

ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
January 12, 2010

PRESENT: P. Accinno, M. Barnard, B. Boland, Fr. Carey, M.B. Fessler, H. Herde, J. Holec, Dr. Howard, Deacon Howe, Fr. Jeremiah, L. Karl, S. Lione, B. Mantilia, T. Marino, E. Millette, L. Paglialunga, M. Pascale, M. Pierce, Deacon Pond and Msgr. Scheyd.

ABSENT: C. Ayoub, E. Fessler, C. Hussey, A. Munnely, N. Pascarella and B. Redman.

7:40 PM Msgr. Scheyd opened the meeting with a prayer.

MINUTES Sue Lione

Minutes were accepted as presented. Reports were sent out and should be read to save time at the meeting. We are the conduit for information going back and forth to the parishioners.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT Deacon Lou See Report.

At the end of the first half of the Fiscal Year, the weekly offertory was down \$62,000. This was offset by the Christmas total offerings of \$148,122 bringing the Total Offertory Collection to -\$211.00. Because of the negative trend, it is necessary for us to take a strong financial stand on expenses, looking for ways to cut or reduce expenses. Also, we have paid out \$5929 this year for snow plowing compared to \$0 last year at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Sue Lione

Survey and Census We have received about 33% response: >700 surveys and 1000 census cards.

Survey wants to elicit: ARE YOU BEING SERVED? The summary of results should be sent out, having been transferred to an Excel spreadsheet by Sue Scannell. One problem was that there was no request for a name on the survey form, so several had none. This was an issue when the person requested a call from the Clergy. Several were matched up, but there are 2-3 left with no identification.

How to get the results out there:

- From the Pulpit
- A Town Meeting held in the Church
- Put on Poster Boards in the entrances of the Church
- A Mailing from Monsignor
- E-news...our website is getting more hits
- Bulletin

Jim: Have to get the message out there, "Yes, you are being served."
Will survey be repeated? How frequently?

Bob: Sound system was a big complaint...has to be repaired.

Msgr. Scheyd: Wish to send out a **Parish wide mailing** to thank Parishioners for their Christmas donations and for returning the Census Forms, while including a blank one in case they never sent theirs in. They have until Easter to return them.

Are the 1000 responders active in any way? If anyone knows them, they could personally contact them. **I want to reach those whom we know nothing about. Every Catholic in New Canaan is our responsibility.** I may send them a special communication to say we are here to serve them. Also, **would put in a paragraph about the surveys and again state that those who want to contact us, call or return the card.**

Would like to **wind it all up by September.**

Peter: Include highlights of the Survey.

* **Sue Lione** **The newsletter needs to be rejuvenated.** With new Parish software, we have easier access to email.

Ed: Have the designers of the survey look at the results and see how it was answered in relation to the intention of questioning.

Sue: It would provide fresh eyes, as well.

Hannah: Put results on posters for 3 weeks, then have Town Hall Meeting.

Melanie: Are survey results listed in decreasing order of importance? No, not weighted.

Msgr: In survey, if something really pops out e.g. 300 families out of 700 families want an earlier Vigil Mass that could be a factor for change.

VOTED...No: Should we leave the surveys out indefinitely? No, they get stale...same people would fill them out again. We could redo surveys in a year.

Should we have a more pointed survey for those who don't participate in any way in Parish life, in our need to reach out to them?

Found that several surveys were frustrating, asking for that which we already have in place!

Supposedly every Catholic family gets a **Fairfield County Catholic**. ????

Library for Parishioners Bob Mantilia

Had a brief discussion with Deacon Lou.

Msgr. Scheyd: In the November minutes we agreed to have a **parent from St. Aloysius School on the Parish Council** but nothing was ever done about it. **Dr. Howard** thinks it is a good idea and **will appoint** someone who is both in the Home School Association and a member of the Parish to this Council.

Marie said that this is affirming the important relationship of the School and the Church which Dr. Howard spoke of last meeting and which is necessary for cooperation and implementation of future things to be done.

Msgr: **The School should be seen as an asset to the Parish. The mission of the school is something of value to us as a Parish, providing formation to students from the area. Catholic Schools Week...January 31st...do some positive PR.**

NEW BUSINESS Sue Lione

The **5:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass was very crowded**, as always. The **Solution** might be to have two Masses: one in Church and one in the Gym. We can't have a 5:30 Vigil. Midnight Mass had a good crowd. The 7:30PM Mass on Christmas Eve had the best ever turnout.

Ed: If you are going to have a Mass in the School Gym, the gym has to be decorated with lovely Music etc.

Msgr: Thom would need a budget to hire someone to help him implement the liturgy in the gym.

Discussion....no resolution.

Msgr: Thanks to Bill Fessler and Bill Redman, everyone in the Church was canvassed in terms of the collections. Sending envelopes out had very good results.

UPDATES FROM FATHERS CAREY AND IAN None.

PASTOR'S REPORT Done

MARCH FOR LIFE on Friday, January 22. 5:00 AM Mass at St. Mary's followed by buses.

9:12 PM Fr. Ian closed with a prayer.

NEXT MEETING: 7:30PM ON MONDAY, MARCH 15, IN MAPLE STREET MEETING ROOM.

Friends Gala....March 12 ..a St. Pat's Dance at the Italian Center,...R.S., Maggie Pierce, Sec.

