

ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
April 11, 2011

PRESENT: C. Ayoub, M. Barnard, B. Boland, Fr. Carey, M.B. Fessler, J. Holec, C. Hussey, L. Karl, S. Lione, B. Mantilia, T. Marino, L. Paglialunga, M. Pascale, R. Petronella, M. Pierce, B. Redman, Msgr. Scheyd and R. Phelan.

ABSENT: B. Doran, M. Holec, Dr. Howard, Fr. Jeremiah, E. Millette, A. Munnelly and Deacon Pond.

1:7:40 pm Opening prayer by Msgr. Scheyd. Sue welcomed Rich Phelan, St. Aloysius' new Business Manager.

II.Minutes accepted as submitted. Reports submitted as part of minutes.

IV.BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT Rich Phelan

Presented himself to the group. He is new to New Canaan. He went to Iona College and Fordham University for his MBA. He spent 29 years in corporate life and the last 3 years with a hedge fund. He feels that this is an ideal position from his perspective.

Msgr.:Thank you to Rich.

There were 16 applications with 9 live resumes resulting in 4 recommended Candidates. Msgr., Leo Karl and Chris Hussey, Trustees, interviewed the 4 and made a unanimous decision. He hoped for an April 1st start date and Rich came on April 4. Rich had a strong business background. Deacon John Tugman started the position. Deacon Lou carried on through the construction project. Now Msgr. wants the Business Manager to concentrate on the Business aspect of the parish. Ministry heads will know where they stand on a Quarterly basis. We will have our budget presented in June, to start in July. e.g. Parishioner donated 3 TV's to the Religious Ed department. Our parishioners are very generous. He wants to continue reaching out to others for help. He will be looking over everybody's shoulder including Msgr's! He will look at funding. Msgr. made a plea for funds to offset the high snow removal bill and received \$15,000 in gifts from parishioners.

Our Audit was fine.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS Sue Lione

Census Update...A mailing will go out next week to everyone who did not return his/her census card last year. Software is in place Diocesan wide now, so that a person or family is not allowed to belong to more than one parish. We will be back to discuss how to contact those who do not return census cards. An announcement will be made both on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday about the census being taken and importance of returning the census cards. Some parishioner/realtors went through the pile of non-returnees to see who had moved or died.

M.B.: need to be aware that lists of new parishioners do not contain phone numbers for the newcomers' ministry. Msgr. wants to meet with M.B. to find out what info is missing and why.

Congrats to Sue Scannell for keeping our website calendar up to date. Calendar@starcc.com

VI. NEW BUSINESS Sue Lione

Nominations for Parish Council—requests will be in the Bulletin and due back on May 13th. We will go through these names at the next meeting. We need 6 nominations and 2 teens. Ed Millette is eligible to run again. Sue Lione and Liza Paglialunga are completing their terms.

The elections will be held June 5th and 6th.

June 11....Bill Santulli will be ordained a Deacon and his first Mass will be celebrated on June 12 at 11:30 AM with a Reception following in Stapleton Hall. The new hospitality/entertainment Committee will set it up.

June 18....St. Aloysius Parish Feast

June 20....Old Board/New Board. Invite your successor.

Oktoberfest....October 1st.

Chris: We need the photos of the Parish Council returned to the Narthex with an update of the photos.

VII. MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT....Religious Education Marie Pascale

There are 1200 students in Religious Education, in 200 classes with 150 Catechists for 1 hour times 24 weeks which equals one 24 hour day of religious education. This makes it challenging. Also, you have divergent families: Catholic and non-practicing Catholic.

Catechists may not make assumptions.

Staff includes: Kathleen Redman, Chris Otis, Anne Marie Jardin & Marie, the Director.

Some projects include: the Living Rosary, bringing in outside Speakers, and "There is a saint in every child" theme for education on the Saints.

We include traditional Catholic practices and identity e.g. Adoration prayer as a type of community service. Had blessing of the throats service. **We bring the children to the sacraments. Penance is offered 2 times a year to the students.**

The **Curriculum is varied.** We offer a **Refresh and Renew course to older kids** who have never received penance and Holy Communion. We try to have parents assist.

Challenge: Space. The Pilot program on Sunday is over 200 children...the largest We never turn anyone away.

7th & 8th Graders meet offsite. We would like to bring them back to the Church setting.

We have customized lesson planning so that it is the same for all teachers. This eliminates editorializing and personal opinion.

Service Hours includes 2 hours of inside Parish work. Received some publicity in *Fairfield County Catholic* and the *New Canaan Advertiser*.

Goal for next year: [a laptop in the office](#), a **Pilot Program providing a laptop for special needs Program** and to get people on board to deliver this type of education. Feels that if she could advertise such a program ahead, the parents would tell ahead of time that their child has special needs, which they tend not to do now. We don't want to separate these kids.

Jim: How do we compare to other Parishes? E.g. St. Thomas More—does a lot of home-schooling. We have gotten a lot of positive feedback. If she can get a Catechist to return, that is a good thing.

[We meet with the Vicarate.](#)

Msgr.: It has been a crescendo over the years. Marie has provided great leadership while having had daily challenges. Marie bends over to satisfy people. Many extraordinary situations e.g. children coming from families with no religion. How do you do it to have it translate into practice in their daily lives? Anne Marie is the administrator. Steve Pond is part of CCD team. Kathleen has done a remarkable job. Doesn't know of any other group so enthusiastic, loving etc. "an outstanding program."

Chris: the reason that Catechists come back is that you are welcoming.

Liza: Also, they make CCD fun, empowering the 8th Grade, for example, to be kind as well as have fun.

III. FR. CAREY

There are 2 more lectures in the series. **24 hours that changed the world.**

VIII. PASTOR'S REPORT Msgr. Scheyd

Lenten Mission...Fr. Gardiner was not well attended. We tried.

TAIZE...a beautiful service.

CONCERT...this coming Sunday. Thom and his people are putting the work into it.

Requiem Mass...Latin tradition. 35 minutes long. **12 piece orchestra.** The second half will have **Lenten season pieces for Passiontide** and sing-a-long. There will be a small reception out in the plaza outside Church afterwards.

Seven of us sat 2 ½ hours to plan Holy week Services. I have much gratitude for all the work that goes into it.

June 11th...Bill Santulli will be ordained as a permanent deacon (really well formed and trained.) He will be assigned here. His wife, Joanne is also a big part of it.

June 12th...11:30 am Mass of Thanksgiving. Deacon John Tugman is coming.

Deacon Lou and Mary Jo moved out. The apartment rented and will be occupied next week.

IX.INPUT & COMMENT

Jim: What is the plan to change the liturgy? Rome says that the translation was not authentic to original writing so changes have been made. Fr. Carey is in charge of this for St. A's at Vicarate meeting here in May—2 Monsignors have to go around and explain to everyone.

There are some minor changes in responses. It starts with the Priests.

Thom is going to a Pastoral Conference.

In 1960, there was never the amount of communication to priests that we are receiving now.

9 PM Meeting closed with a Prayer by Fr. Carey.

Next meeting is Monday, May 16th at 7:30PM in Stapleton. June 20th is the final meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Pierce, Secretary

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

April 11, 2011

EMMAUS Sue Lione Adult Emmaus, a one day retreat for adults will be held in Stapleton Hall on June 25th. Adult Emmaus is for all, 18 to 90+, and is led by college students and young adults. Sara Sindelar will be the Rectora. The day runs from 9 AM to about 8 PM. The cost for the day is \$25 which includes meals. An Emmaus weekend is an invitation to take a walk with Christ in order to form a deeper relationship with Him. To date, over 3300 people have participated in an Emmaus Retreat run by St. Aloysius. Please encourage adults and college students who have not attended an Emmaus retreat to consider the day. Those who have made an Emmaus are invited to join the team. The application is on the parish website starcc.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Peter Greene

The knights had a **successful fundraiser** after masses for their annual Drive for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities; they are also planning on stationing around town. 100% of all funds raised go to local and CT charities. The knights are hosting a **Men of the parish event on Wednesday May 4th** - the theme will be **Cinco de Mayo EVE!!** Mexican food drink etc. All men of the parish are invited. The knights are going over the **scholarship applications**, final due date is April 30th. The knights hosted a **men's retreat** this past weekend. We are encouraging our members to assist with **Easter as ushers**. We continue to upgrade our webpage www.kofc2287.org

OUR LADY'S GUILD Barbara MacDonald, Secretary. Members and their families attended the beautiful devotion of Mary's Way of the Cross on March 18th in the church. We are sponsoring a Morning of Reflection for all women of the parish on April 8th. Fr. Brian Gannon of St. Theresa Church will give a Lenten talk. Joan Kelly will speak about Marian Devotions through the Ages at Our Lady's Guild Meeting on April 15th. On Good Friday, we will pray the Way of the Cross with the residents of Waveny Care Center. Our Pilgrimage to the Mother Cabrini Shrine and Cloisters Museum is planned for April 27th.

MARTHA & MARY MINISTRIES Melanie Barnard

Visitation Ministry is really up and running - already have 8 people who are being visited regularly. Excellent feedback and expect this program to grow quickly since the need is clearly present.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Marie Pascale

* All of our students will have gone to the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** this season of Lent. Classes for grades 1-6 are completed the week of April 10 and we will begin registration for the new term following the reception of sacraments.

* The **third grade had a special lesson** on the Triduum and the liturgies of Holy Thursday, * The **fourth grade participated in the Living Rosary**. A extra large, life-size rosary was constructed and used at the Rosary Garden.

* The **fifth grade went on a field trip to St. John Fisher Seminary** to learn about Holy Orders, listening to God's call and to pray for vocations.

* The **sixth grade** was involved in a **"challenge" (contest)** to see how much information they knew about the Bible.

* All **second graders** are asked to return back after classes are finished for their final rehearsals before **First Holy Communion**.

* **First Holy Communion will take place at the 11:30 a.m. Mass** on Sunday, **May 1, Sunday**,

May 8 and Sunday, **May 15**.

Confirmation Preparation Class Chris Otis

* All **Confirmation** candidates attended a Gift of the Spirit Talk in March with their parents. The intention of the talk was to give them a better understanding of and use of the gifts in their everyday lives and to take stake as to what is most important in their lives. They are all attending the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participating in the Confirmation Challenge. The Challenge is a friendly competition between the classes which serves as a final review of the material they have learned this year and may be questioned on just prior to Confirmation. The binder of Letters requesting Confirmation has been given to Msgr. Scheyd. Ten students took decided to interview with a priest in lieu of a letter. We will confirm 156 candidates on Saturday, April 29. This includes our St. Aloysius Schoolstudents, two from St. Thomas More and one from St. John.

* All **7th graders** attend an event in March entitled Crossroads which featured Carol Pinard's **Martyrs talk**. The 7th grade class finished reading Amy Welborn's book, *Prove It*. You as a supplement to their morality textbook. Via the technology of Skype, Amy did a live web chat from her home in Alabama with our 7th graders last week, prior to their going to Reconciliation.

* **Our 7th/8th graders are hard at work fulfilling their service requirements.** The 8th grade hosted the second annual Simple Supper for Seniors to which about 50 seniors attended. About 15 members of the cast of the Saxe musical, *The Music Man* came and provided entertainment. Several of our students were part of the production. Jennifer Joneja also played the piano for our guests. The evening ended with students attending stations of the cross with the seniors. The students also hosted another Senior Afternoon at the Movies, hosted Sunday Hospitality Coffees, did a cemetery walk to 16 gravesites and will be coming in a week to do the spring cleaning of the Church pews with Ed Millette and Debbie Bernard. Over 40 will be supplying Easter baskets for our parish homebound and family services. They also participated in the collection of over candy for over 300 Easter baskets that will be distributed through Al's Angels.

USHERS Bill Redman Ushers and Knights of Columbus being contacted and coordinated for Holy Week

Mass Schedules:

Palm Sunday - 17th

Regular collections

Vigil Mass, Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday: 7:00am, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30am & 5:00pm

Holy Thursday - 21st

No collection

Good Friday - 22nd

3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Collection for the Holy Land **after** veneration of the cross

7:30pm Office of Tenebrae - no official collection; basket will be left out

8:30pm Chaplet of the Divine Mercy - no official collection; basket will be left out

Holy Sat Evening - 23rd

8:00pm The Vigil of Easter - double collections

Easter Sunday - 24th

7:00am, 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30am - double collections

There will be no 5:00pm Mass on Easter Sunday

YOUTH GROUP Deacon Pond

The **Emmaus 4th Day event** went well with 15 candidates returning for an afternoon of Adoration, food, discussion and service for others. The candidates were able to share thoughts about how the weekend impacted them and why they enjoyed it. At the reunion two weeks later, a summer

mission trip was promoted. As of this writing we only have two people who have committed to going on the trip in July to Worcester, MA. If you know of anyone who might be interested and able please let me know. The bowling for the St. Luke's LifeWorks kids happened on March 27th at Rip Van Winkle. It was well attended by 7th and 8th graders with a handful of high school. We had mothers helping out, thankfully! The Living Stations of the Cross was portrayed by the choir teens and two lectors on April 8th with music from Angelo Natalie. This is a highlight of Lent for these liturgy enthusiasts!

A youth ministry task force is being put together with Father Ian as head. It should address how the Emmaus teens can *stay* together in faith, fellowship, service and social and be role models for 8th and 9th graders. This should go on for most if not the entire year.