

**ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**November 15,2010**

**PRESENT:** C. Ayoub, M. Barnard, B. Boland, Fr. Carey, M.B. Fessler, P. Greene, Deacon Howe, L. Karl, S. Lione, B. Mantilia, T. Marino, M. Pascale, R. Petronella, M. Pierce, Deacon Pond, B. Redman and Msgr. Scheyd

**ABSENT:** B. Doran, J. Holec, M. Holec, Dr. Howard, C. Hussey, Fr. Jeremiah, E. Millette, A. Munnely and L Paglialunga.

**7:35 PM** Fr. Carey opened the meeting with a prayer.

**SUE LIONE**

**Minutes** were accepted as presented. **Committee Reports** were sent out ahead and were accepted. Those reports which didn't make the deadline were passed out at the meeting and they were sent to the Secretary to be included in the Reports to be posted on the Website.

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT**

Deacon Lou distributed copies of the **Annual Report** which consisted of 4 pages with the first being a letter from Msgr. Scheyd on the front page. Deacon Lou commented that the **Online giving represents 10%** of the total annual Sunday Offertory of \$1,485,758.00.

Bob Mantilia inquired as to what % of new people to the Parish give online and are they aware it is available? Deacon Lou replied that all newly registering families/individuals are informed that they may give online.

Referring to the 4<sup>th</sup> Page it was stated that the total shown in the amount of \$15,300, is the monies collected in the "Christmas Sharing Box" placed in the Church during Advent and goes exclusively to New Canaan families.

In January and June, the Trustees get together with Msgr. Scheyd and decide to whom and how much of these monies will be given to "Third World Organizations and Local Organizations in outreach.

Msgr. Scheyd stated that "there are a number of people who come to us for financial assistance. We don't usually give money to pay rent or car payments, unless we really know them, and we often do. We try to do our best. For example there is a priest who visits every year from Africa and we cannot help but give him money. We pray that people of the Parish will be generous. A perfect example of the generosity of the parish is the special collection we had to assist those in Haiti."

Peter Green asked that In regards to online giving, as an Usher, I feel for people who don't give to the Usher because they give online. Perhaps we could send **printed cards** out to the Parishioners who **give online saying "I gave online"** which they could then drop into the basket instead of nothing.

**(Business Managers Report continues on next page)**

Deacon Lou passed out the Financial Report for the First Quarter of the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 for a preview to the council, and stated it was also on the website as was the Annual Report.

Deacon Lou then brought the Parish Website up on the Television in the hall for a live presentation, explaining that the site has undergone a major change in the simplicity of navigating the site. "We changed the address on the website to 21 Cherry Street for the Church, because people get lost looking for the Church as it was listed as 40 Maple Street. A quick demonstration showed that all the information you want is here and easily accessible. Some examples were shown such as: Bulletins, Eucharistic Ministry and Lector Schedules, Financial Reports, Parish and Finance Councils, and the parish activity calendar and much more. Deacon Lou added that if you need anything else that is not here, "let me know, but please encourage everyone to use. The address for the Parish Website is: [www.starcc.com](http://www.starcc.com)."

He said that [www.Websforgood.com](http://www.Websforgood.com) owned and operated by Patti Geanakos rebuilt the site from ground up and when completed switched us to a new domain vendor.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** Sue Lione

\* **STAR PROGRAM...**On Sunday December 12. Trees will go up this weekend in the Narthex. **December 11**, the night before, we are trying something new...Invite people to drop their gifts off early...5 pm to 8 pm and we will serve an easy dinner (Chili, Mac & Cheese & Wine) to start the Holiday off. This way, we can get the gifts in early and send the drivers out earlier on Sunday.

**The same night, "Hope Lights Lives" Luminaries to benefit the Center for Hope in Darien** will be lit by our Emmaus Community and our Religious Education students....a Dollar and a Prayer. We would like to have them go around the block.

- **St. Aloysius Catholic Parent Networking...Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>** will present "How to Raise a Faithful, Faith-filled Athlete" with John & Margy Teixeira, parents of Mark Teixeira, 7:30 to 8:30 pm at Stapleton Social Hall.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **SET DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS: MONDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup>.** We will confirm at the January Meeting the date for the February Meeting, which we think could be **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15.**

### **MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT** Youth Ministry and Emmaus Deacon Steve

Grades 7 –9 will be more attracted to StAY Group. Steve attends their CCD classes to make them aware of the activities of the Youth Group. Has a good group of parents. Community Service is a real Catalyst. Once a month, there is a major activity: sharing, working together and sharing with the Holy Spirit. Hopes to have the Leadership Group grow. We lost a couple of kids to other groups in Town. Would like to find a way to bridge the Emmaus Gap and funnel these kids into the Youth Group attending meetings and participating in activities and services beyond the weekend. They then could mentor the younger teens. Would like to do more with the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade leaders to bond and connect them before they are confirmed, so they would carry on afterwards.

**EMMAUS VIDEO.....Bishop Lori** speaks about Emmaus. This was used to address the parents at the Closing Ceremony. Excellent.

Msgr: We had a fine Emmaus weekend. Things fell together. To work, the Emmaus Program must be rooted in your parish...teens as well as parents. Continue to pray for our Emmaus program. It is an important part of our Parish life.

## FR. CAREY

**St. Aloysius School:** Next week, Dr. Howard will go to Washington, D.C. to attend the Blue Ribbon Ceremony.

- \* Had good **Veterans Day Program** with nine Veterans attending
- \* **Raising of the Blue Ribbon Flag** at 8:30 am this Friday
- \* **Performing Arts Group is singing** at the **Sound Tigers Hockey Game** on November 21.
- \* **Advent Liturgy** at 7 pm on **December 15<sup>th</sup>**
- \* During Advent, the **students collect gifts for the STAR Program.**
- \* **October 31...Students donated pumpkins** to the School House Apartments.

## PASTOR'S REPORT Msgr. Scheyd

\* **Halloween Incident:** Saturday night, Mischief Night, someone threw eggs at our front doors and the statue of St. Aloysius and toilet papered the trees. Deacon Lou arrived with his power washer. Will remind the Police Department.

\* **Blue Ribbon School Year:** There will be lots of celebrating. it is not just a school event. We should all be celebrating. The Superintendent of the New Canaan Schools called Msgr. to congratulate us and hopes that the whole town realizes what an honor this is. We are blessed with Dr. Howard's leadership.

\* **Friends' Gala** We have a couple of women to run this event which shares some of the proceeds with Religious Education.

**We should hold St. Aloysius School in a very special place in our community.**

\* **Theme of cover letter on Annual Report is one of Thanksgiving for the generosity of our people in so many ways.** We are now regulated by so many rules and regulations. Every cent must be accounted for. We are doing a very good job containing costs while maintaining a healthy atmosphere for the Parish. We have gone from **Defined benefits to Defined contribution** while being self-insured. Every Friday, Aetna faxes the Diocese what the costs for medical are for that week...e.g. \$440,000 which was exceptional for that week, but nonetheless. We have to look at medical costs.

**We are sincerely trying to contain costs.** Thanks to all of you.

\* **Christmas Box on the Altar steps...**Last year we collected \$15,300 which we gave away in New Canaan.

## COMMENTS

**Fr. Carey:** made a motion that the Parish Council send a Letter of Congratulation to the School on the Blue Ribbon Award. We will.

**Thom:** 70 people came to the **Liturgical Conference.** A lot of positive feedback. Would like to have it again.

On **All Souls Day at the Mass of Remembrance**, there were over 200 people. We ran out of candles, food etc.

**Msgr: Service as well as money contributes to the Wellbeing of the Parish.**

9 pm Deacon Lou closed the meeting with a prayer.

**NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> at 7:30 pm in Stapleton Social Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Pierce, Secretary

### PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS November 15, 2010

#### **CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS**.....Margaret Sandstrom

\* **Our S.T.A.R. party** this year will be on **Thursday, December 2nd**. We're estimating 28 guests. We are grateful to the local merchants who have offered to donate the evening's dinner, and to Msgr. who has offered to **fill in** for **Santa Claus!** Dinner will be served at **6:30PM**. Members will arrive at **5PM** to set up.

\* The **Poetry and Art Contest** is also underway. Our students will have the opportunity to participate in the **Catholic Daughters of the Americas** contest. We will also meet for the **Deceased Members Mass** on **November 28th** with the Knights. Following Mass, 'Coffee and' will be served in Stapleton Hall.

#### **CCD** Marie Pascale

Our All Saints Liturgy took place on October 31 at the 10 a.m. Mass. The fourth grade students dressed as saints they had studied in class and processed in the church. This year we included the pre-K and Kindergarten program. They joined the parish community with their "Saint Shields". There was also a food collection for a home in the Bronx and the children served as gift bearers in the Offertory. Two students and a catechist served as lectors at the Mass. The second grade parents have had their meeting with Msgr. Scheyd and the children are preparing with great focus as Dec. 4 draws near. A member of the clergy is scheduled to visit each 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class leading up to First Reconciliation.

5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be making Advent Wreaths for home use which is compatible with their lesson on sacramentals.

Father Ian will be speaking to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class this year on the coming of the Messiah, which coincides with their Bible curriculum.

We have scheduled Reconciliation during Advent for grades 3,4,5,6. Father Ian will be talking with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders on Thursday, Dec. 2. Religious Ed students will gather for Mass on Dec. 8 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Classes will be held up until Dec. 19. Our office closes on Dec. 24 for the Christmas Break.

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

\* Our **131 Confirmation students, along with the St. Aloysius school students** have been attending their Kiss A Frog programs. Guest speaker Kelly McCarthy facilitates the evenings for candidates and their parents. The program engages candidates and parents while it provides a greater understanding of the Church and helps to nurture a sense of community within the parish. The class will be attending the Sacrament of Reconciliation in December.

\* We are busy planning our **Living Nativity** which will be presented on the evening of Friday, December 3 in conjunction with the town's Holiday Stroll. We will bring the empty crèche to life with 8<sup>th</sup> graders portraying the characters in the story of the birth of Jesus. The Knights of Columbus have graciously allotted us some of their "Keep Christ in Christmas" buttons to hand out as the class evangelizes.

### **7th Grade**

\* Our 137 students continue their study of morality and will be attending the Sacrament of Reconciliation in December. The class has come together in **their service project, "Project 1,000"** where they are working towards filling 1,000 Christmas stockings and collecting 1,000 new or gently used books for impoverished children in the Appalachian region of our country, working through the Christian Appalachian Project. This Wednesday, the class will come together to hear more about the children they are helping and stuff the stockings assembly-line style. We thank our parish for being so generous in helping them achieve their goal!

\* The students held their **grade level Mass** on November 7<sup>th</sup> and had representatives at all of the other Masses that weekend where they presented their project to the congregation and collected donations. Over **100 students took a role in either collecting or taking part in the liturgy** that weekend

\* **Students continue their service work. Some of their service projects have included:**

...Assisting the Parish in hosting Sunday Hospitality Coffees,  
...A trip to the Knights of Columbus Museum to see the Mother Teresa exhibit

...A Senior Matinee was hosted where 26 senior citizens came to Stapleton Social Hall to watch a movie with a 7<sup>th</sup> grade class

...A 7<sup>th</sup> grade class did a walk thru Lakeview Cemetery to pray at and do fall cleanup at gravesites

...A 7<sup>th</sup> grade class went to the Sisters of Life in Stamford and helped change batteries in smoke detectors and put up storm windows

...7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders helped to hand out grocery bags promoting the third annual "Love Your Neighbor: Food Drive for the New Canaan Food Pantry

...An 8<sup>th</sup> grade class ran a bike drive and collected 75 bikes.

...An 8<sup>th</sup> grade class went to the soup kitchen

### **EMMAUS.....Sue Lione**

We had a full compliment of 36 Candidates plus team of teens and parents. Msgr. Scheyd, Fr. Ian, Deacon Lou and Deacon Steve all participated. Jim & Patti Holec were wonderful as the Rector and Rectora. The **next Emmaus will be in March**, led by Bob & Patty Potts. There is a **4<sup>th</sup> day activity scheduled for the Candidates and Table Leaders on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**, led by Barb & Dick Laughton. The program is enjoying great enthusiasm and interest.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS....Peter Greene**

\* The Knights planned for the upcoming Christmas season. This includes a new initiative as the members of the Knights will be distributing "**Keep Christ in Christmas**" buttons. We hope to turn this into an annual campaign.

\* The Knights will be putting up the **Creche** on Nov 20th and member Gino Buzzeo will once again be volunteering his and his staffs' time to set up the figures.

\* The **annual memorial mass for deceased** on the **28th of November**. And will be hosting

coffee and donuts after the masses Sunday the 14th (the regular groups will run the 10am coffee, just lending a hand).

\* The knights also are **helping offset part of the cost of a St Aloysius class trip to the Knights of Columbus museum.**

**MARTHA & MARY MINISTRIES.....**Melanie Barnard

The Martha & Mary Ministries hosted a **Morning of Fellowship for our Senior Parishioners** on Wed, Oct. 27. Over 80 senior citizens attended the Mass of Healing at 10 a.m. and then came for lunch in Stapleton Hall. A survey of needs and discussion on how our seniors can be better served (and can serve better) took place during lunch and discussion was lively and positive. A collaboration of many ministries made this day so successful and happy for so many - the Parish Nurses, the new Visitation Ministry, the Hospitality Ministry, and Driving Miss Daisy Ministry. Our thanks go especially to Msgr. Scheyd who celebrated the most beautiful Liturgy with his friend and chaplain at Stamford Hospital, Fr. Dora, and to Thom Marino who provided wonderful music both at the liturgy and during lunch at Stapleton Hall. It was agreed by all that more days of this kind will be planned in the months to come.

**OUR LADY'S GUILD.....**Barbara McDonald, Secretary

\* The **Living Rosary** on October 7th was well attended. The Knights carried the statue of Mary. There was Benediction and music by Thom Marino.

Leigh Barnard is encouraging the parish to come for **Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction on First Fridays.**

- At our October meeting, **Fr. Albert Audette gave an inspirational talk** about following the recipe of faith which includes love of God and neighbor.

**MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES** Thom Marino

**Past Liturgical and Music Ministry Events:**

**Saturday, October 30 from 9:00am-3:30pm...Liturgical Ministry Symposium** for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Music Ministers and Ushers was held. Rev. Thomas Dragga, a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland Ohio was our guest presenter, who lead us in a day of Prayer, Catechesis and Fellowship, that centered around the role and definition of liturgical ministry in the life of the Church, as well as the evangelizing role of those who have been called into service of the liturgical ministry within our parish. It was a very successful and fruitful day with almost seventy ministers representing all of our various ministries. The word on our St. A's campus was that this should be done again and all ministers should be present as well as opening this up to our parish at large. Fr. Dragga Presided at the 8:30am Liturgy as well as the Homilist at the 11:30am Liturgy. All ministers were re-commissioned at all of the liturgies that weekend.

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

The Liturgy and Music Ministries hosted our Fifth Annual All Soul's Bereavement Liturgy. There were over two hundred congregants in attendance. (The largest gathering we have experienced yet) A reception followed in the Narthex of the Church.

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

The Cherub, Youth and Traditional Choirs will be joining forces as our parish celebrates our Annual Mass of Thanksgiving. There will be a fifteen minute concert prior to the Mass starting at 8:45am. Come join with your fellow parishioners as we give thanks to God for all He has given us. Please see flyer.

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

**Our Seventh Annual “Parish Christmas Concert...join us for an afternoon of beautiful Advent and Christmas Music. It’s a wonderful opportunity to sit back and listen to the glorious music that these seasons offer. Bring a friend and don’t forget your voices as you will have many opportunities to join in the singing. Please see flyer.**

**Friday evening, February 4 Guest Pianist Margie Kelly**

**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)**

**StAY** Deacon Pond

\* **“Being with kids”** as Young Life says, is what youth ministry is all about. That is, spending time with them in their environment and getting to know who they are and what their concerns are. October into November definitely had this tenet in play, from going to football games to attending 8<sup>th</sup> grade religious education classes (and attending a Young Life “Club” meeting).

\* On October 23<sup>rd</sup> about **10 teens took 25 kids from St. Luke Lifeworks** to Plasko’s Farm and corn maze. The following weeks brought good planning meetings with parents and a well-attended laser tag outing. There was also good preparation for the Emmaus weekend! I am looking forward to the many service opportunities for the youth coming up in the next month and a half.

**USHERS** Bill Redman

-Usher coordination for 7th grade level Mass held on November 7th.

-Begin planning for Christmas week mass schedules.