

St. Alphonsus Joint Parish Council & Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes – Unofficial
July 23, 2024 7:00 pm

Members Present –David Sinclair, Nicole Murphy, Tiffany Powers, Ryan Mattingly, Shelly Blandford, Gary Cecil, Maggie Ballou, Faye Gabbard, Diane Dodson, Shannon Jenkins, Ed West and Fr. John Okoro. Absent were Christina Dant and Jared Warren.

Fr. John opened the meeting with a prayer.

Introductions: Fr. John introduced himself and gave us a brief synopsis of his background. Afterward, the Council and Committee members also introduced themselves.

Faith Formation: Fr. John let us know that Sunday Mass will remain at 8:00 due to the results of the survey. It will be up to Sr. Vivian, the catechists, and the parents to decide if Faith Formation will move to Sunday after 8:00 mass or remain on Wednesday night.

Saturday Evening Mass: Fr. John will conduct a survey to see if parishioners want to change Saturday Mass from 5:00 to 4:00 or 4:30 or remain the same. Fr. John said he has had some people approach him about this and that locally most Saturday mass times are earlier than 5:00 indicating a need to conduct the survey.

Picnic Report: The picnic brought in approximately \$16,000. About \$10,000 is from the envelopes and the remainder from the food sales.

Feast of St. Alphonsus: The feast of St. Alphonsus is on Thursday August 1st. Fr. John will have mass at 6:00 then have ice cream in the parish hall for all to enjoy.

Fellowship: Fr. John would like to foster more fellowship within the parish. He suggested having donuts and coffee in the parish hall after Sunday Mass once or twice a month. He said they have done this in other parishes where he was assigned, and parishioners really enjoyed it. Families will sign up to provide the coffee and donuts, and the parish will reimburse the expenses if requested. Fr. John will announce this in August and have a sign-up sheet for one Sunday in September. Date TBD.

OCS Education Advisory Council: The parish needs to appoint a new representative to the advisory council. Tiffany has served to the term limitation, and we appreciate her service. I (Shelly) volunteered to represent St. Alphonsus.

MSU Newman Center: Fr. John let us know that we have received a letter from Bishop Medley that went to all parishes requesting help to fund a new Newman Center at Murray State University. The current Newman Center is housed in an outdated modular unit. The diocese will provide a large portion of funding, but the bishop is asking the parishes to also contribute. Fr. John will keep us posted on what the expectation will be. More to come.

Year End Finance Report: Diane reviewed the year end finance report with those present. We ended the year with a positive balance of approximately \$78,000. A report will be distributed to the parish.

The Parish Council will continue to meet every other month. The next Parish Council meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Tuesday September 17th.

The Finance Committee will meet quarterly going forward. The committee will also provide a report to the parish quarterly. The next Finance Committee meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Tuesday October 8th.

The meeting was closed by Fr. John with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Blandford