

St. Alphonsus Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Unofficial

9/17/2024 6:30 pm

Members present – Christina Dant, Nicole Murphy, David Sinclair, Ryan Mattingly and Fr. John. Tiffany Powers, Maggie Ballou, Jared Warren, Shelly Blandford and Ed West were absent.

Fr. John opened the meeting with prayer.

Nicole asked if everyone had reviewed the July minutes. All present had. Christina motioned to accept the minutes and David seconded the motion. All concurred.

Committee Reports:

Faith Formation: Sr Vivian has called, texted and emailed all parents who had not registered by the first class. As of 9/15/2024 class, 8 families had late registered but still have not heard back from others. There are 35 students and 23 families registered. There are 6 new families, including 5 students who haven't been baptized although 3 are in upper grades so there are special accommodations to prepare them to make First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Some students have been lost due to divorce and they are with non-custodial parents during PREP. 2 families from St. Elizabeth were also lost due to their mass time on Sunday mornings interfering with class time. 14 students who were confirmed last spring did not return even though they should return for 8th grade. Classes were changed to Sunday morning because attendance on Wednesday night had become erratic due to sports and other events on Wednesday nights. There are 10 catechists and 2 subs and hoping that all stay with us for the year since we must have 2 adults in each room regardless of how small a class is.

It was brought to the attention that the students had popsicles at the beginning of class on 9/15/2024, instead of something more substantial. Fr. John intends to speak with Sr. Vivian about having something different for the students to eat, because most have not eaten anything prior to mass or Prep. Based on the schedule, there would only be one weekend out of the month that Prep would have to furnish something for the students. The first Sunday of the month, there is no Prep, the other two Sundays, will be doughnut Sundays for gathering of the church community after church. Fr. John also is going to discuss what the Prep fees are used for as there has been some discussion regarding the teaching and learning materials.

Youth Group: The first youth group meeting for the school year was held on the evening of 9/15/2024. Breanna Dant states it was a good turn out and it was positive to add the middle school students into the group. Breanna has requested approval of the purchase and input of a basketball goal to be placed in the parking lot of the parish hall. The council agreed to this but requested that the goal be substantial to withstand wind, rain, and abuse and to be set in concrete with the back of the goal facing the fire station. Breanna will get quotes on the expense of this item and the youth will raise money for this, use youth group funds or ask the parish for donations. 811 will have to be called prior to the installation of the goal.

Music Ministry and Liturgy Committee: Fr. John has requested that we get a Cantor for our choir. States that we need a strong force to lead. He has investigated possibly having a person from Wesleyan to sing at each mass. This will not be a payrollled employee, rather would be paid for each mass. Fr. John is looking to retain more lectors and Eucharistic ministers. This will give those that are already filling these positions more time in between the assignment.

Finance: The finance meetings have been pushed back to once every three months. The accounts currently are as follows:

\$50717.83 – building fund

\$28243.96 – cemetery fund

\$20398.30 – general fund

\$20556.56 – gaming fund

\$969.99 – mass

David states we are behind on mass collections but will typically catch up. Shannon has transferred \$17471.29 from the Gaming fund to the building fund and earmarked it for carpet for the church.

Building and Grounds: At the last meeting with Fr. Anthony, it was brought up to replace the carpet in the church. That has been tabled for now as the council doesn't think it is an expense that should be used at this time. The focus will be fixing the walls inside of the church from water damage. When the carpet is replaced, a committee will be appointed for just that venture. Preston McCarthy has volunteered time and materials to run outlets in the picnic shelter behind the parish hall.

Owensboro Catholic Schools: OCS has applied for several grants, one for chapel renovation, and others for badge and security upgrades. Enrollment is up by 50 for the year along with having the largest kindergarten class since 2011. They plan for the OCHS chapel renovation to be completed by the end of the school year. They will break ground on the new practice facility behind the high school after the soccer season concludes.

Social Concerns: Fr. John is asking for additional people to provide doughnuts after church.

New Business: A cemetery committee has been established. If interested in joining this committee, please see Fr. John. The next cemetery meeting for committee members only will be 9/30/2024.

There is a wedding on 10/5/2024 that was already arranged prior to the change of mass times. Mass for St Alphonsus will be held at 4 pm on that date and Fr. John states that he will make this mass as quick as he can to accommodate the 5 pm wedding.

It was decided by the council that the purchase of two AED will be approved. One AED will be placed inside the church and the other AED will be placed in the parish hall. The purchase will have to be done before 10/30/2024 to keep a discount. The purchase of both AED's will be under \$3000.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm

This meeting was adjourned in prayer by Fr. John at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Dant