**St. Alphonsus Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Unofficial**

**December 15, 2020 6:30 pm**

**Members Present** – Nicole Murphy, Bobby Glenn, Jessica Green, Shelly Blandford, David Sinclair, Christina Dant and Fr. Anthoni Ottagan. Kevin Clouse, Tiffany Powers, Don Peters, and Johnny Warren were absent.

Fr. Anthoni opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**Committee Reports**

**Faith Formation:** From Sr. Vivian: Faith Formation had classes on Wednesdays except Fall Break and Thanksgiving. However we have been cancelled the last 2 weeks and by probably Dec 16 as well. We certainly hope to begin classes again the first week of Jan 2021. We had a few students who missed one class due to quarantine for having been exposed to Covid 19 but none in or from our Faith Formation classes— for which we are grateful. My other concern is that we have not had a single non FF student notify us that she or he needs to be in our First Communion class this year. This is first time in my 8 years at St Alphonsus this has happened. I’ve done everything I know to do to contact them, if there are any, with no luck.

**Youth Group:**  From Barbara: We are on hold and under reconstruction until the new year. We only have a few participants and have been dwindling over the last two years. At one time our parish was one of the biggest even with being a small parish. To move forward I will need a meeting with Fr. Anthoni but I feel our program was better before Fr. Ray and Fr. Anthoni told me I had to use a curriculum. The youth like to feel they are able to guide their faith direction and they like to discuss apologetics which helps them learn and defend their faith. I am thinking it may be time for me to step down if I am not allowed to go in the direction I feel is best, I would rather be in the kitchen baking cookies or having a bonfire roasting hot dogs talking about my faith than a classroom boring the heck out of them. I am not saying it’s my way or no way. I am just saying I am not the right person to lead a classroom agenda.

Youth Group is for high school students only and takes the place of Faith Formation for that age group, meeting every 2 weeks currently. Fr. Anthoni said that once the kids get jobs, they can’t always make the meetings. Fr. Anthoni said he will be meeting with Barbara and the coordinators to review and discuss ways to improve attendance. Members of the council made suggestions to make connections with the parents to impress upon them the importance of the youth attending. Other suggestions included making the curriculum portion of the meetings more active and integrate it in activities rather than classroom style learning, as well as reaching out to the eighth graders to recruit them as they become of age to attend.

**Music Ministry & Liturgy Committee:** Fr. Anthoni reported that plans have been made for Christmas Eve and Christmas morning masses.

**Finance:** David reported that the hall and school assessment payments have been made for October and November. We have also already more than recouped our expense for the ornaments that were ordered and are still being sold, netting us a profit.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Fr. Anthoni restored the stairs in the rectory himself instead of using a service to do so.

**Owensboro Catholic Schools:** No report.

**Social Concerns:** The Social Concerns committee collected items for West Louisville Elementary and BirthRight. They have sent cards to parishioners and are posting Christmas wishes from parish families on the FaceBook page. They also continue to pray the rosary at parishioner houses.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

Parish Hall Cleaning (Outside) – Murphy’s power washed the side of the Parish Hall as a donation and we are thankful.

Fundraisers – We will have a fundraiser meeting in January to plan for the upcoming year. We have 9 more scheduled payments for the parish hall, plus the additional amount we are behind, so there is light at the end of the tunnel for fundraising. We need to make this a big year so we can complete the payments and slow our fundraising efforts afterward. We ask that parishioners please be thinking of ideas to bring to the January meeting.

The meeting was closed by Fr. Anthoni with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Blandford