to accomplish and then report back to class.

Our 2nd graders continue to prepare for the sacrament of First Reconciliation. Two sessions will be held on Saturday, December 3. Parents have been asked to help at home as well.

Religious Education now has a designated laptop so that we can access interesting Catholic websites in our classrooms for our students. We have been researching appropriate applications and hope to bring this to the classes in the second half.

✓ **SCHOOL REPORT:**

No Report

✓ **USHERS :**

7th grade mass coordinated on Nov 6th with CCD and ushers.

Beginning to plan for Christmas season masses. Setting up a meeting with Monsignor over the next several weeks to understand all mass schedules and special events that require coverage.