

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS
September 14, 2010

PRESENT: B. Boland, B. Doran, M.B. Fessler, P. Greene, M. Holec, Deacon Howe, Fr. Jeremiah, L. Karl, S. Lione, B. Mantilia, T. Marino, L. Paglialunga, M. Pascale, R. Petronella, M. Pierce, Deacon Pond and Msgr. Scheyd.

ABSENT: C. Ayoub, M. Barnard, Fr. Carey, J. Holec, Dr. Howard, C. Hussey, E. Millette, A. Munnely, and B. Redman

7:40 PM Msgr. welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer. He was sorry for the unusual meeting day. He will be leaving for Germany for 2 weeks. We must plan for the Octoberfest.

Sue Lione...

MINUTES accepted as corrected. **AGENDA** was accepted. **PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS** were accepted. Please read them and share the information with your organizations. They are part of the minutes.

An undated list of the Parish Council members was passed for correction and will be sent out.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT Deacon Lou Howe **see detailed Report.**

* There are no financial reports being produced at this time.

* On Monday, September 13, the Finance Council, Board of Trustees, Council Chair and parish priests met with Deacon Bill Koniers (Director of Parish Financial Services of the Diocese) and Gary Smith, CPA from Menman LLC to review the findings of the Independent financial review. St. Aloysius Parish is financially sound and all our monies are accounted for. There are a few procedures we need to adopt and review. We hired Deacon Roland Blier, an authority on Diocesan procedures to review our accounts and procedures on a regular basis to assure compliance.

Msgr. thanked Deacon Lou for overseeing all aspects of our financial status.

* Other updates:

Statue of Mary is beautifully ensconced in her new "Roadside Shrine" with plantings...very popular place.

Mural in the Maple Street Conference Room has been restored to its original condition.

St. Aloysius School renovation project mostly completed.

Church Grounds and Building improvements continue.

Msgr: St. Aloysius is the top donator to the **Annual Bishops Appeal** in addition to our share of the diocesan tax. We donated more than \$1 million.

Deacon Lou: It is important for the Parish Council members to know what is going on in the parish with the money.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Sue Lione

* **Octoberfest will be held on October 16 after 5:30 Mass in Stapleton Hall. \$25/Family.** Kathy Garrison and Jean-Marie McLaughlin are ordering and organizing the food. The Knights of Columbus are handling the Bar. Asked Brendan and Melanie to organize the fire pit outside for smores. There will be a Tent and an oom pa pa Band. Will need people on grill, for set up etc.

Bob: Can Catholic daughters have their coffee and goodies?

Liza will draw up the Site Plan. There will be long tables in Stapleton and outside under a tent...Octoberfest style. Bar will be outside on the Terrace. There will be 2 Buffet tables: one in and one out.

Hope that everyone will participate. List went around.

Bob: Should have entry point closed and use name tags.

* Dr. Howard is still trying to find a **parent representative** to the Parish Council.

* **St. Aloysius School received the Blue Ribbon Award.** The U.S. Government designates 10% of schools, public and private, as worthy of this award across the country. There will be a Ceremony in Washington, DC in November. Dr. Howard has done good things bringing his expertise to St. Aloysius School. There are 189 students with one pending.

* **Census Follow-up....47% response.** There are 1230 families registered and 1400 not. Have lists of the responders and non-responders. Will ask you to help follow up.

* **Calendar....**Urge all organizations to register their dates on the Official Calendar.

Deacon Lou: trying to get **online availability** for viewing...one for staff and one for Parish.

Leo: Can we put the month's calendar in the Bulletin? Yes.

NEW BUSINESS Sue Lione

Would like to highlight at least one or two ministries/month for us to learn what this ministry does:

* **MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT....MUSIC MINISTRY** Thom Marino **See Detailed report in Parish**

Council Reports

Four Choirs are: Cherub Choir (3 -8 years) for Holidays, **Youth Choir** (3rd—8th grade), **Adult Traditional Choir** and the **Stay Choir** at the 5PM Mass on Sunday eve. Three moms, whose kids are in Madrigals at the high school, may form another group integrated as a morning choir.

Bob: can the 5 PM Mass Choir sing a few more familiar hymns? No, it won't work.

Sue: Thom has started so many new events and they are becoming more popular each year.

* **Lay Minister Symposium coming...**morning in Church and afternoon breakout sessions.

Msgr: In the future, this Church will not be closed but there will be 2 priests for as long as possible with deacons. The more we can get our people involved, the better for the parish.

Marie Pascale is to be admired. Her job is very complex.

FR. IAN....No report. Prolife meeting on Monday, September 27th.

FR. CAREY....Msgr. said that Fr. Carey has started **Scripture Study on Thursdays.**

PASTOR'S REPORT Msgr. Scheyd

* **There will be an outside speaker for Advent and Lent.**

* **October 27th ... Half day of Recollection for Seniors in Parish...outside speaker.**

* **Parish Nurse...An international program. New person, Kim McNamera taking over (Took 8 month course at St. Vincent's Hospital).**

* **Visitation Committee:** list of volunteers to help someone in need.

* **Driving Miss Daisy** drivers to take seniors to Church.

Msgr: we know that **there are needy people out there. Help as you can. Thank you.**

* **Good Contact with Newspapers..Chris Otis. Attractive Bulletin.**

Deacon Lou says that the Parish will provide snacks and drinks for these meetings.

NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2010 AT 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Maggie Pierce, Secretary

Catholic Daughters Margaret Sandstrom

* We had our first meeting for the season on Thursday, September 2, a **Welcome Back Social.** Our new board for 2010 - 2012 is, Rosemarie Petronella, Regent; Jo Cunningham, Vice Regent; Helen McBrien, Treasurer; Rosemarie Venanzi, Financial Secretary; and Margaret Sandstrom, Recording Secretary. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 7th on the Feast of the Holy Rosary. We will be joining Our Lady's Guild that evening at 7PM in Church for the Living Rosary and following the Rosary, we will have a brief meeting at Stapleton Hall.

* We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Church committees for their support and especially the Youth Ministry for their help in assisting us with the St. Aloysius Feast Day set-ups.

We could not have done all the work ourselves if it wasn't for their help in carrying the coffee pots, setting up the balloons, etc! It was a wonderful evening, and we thank you all.

Emmaus Report Sue Lione

* The **Adult Emmaus Retreat Day** was held on Saturday, July 10, 2010 in **Stapleton Hall**. There were **over 29 candidates and 35 team members**. It was very well received and a faith-filled day for all. Chris Valk and Shannon Potts were the Rector and Rectora leading the day with Chris and Tom Ayoub serving as the Adult Facilitators.

* **Jim and Patti Holec** are the **Rector and Rectora of Emmaus LX**, the teen retreat weekend, to be held at All Saints School on **November 12, 13 and 14**. Bob and Patty Potts are the Assistants for the weekend. The dates for the spring Emmaus weekend are March 4, 5 & 6.

Knights of Columbus Peter Greene

* We are just starting off our new year. **First Council meeting** is on **Monday September 13th**. We are working on setting up our calendar and budgets for the year.

* **On Sept 23rd, Thursday**, We will be hosting a "**Men of the Parish Social**" This will be a casual BBQ in which we will be mixing and networking with men from the parish. ☐☐ We are also getting some of our members together to assist running the bar at the Parish **Oktoberfest**.

Martha & Mary Ministries Melanie Barnard

The Martha & Mary **Seniors Ministry** had a meeting last Thursday. Attending were representatives from **Driving Miss Daisy**, the **St. Joseph The Worker**, the **Visitation Ministry**, **Parish Nurses**, **Parish Council**, and **Msgr. Scheyd**. All agreed that there is a clear **need for a ministry for our Parish Senior Citizens**. To inaugurate the ministry and learn the needs of our Seniors, the Ministry will host a Morning of Reflection followed by a Lunch for our Seniors and their family on Wednesday, October 27 in the church and in Stapleton Hall.

Additionally, the survey asking our seniors what is important to them and how we can help will be available during the Blood Pressure Screenings done by our Nurses and at local senior citizen group locations as well as in the church and via the bulletin or website.

If you would like to work on this exciting new ministry, or know a senior who would benefit from it, please contact Melanie Barnard (melaniebarnard@aol.com)

Music Ministry 2010-2011 Thom Marino

* **This week we welcome Heidi Haskins to the Music Ministry department**. Heidi has been hired as the **Administrative Assistant for the Office of Music and Liturgy**, **Youth Choir Director**, **Soprano section leader in the Traditional Choir** and **Cantor**. Heidi comes to us from **St. Michael Church in Greenwich** where she was **Cantor**, **Soprano section leader** and **Youth Choir Director** for the past twelve years. **Jeff Leinen** stepped down as **Youth Choir Director** this past June due to his heavy teaching schedule at **Stratford High School**, where he teaches music appreciation, directs the concert choir and directs two major productions a year. **Jeff** will still be on board as **Bass section leader in the Adult Choir** as well as a **Cantor**.

* **Ellen Sisson** who has been here at **St. A's** for twenty-one years, first as the **Soprano section leader in my predecessor, David Thomas' choir** for seventeen years and the **Soprano/Cantor** for the last six years under my direction. **Ellen** has been hired as the **Cantor and Children's Choir Director** at **St. Michael**, where she will be working with **David Thomas** and **Msgr. Cullen**. This past Sunday, **September 12** was **Ellen's** last with us. She was presented with a beautiful diamond pendant and a bouquet of fresh cut flowers as a token of thanks for all her years of service from our parish. A very elegant reception immediately followed the 11:30 Liturgy in **Stapleton Hall** in her honor.

Upcoming Liturgical and Music Ministry Events:

Saturday, October 30 from 9:00am-3:30pm...Lay Minister's Symposium

Tuesday, November 2 at 7:00pm...All Soul's Day Mass of Remembrance

Thursday, November 25 at 9:00am...Thanksgiving Day Festival Mass

**Sunday, December 5 at 2:30pm...Parish Christmas Concert with Orchestra)
(Cherub, Youth & Traditional Choirs)**

**Friday evening, February 4 or Sunday evening, February 6 at 7:00pm...
Piano Concert with St. A's Choirs**

During Lent (date TBD)...Taize Prayer Around the Cross

Sunday, April 17 at 2:30pm... Palm Sunday Concert-Traditional Choir

**May (date TBD) Tales of Wonder (Liturgical Play of Biblical Stories)...
(Cherub, Youth & Traditional Choirs)**

Religious Ed Marie Pascale

* Classes begin the week of September 12. Each day parents and children gather either in the church or school gym for a prayer service and opening remarks by Msgr. Scheyd.

* Catechist training sessions we held last week of August, first week of September. This year we also added a gathering for all parents new to the program and all first grade parents. The program consisted of an 8 minute video on the value of a parish Religious Education Program and an overview of St. Aloysius Religious Education: what to expect from us and what parents can do to partner with us.

* We continue to welcome new families from Pound Ridge, South Salem, and surrounds. This year we also have many families returning to the church and whose children are in need of individual preparation prior to joining a regular class. And many older children coming to the sacraments for the first time.

* Presently **196 children attend our Sunday morning program**. We have approximately **160 in the second grade preparing for sacraments** (not including the school). And we continue to have a waitlist for our Thursday 5th grade program due to space issues.

* Each grade level has a "special" put into the program for them and the catechists are receiving great assistance with lesson planning and enrichment with Kathleen Redman on staff. We have added to our video library for all grade levels using our grant money.

* Our dates have been set for First Reconciliation, Saturday, December 4 and for First Holy Communion: Sunday, May 1, Sunday, May 8 and Sunday, May 15.

***7th/8th Grade Confirmation Preparation Program* Chris Otis**

* Last minute registrations are coming in, but we have approximately 130 students in each of the grades. St. Aloysius has 20 students who will be confirmed at our April 30 Confirmation.

* We have 15 classes in each grade and have just completed our in service training for the catechists. Our 8th grade curriculum focuses on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and sacraments. The 7th grade will again focus on morality.

* We have re-vamped our community service program this year. Now called, "Words and Works", our 7th/8th graders 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. The 8th grade will have two class service projects – a living nativity on Friday, December 3

which is the night of the holiday stroll and once again will host the Simple Supper for Seniors during Lent. Our 7th graders will be working towards a goal of assembling 1,000 Christmas stockings for those in need. The 7^{th/8th} graders will also be asked to assist Chris Otis in the production of a church etiquette video stressing what not to wear vs. what to wear in addition to proper behavior and respect in Church. Chris will work with the Liturgy Committee for approved content. The goal is to have the video ready to go by the Enrollment Mass and Fellowship Dinner for our 8th graders on October 17. It can also be used after that at other parish events and meetings.

* Our 8th grade kicks off on Sept 13 with the return of guest speaker, Sister Florencia Silva who is the campus minister of St. Josephs High School. She will address parents and candidates. Our 7th graders will be led by Bryan Mercier, speaker and youth minister at St. John in Darien.

StAY Deacon Steve Pond

* **High school youth** activities slowed down during the summer, and unfortunately, we didn't have a mission trip because of the late school closing. Various one day service activities were substituted such as painting at the South Avenue Cottage and at the Outback Teen Center. These were more popular with the middle school teens. The monthly trips to **New Covenant House** continued to be popular through the summer. VBS again provided a great opportunity to talk and pray with the youth volunteers every morning of the week. We also had some great kids perform in the VBS skit.

* The new **youth ministry** year looms large and wonderful! Please pray for good numbers of **high school freshmen** to be engaged with StAY in their "gap year" between Confirmation and **Emmaus** and that the Emmaus teens would stand up for them as **role models**. The Kickoff BBQ is just the first step! The **youth ministry schedule** will be posted on the YM page of our website.

* I am looking for collaboration with other groups in the parish. How can our youth serve with their God-given talents and merciful hearts? For example, in conjunction with Martha & Mary Ministries I will be forming a team of youth to be available to visit the elderly and help them with any little project or task they may have.

Ushers Bill Redman

* I am starting to work on coordinating ushers for the **Christmas season**. It was pretty evident at both **Christmas** last year, and Easter this year that too much is left to chance, and waiting until several weeks before is to hit and miss. I think we do need to train a some folks who can at least be held in reserve as required.

* Additionally, I will be requesting a meeting with monsr. and/or deacon Lou to discuss which upcoming masses have something special going on requiring coordination - I was at the scout mass today and the collections were hit and miss. I want to get out in front of masses like these.