

St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday November 8th, 2018

Present: Fr. Aaron Esch, Denna Flemming, Rosie Edwards, Matthew Evrard, Chris Arnold, Pat Schulz, Mary Sue Taft, Bob Lange, Mike Mellock, Pat Kempen, Dick Hart, Barbara Bova, Debbie Sievert, Bill Wenninger

Not Present: Fr. Britto Suresh, Barbara Toll, Tommy Hess

- 1) **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Aaron
- 2) **Approval of October 18th, 2018 Meeting Minutes** – Moved to approve by Barbara Bova, second by Rosie Edwards. Motion passes, none opposed.
- 3) **Guest/Visitor Comments** – Care for Creation Committee members Thelma Walker, Nancy Juley, and Eric Schambarger introduced themselves and gave the following information. The Care for Creation Committee is a subcommittee of the Human Concerns Committee. Their goal is to evaluate St Alphonsus' impact on the environment and find ways that are consistent with the views of the Catholic Church to help reduce our footprint. Some topics so far are announcement of recyclables for hospitality weekends, conducting a free energy audit, tips to form habits, and waste hauling/composting. Motion to acknowledge the new committee was made, seconded and passed, none opposed.
- 4) **Pastor's Remarks** – Fr. Aaron started by mentioning a funeral he had for a premature baby. He stated that it puts things in perspective. That it is the duty of the parish to be there for people when they go through tough moments like this. Next, he mentioned that we are nearing the 3.5 million mark for the capital campaign. He finished with the statistics for the priest in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. We currently have 293 priest, 146 active and 147 retired. The Archdiocese currently has 198 parishes. He also discussed that Fr. Brito is from an Archdiocese of India.
- 5) **Financial Council Report** – There are no major updates from the financial council since last meeting. They have finalized the document for exemption to the parish assessment mentioned in last meeting. They are not sure of the timeline for the exemption approval.
- 6) **Old Business** – It was decided that the task of improving welcome packet for new parish members would be taken over by the Stewardship Committee. When they complete this they will bring it to the pastoral council for approval. Fr. Aaron had cards for the new families that had joined St. Alphonsus in the last couple months. The council members each took one or two new families to follow up and greet them to the parish. It was also decided that a welcome message for consistency would be sent out. In addition, the possibility of sending thank you cards to people who signed the guest log was mentioned. Finally, as it was decided last meeting that we would participate in the ministry fair Matthew Evrard volunteered to set up and take down the table for the pastoral council. We will determine the volunteers for the masses at the next meeting.

- 7) **New Business** – Rosie Edwards went to the Deanery meeting as the representative for St. Alphonsus parish. There were 12-15 attendees and the focus of the meeting was that all parishes become more eucharistic and get people more involved. There were also discussions of a ballpark day of faith and a parish council congress. Each council was also asked to review the parish council norms for the parish council congress. Denna Flemming(Chairperson) requested we review the norms and submit any proposed changes to her after the meeting. They also requested for comments on training of parish council members. The council agreed that St. Alphonsus’ practice of having council members trained by Sister Eileen was enough. Finally, they requested comments for retreat practices for councils. It was decided that parishes should have annual retreats for members and that parishes should plan their own retreats but may join other parishes if they wanted to.
- 8) **Roundtable Discussion** – Chapters 5-8 of “Prayer for Beginners” were discussed and a couple questions were posed. What is your method of prayer? How has prayer strengthened you? Good feedback was given and chapters 9-11 were set to discuss next month.
- 9) **Committee Updates**
 - a) **School** – No updates since last meeting.
 - b) **Christian Formation** – Christian formation is in transition mode. They are working with long range planning to generate a plan for the staffing changes. They are also reviewing a survey they sent and are possibly sending an additional one.
 - c) **Liturgy/Worship** - The liturgy committee is having a coat drive for the guest house.
 - d) **Human Concerns** – No updates since last meeting.
 - e) **Stewardship/Endowment** - The stewardship committee will start working on updating the welcome packet for new parish members.
 - f) **Vocations** – No updates since last meeting.
 - g) **Long Range Planning** – No updates since last meeting.
 - h) **Benefit Auction** – Theme of next year's auction is being discussed and possibly “Cheers to 20 Years”
 - i) **Respect Life** – Respect life committee observed October as respect life month using materials from the USCCB. The 40 Days for Life campaign ended November 4th. On December 8th and 9th they will be recruiting for the Chicago March for Life on January 13th, 2019
- 10) **Closing Prayer** – Fr. Aaron