

**St. Alphonsus and St John the Evangelist  
Combined Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
Held at St. John November 17, 2011**

**In attendance:** Carol Abraham, Sonja Bigley, Mary Ehr, John Jacobs, Chris Knapp, Linda Kron , Mo Nicolazzi, Brian Sekey, Mary Warren, Rich Weber, Adam Yunker, Deacon Stan Lowe, DAS Pat Vos.

**Excused:** Jeff Kuen, Kirk Wagner     **Absent:** Justin Lindas

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chris Knapp. Chris offered a reflection dealing with parent – child relationships. He announced that he and Eddie Biehn are interested in developing plans and activities which tie the Faith Formation and Youth Ministries together.

Roll call was taken. Minutes of the October 20, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed via email. The approved minutes were distributed to the parish secretary for posting at each parish; as well as, to Sue Weiger for posting on the parish web site.

**Parish Director Report:**

**Youth Ministry:** A program of Youth Nights at Holy Cross Parish in Wilmot is being developed. This would include use of the gym and game room. Discussion is underway with Fr. Roger Savage to hold Jr. and Sr. Youth Nights on alternate nights. Eddie Biehn has made a commitment to work in the Youth Ministry for two years without compensation. Bill Snyder teaches at Holy Cross, has responsibilities at St. Francis de Sales in Lake Geneva and is considering application to the Franciscan order to become a priest and is therefore unable to spend as much time working with the youth at our parish. Eddie is collaborating with Bill to seek volunteers to assist with various youth ministry activities. The Youth Mass responsibilities will be rotated between grades to all participants will have an opportunity to be involved.

**Committee Visit:**

**Spiritual Life and Worship:** CeCe Lilla provided a summary of the past year's activities of the St. John Prayer and Worship committee and Mo Nicolazzi provided information re: St. Alphonsus Liturgy Committee. Both groups had a busy year and are looking to Deacon Stan to provide direction and lead the parishes as we face continued challenges and changes over the next year. Copies of the reports are filed with the original minutes in the Parish Office.

**Flowers – Easter and Christmas:** Our two parishes have historically handled collections for flowers and memorials differently (2<sup>nd</sup> collection vs. envelopes for holiday memorials) Pat Vos asked that the Spiritual Life and Worship and Liturgy Committees consider a more consistent approach.

**Committee Update:** St. John the Evangelist Human Concerns committee submitted copies of minutes. The report will be filed with the original minutes in the Parish Office.

**School Board:** The school is ahead of schedule on the recertification process which may be completed by the end of the school year. The original process was projected to take 3 years. Currently, the school is budgeted for 76 students and has increased enrollment to 84.

## **Old Business:**

**Parish Council Retreat:** Carol Abraham reported that she has identified Dr. Kate Wiskus as a possible speaker for the retreat. Her topic would focus on joining parishes, exploring collaboration and how to bring parishioners together at a deeper level. Another suggested presenter is Manual Maldonado whose topic would be cultural diversity and raising the council's awareness of the needs, and gifts of the Spanish ministry.

It was suggested that since the Archdiocese is putting together a plan to look at future reductions in the number of priests and is considering strategies to look at deepened collaboration – parishes need to accept the realization that sharing of priests will become a reality and exploring collaboration would benefit all parishes. A suggestion was made that we could open the retreat to additional parishes in the “Super 8” cluster.

Discussion resulted in agreement that the deeper parish collaboration would be an important topic at this time. Mo and Carol will follow up with suggested speakers.

**Committee Chair Roster:** Discussion tabled until after the District meeting. Update next month

**District Meeting Update:** The next meeting will be held on Feb. 28, 2012 to continue the discussion of evangelization. Currently there is an effort underway to identify additional members of the group. Examples of successful evangelization topics were shared including: Rediscovering our parish, rediscovering Catholicism, Ministry Fair, Parish Council and Committees developing 5 year goals, how to handle college life, Hispanic Mass and Bilingual mass, incorporating Spanish music to all masses, focusing on a Ministry of the Month, bible studies and prayer groups, how to involve youth and how to involve our Spanish population in all phases of parish life.

An Evangelization Summit is being planned for May 5, 2012 at the Cousins Center. Anyone interested in participating in this project is encouraged to step forward.

**New Missal:** Target for rolling out the missal changes is the first weekend of Advent. All weekend masses will review the information on the pew cards. Copies of the material will be made available for parishioners to take home.

A compliment regarding the new Faith Formation program has been received from a parent and council members were encouraged to share their positive experiences with Sandi Schmitt.

**Archbishop Visit:** Planning continues for the January 21, 2012 visit to St. Alphonsus 8:00 a.m. mass by Archbishop ListECKI.

**New Parish Member Packet** Examples of the updated packets were shared with the council. Information regarding the school has not been received yet.

Several suggestions were made to enhance or expand

- include the school DVD video presentation on the parish website
- add a sticker on the folder with mass times for regular masses, Spanish mass and Youth mass
- Faith Formation information
- add a current bulletin to the packet
- include information re: envelopes and direct deposit application
- consider preprinted folders (Sonja will make calls for bids)

## **New Business:**

**Conceal Carry Law:** Information has been received from our insurance company that the parish would lose our immunity if we post the conceal carry warning signs on the church, but they strongly recommend that we do post. Law suits are covered under our current policy but by posting the signs it is assumed that we must take steps to assure there are not guns coming into the church. The school is covered under federal law so no signs are required. The consensus was that signs will not be posted.

**Quality of Worship:** This subject was discussed at length, including the following suggestions.

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> hymn should stop when communion is completed. Soft music could still play to foster meditation
- silence after communion once the host has been reposed in order to give parishioners the opportunity to reflect and focus reverence
- mass settings should be consistent at both parishes to foster a comfort level of worshipers who attend cross parish masses
- musicians should strive to end the music when the host has been reposed
- special occasion masses will be adjusted as necessary to accommodate special music
- meditation time will be “controlled” by the priest sitting in the Presiding Priest’s Chair

These suggestions will be forwarded to the Prayer and Worship Committee for their consideration and recommendations.

**Proxy:** St. John has received a proxy from the Archdiocese for the release of the Faith in Our Future funds. The proxy was approved and will be entered into the parish files. Additional restricted funds will be used for purchase of the new Faith Formation curriculum.

## **From the Floor:**

**New Statue of our Lady of the Americas:** The statue has been installed in front of St. John’s church on a concrete foundation.. Creative Landscaping donated plants and additional donations have been received to cover the cost of labor. Consideration is being given to installing lighting of the statute next spring. There will be a dedication of the statue on Monday, Dec. 12, after the 8:00 a.m. mass.

**Columbarium Update:** Discussion was tabled until next month.

**Roof of garage:** The roof of the garage at the cemetery is being worked on. Roofers are donating their time and the project should be completed within the week.

Mary Ehr offered the closing prayer.

**Next Parish Council Meeting: December 15, 2011, 7:00 p.m. St. Alphonsus**

Submitted by: Sonja Bigley, Secretary

## **PARISH COUNCIL CORNER**

**Archbishop Visit:** Plans are underway for the January 21, 2012 visit of Archbishop Listecki who will preside at the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

**Prayer and Worship and Liturgy Committees:** Both groups had a busy year and are looking to Deacon Stan to provide direction and lead the parishes as we face continued challenges and changes over the next year. The committees are considering various changes to the mass which will provide increased opportunity for meditation and reverence for parishioners.

**Youth Nights:** In collaboration with Holy Cross Parish, Teen Night activities are being planned including use of the gym and game room at Holy Cross.

**New Roman Missal:** The changes to the Roman Missal were initiated on the first Sunday of Advent. Parish members are becoming familiar with the changes that have been incorporated into the mass.

**Parish Directory:** Design of the Parish Directory is being finalized and will go to press soon.