

St Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 18th, 2018

Present: Fr. Aaron Esch, Rosie Edwards, Matthew Evrard, Barbara Toll, Pat Schulz, Mary Sue Taft, Christine Arnold, Pat Kempen, Richard Hart, Barbara Bova, Robert Lange

Not Present: Fr Britto Suresh, Denna Flemming, Debbie Sievert, Bill Wenninger, Tommy Hess, Mike Mellock

- 1) **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Aaron
- 2) **Approval of September 6th, 2018 Meeting Minutes** – Moved to approve by Barbara Bova, second by Barbara Toll. Motion passes, none opposed.
- 3) **Guest/Visitor Comments**
- 4) **Pastor's Remarks** – Fr. Aaron discussed the success of Oktoberfest event. The goal of the event was to discuss the success of the Capital Campaign to date and to make a final push to meet the four-million-dollar goal. So far today four bathrooms have been completed but six more need to be completed. The parish debt has been cut in half and the parish will be debt free at the end of 2019. The final objective of the Capital Campaign is to create a fund to increase youth programs and retreats to prevent youth from losing their faith. The question was posed why the bathrooms had not been addressed earlier and it was because other needs and repairs were evaluated and needed priority. In addition, the actual cost of the updates to the bathrooms were higher than expected due to ADA compliance and asbestos concerns. Fr. Aaron finished by mentioning that mass counts have been stable, and that he attended the Amazing Parish Conference at the Wisconsin Center and his take away was “How do we reach people?”
- 5) **Financial Council Report** – The September financials were reviewed and were approved. They also mentioned the renovations to the bathrooms that four were completed with six remaining. They had an Internal Controls audit to make sure they were following established procedures. They also mentioned that there had been changes to the parish assessment form, a tax to support the diocese, that was higher than expected. They are filing for an exception to this. The fiscal year was mentioned to be from July to June. Finally, they mentioned that the norms are being updated and they will keep us updated with changes.
- 6) **Old Business** – The primary goal of the parish forum had happened on October first and 20-30 people were in attendance and it was a positive meeting. The possibility of having more forums as well with increased publicity was discussed. It was also mentioned that there will be a parish meeting November 18th from 10:00am to 11:00am in the community room. The second goal to reach out to new parishioners was also discussed. The welcome packet was the focus and the possibility of updating it was mentioned. Also, the possibility of assigning a mentor family, a monthly luncheon for new members, and follow up phone calls by the pastoral council were discussed as possible options to welcome new members. Another topic discussed was the greeter ministry and how we might help expand this with the Liturgy Committee.

- 7) **New Business** – The Care for Creation Proposal is going to be addressed in next month's meeting by visitors to the council. The parish ministry fair will be in January and the council decided that it will participate. Volunteers will be finalized in next month's meeting.
- 8) **Roundtable Discussion** – Chapters 1-4 of "Prayer for Beginners" were discussed and a couple questions were posed. Who taught you to how to pray? Has it changed over the years? It was a positive discussion and chapters 5-8 were set to discuss for next month.
- 9) **Committee Updates**
 - a) **School** – The focus for the school year is kindness. Some of their goals are academic excellence, marketing, communication, evacuation, and welcoming new families. For academic excellence they want to ensure students are better at extended reasoning, multistep critical, thinking and thinking outside the box. For marketing they want to let others know who we are and showcase what is happening at the school. For communication they want to determine the best way to get information to parents possibly by newsletter, blog, or Facebook. The evacuation goal is the plan for emergency preparedness and ensuring the plans went smoothly and the kids remained calm.
 - b) **Christian Formation** – No update
 - c) **Liturgy/Worship** - The liturgy committee elected new officers. They discussed youth at mass and the possibility of an all youth ministry once per month. They also discussed how to get families involved in the parish. They are also working on ways to extend the greeter ministry as that is the first point of contact for someone coming to mass. They received a packed from Terry Piontkowski called "Rebuilt" about engaging parishioners and growing the parish. The possibility of hospitality before mass was brought up. Finally, they discussed the day of renewal for ministers.
 - d) **Human Concerns** – The human concerns committee worked to determine its purpose. Social justice area of the committee needs work, but the charity is good. They discussed that they would like to educate people on human trafficking and world poverty.
 - e) **Stewardship/Endowment** - No update
 - f) **Vocations** – No update
 - g) **Long Range Planning** – Long range planning discussed the Christian Formation program under Julie Petri. In addition to this, they are working on position descriptions as there are two retirees in the Christian Formation program. They are also working on family satisfaction and finding best practices for the parish.
 - h) **Benefit Auction** – No update
 - i) **Respect Life** – Respect life committee discussed 40 days for life September 26th – November 4th and that October is respect life month. They also set up a flag display between the church and Loomis Rd. They also discussed Pro-Life events during the month. They also asked that whenever you pray include the intention to end abortion.
- 10) **Closing Prayer** – Fr. Aaron

Respectfully submitted: Matthew Evrard(Secretary)