

**St Alphonsus and St John the Evangelist  
Combined Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
Held at St. Alphonsus    October, 20, 2011**

**In attendance:** Carol Abraham, Sonja Bigley, Mary Ehr, Chris Knapp, Linda Kron, Jeff Kuen, Mo Nicolazzi, Kirk Wagner, Mary Warren, Rich Weber, Deacon Stan Lowe, DAS Pat Vos.

**Excused:** John Jacobs, Justin Lindas, Brian Sekey Adam Yunker.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chris Knapp. Chris led the group in prayer and contemplation.

Roll call was taken. Minutes of the September 15, 2022 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

**Committee Reports: Human Concerns:**

Sue Fitzgerald represented the St. John committee. She highlighted the charitable contributions that have the Faith Formation students are being required to do service projects as part of the program. The HC committees at both parishes have had two combined meetings this past year. A copy of her detailed report is filed in the parish office with the original minutes.

Barb Ruth represented the St. Alphonsus committee. She also reported on the various charitable organizations that were helped as a result of the HC activities. The Sewing Outreach program is going strong, making a variety of items for distribution to the home bound members of the parish. A question was raised regarding our annual financial contributions to the Farm of the Child which has been assisting with their dairy expenses. Rather than contributing to the dairy budget at the farm each year, would it be more beneficial to purchase a cow for them which could help them become more self sustaining. Barb will follow up on that question.

**Parish Director Report:**

**Visit by Archbishop Listecki:** In response to a letter from Deacon Stan inviting him to come to our parishes to celebrate mass, the Archbishop has agreed to join us for mass on Sunday, January 22 at 8:00 a.m. As further plans are finalized, information will be shared with parish members.

**Catholic School Week:** Father Tony and Father Bill will concelebrate mass.

**Financial status:** School enrollment is at 84 which is slightly higher than budgeted. Contributions at St. John are up 1.6% compared with last year while St. Alphonsus contributions are down 8.6%.

**Faith Formation:** Enrollment is still in flux. At this time there are 98 students from St. John and 117 from St. Alphonsus. There are 35 people who have volunteered to assist with the program. Most of the volunteers are parents of students. Their help is much appreciated. The weekly sessions begin with a 15 minute prayer service which was observed by Chris Knapp, who complimented this process as being very moving. A question was raised re: the earlier start time for the evening classes. Sandi Schmitt has offered to discuss the time with parents and possibly reach a compromise. There has also been some feedback on the price increase for the program. Deacon reiterated that the fees are very competitive with neighboring parishes, that volunteer time can reduce the actual cost and that some or all of the fees can be waived if there is a special need. Parents are encouraged to meet with Sandi to discuss. The parish has been asked to contribute money

to sponsor a student(s) and no one is turned away for lack of funds. Parents are encouraged to get involved to ensure success for their students.

**Mass counts:** Recent mass counts resulted in a total of 628 attendees at 3 masses compared with a total of 836 attendees at 4 masses last fall. We are averaging over 200 at each mass. The Hispanic mass was not included in the count.

**St. Vincent DePaul:** Will Lepeska will be at each of the weekend masses to make an appeal for parish members to attend a meeting and become involved with St. Vincent DePaul. Fifth Sunday collections will now be held at each parish to support this effort. Parish Council approved his presentation at the masses.

**Request for use of St. John Hall:** The pastor of New Hope Bible Church has contacted Deacon to request use of the St. John hall for their bible study classes. Because of concerns with securing the building, cost of overhead for heat and cooling the bldg, etc. it was agreed that we would not approve this request. Deacon will get back to the pastor.

**Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service:** Will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church on 11/23/11 as a combined service with neighboring churches. Additional details will be included in upcoming bulletin announcements.

**Parking at Mother Theresa Center:** Staff and priests have requested to have access to the small parking lot near the Mother Theresa Center on Sundays. Signage will be created indicating that the area will be designated as "Staff Only" parking on Sundays. Deacon Stan will inform the St. Vincent de Paul volunteers of this change.

**Proxy update:** Proxies have been requested by both parishes to request access to Faith in our Future funds for reimbursement relating to the new Faith Formation textbooks which were recently purchased.

**Commitment Sunday:** Deacon asked if there were any PC members who would be willing to share their stewardship message at the upcoming weekend masses. Linda Kron volunteered on behalf of St. Alphonsus and a volunteer for the mass at St. Johns still needs to be arranged.

**Committee Updates:** School Board had no report.

## **Old Business:**

**Commitment Sunday:** The weekends of 10/29 -10/30 and 11/12-11/13 have been identified for our stewardship presentation. A new approach to the process will include parish members being asked to bring their pledge cards to the front of the sanctuary as a demonstration of their stewardship commitment.

**Committee chair roster:** The roster is being developed. Deacon Stan is working with the chairs to get better attendance at the Committee night which is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month.

**Christmas Concert:** There will not be a December concert by Michael Russell O'Brien. It has been determined that scheduling at that time would be too close to the previous concert plus Mary Meyer is unable to commit enough time to organize/coordinate the event at this time. Future dates will be considered.

**Evangelization:** The Archdiocese is gathering information from parishes regarding past evangelization efforts which have been successful and what means were utilized to measure that success.

Discussion included:

- O'Brien concert – tremendous impact of both the music and the message
- Teen masses- integrating youth from both parishes into the liturgy
- Catholics Returning Home – heavy involvement at St. John
- Faith Formation – need to get more parents involved
- Farm of the Child – larger group joined the mission trip
- Parish school – bringing the important values of faith and community to our youth
- Light of the World Retreat – more people signed up for liturgical ministries, ongoing small community groups were developed. New projects, i.e. Soup and Stations and Bible Study classes were started
- RCIA – record numbers of people

Target population for any upcoming evangelization efforts for our parishes should be focused on reaching post confirmation and non-active parishioners, re-connecting with St. John parishioners who have moved to other parishes and re-connecting with people on rosters of both parishes who are no longer active

An arch-diocesan “Evangelization Summit” is scheduled to be held on 5/5/12 at the Cousins Center in Milwaukee and will include evangelization presentations and speakers so parishes can provide input for implementing an Archdiocesan wide Evangelization effort scheduled for the spring of 2013.. Several names of potential parishioners who have some parish evangelization experience were suggested and Deacon Stan will contact the individual to see if one from each parish would be interested in attending the Evangelization Summit as our parish representatives.

**Parish Life:** The annual Stewardship packets which include Time and Talent information is currently being finalized. Chris will coordinate and send info to Pat regarding a description for Parish Life committee. Because there were a number of outstanding questions about the goal, membership, relationship to existing committees, etc. further discussion pertaining to developing a Parish Life committee was tabled until the November meeting.

## **New Business:**

**Staff Christmas party:** The party will be held at St. John on Friday, January 6 at 6:00. More details to follow.

**Parish Council Retreat:** The annual retreat will be held either January 28 or February 11, 2012. Location needs to be decided. Contact will be made with all PC members to determine final date. The topic still needs to be determined but a possible topic could relate to evangelization, including strategies to bring inactive parishioners back. Once a topic is decided upon, a facilitator can be pursued.

**New Missal:** The revised Roman Missal for the altar. have arrived. The cost of each book is \$89.00. Small group sessions are being held to educate parish members on the upcoming changes. Bulletin articles are being developed. New mass music has been introduced at both parishes. The changes will go into effect at the beginning of Advent the weekend of 11/26.

## **From the Floor :**

**John Michal Talbot concert:** Various dates are available. After discussion, the possibility of combining efforts with the Franciscan monastery and St. Charles Church in Burlington to work on their 10/13/12 date was suggested. Mo will follow up and report back in November.

**Statue of our Lady of Guadalupe:** Through a generous donation, St. Johns has received a hand carved stone statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe titled “ Patroness of the Americas”. In addition, generous donors from both parishes have enabled the renovation of the landscaped mound near the church entrance to incorporate the statue. The landscaping project will begin this fall and conclude next spring.

**Wave Runner:** No bids were received on this equipment. It will be stored until spring and another raffle will be planned.

**Next Parish Council Meeting: November 17, 2011, 7:00 p.m. St. John**

Meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Submitted by: Sonja Bigley, Secretary

### **PARISH COUNCIL CORNER**

**Archbishop ListECKi :** Will preside and preach at the 8:00 a.m. mass on Sunday, January 22, at St. Alphonsus. Further details will be shared over the next month.

**Catholic Schools Week:** Father Tony and Father Bill will preside at mass to celebrate Catholic School Week

**Statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe:** Through a generous donation, St. Johns has received a hand carved stone statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe titled “ Patroness of the Americas”. In addition, generous donors from both parishes have enabled the renovation of the landscaped mound near the church entrance to incorporate the statue. The landscaping project will begin this fall and conclude next spring.

**School enrollment:** Currently at 84 students which exceeds the targeted number of students budgeted for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Faith Formation enrollment:** There are over 200 students in the combined Faith Formation classes. Many parents have volunteered their time and talents to assist in making this a successful program.

**Commitment Sunday:** The weekends of 10/29-10/30 and 11/12-11/13 have been identified as the time for making a commitment of time, talent and treasure. All parish members are asked to give as generously as possible so that the work of our parishes can continue to be successful.

**Mass attendance:** We are currently averaging over 200 people at each mass on the weekends.