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

**February 18, 2020 6:00 pm**

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

Fr. Anthoni opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**Committee Reports**

**Faith Formation:** Christina presented a report from Sr. Vivian Bowles – We have not had to cancel any classes due to the flu but have had more absences than normal. First Communion class has had a few new children attend some classes to better prepare and practice for First Reconciliation on Saturday February 22nd and First Communion April 25th. The number for Confirmation keeps fluctuating but seems to be shaping up with 12-15. The class is making a special Confirmation Retreat at the Mount on Saturday March 7th. Bishop Medley had to change his meeting with our Deanery Faith Formation students from February 12th to March 11th. This will be at St Mary Magdalene with supper. Grades 3-8 had a reconciliation service at Faith Formation January 29th and will have Way of the Cross on March 25th. Ash Wednesday the children will go to mass at 6:00 then go to the classrooms until 7:30.

**Youth Group:**  Christina presented a report from Barbara Thomas – Youth Group will have guest speakers Fr. Jason McClure and Sister Francis Teresa. They are also planning the annual cow pie bingo; ticket sales will begin in April. Fr. Anthoni also noted they have also starting planning for Youth 2000 on March 6th, 7th, and 8th.

**Music Ministry & Liturgy Committee:** Fr. Anthoni reported that the committee discussed the sharing sessions for the Jubilee. 2 have been done and seem to be going well with 40-55 in attendance. Planning for a May procession on May 31st to celebrate May being the month of Mary. Also planning to have Vespers (Sunday evening prayers) for Lent on the 1st, 4th, and 5th weeks of the Lenten season, this usually lasts approximately 20 minutes.

**Finance:** David handed out statements for both December 2019 and January 2020. He reported that we were able to make full hall payments for both December and January. We have 24 payments remaining for the hall. We did not make the December OCS payment but were able to make the January payment. Fr. Anthoni said we did make the February hall and OCS payments as well just this week. The fish fry and auction will help with the upcoming months. The reverse raffle was a success, all the tickets were sold prior to the event. The fundraisers that are currently scheduled are such that we should be able to make payments for the rest of the year if successful. Fr. Anthoni is sending letters to parishioners that appear to not have a record of contributing to see if we can get weekly contributions up more.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Fr. Anthoni reported that Johnny Warren was here yesterday completing the annual report/inspection that is due to the insurance company.

**Catholic Schools:** Tiffany attended the Education Advisory Council meeting on 1/27/20. The high school switched grading scales so now the middle school and 4-6 campus have adopted it as well. Anything below 70% is failing where at public schools anything below 60% is failing. Each high school in the diocese is on the sliding scale. There is a proposed 3% increase in tuition rates in all segments trying to eliminate additional fees that are universal. The high school is adding wrestling to the athletic program.

Fr. Anthoni wants the Catholic school families to commit to a fundraiser to help with the parish portion of the tuition. He will be having a meeting with the families, as he has done in the past, to discuss requirements and expectations. All the parishes have come together to have common criteria/requirements for parish sponsorship.

**Social Concerns:** Fr. Anthoni reported that the committee is still delivering meals to the homebound. They sent out Valentine’s day cards and are sending out birthday cards as well. He said there is a plan to implement prayer buddies during Lent. Each family will be asked to randomly choose another family to pray for during Lent and the year following.

**Old Business**

No old business.

**New Business**

Ornaments for Jubilee – Nicole is pursuing ordering St. Alphonsus Church ornaments that will be sold at the church picnic and other functions to celebrate our 150 year anniversary. Shelly will work on a t-shirt design so we can have those for sell as well.

Picnic – Christina suggested we send out sponsorship letters for the picnic in March or April with a specific deadline to turn in donations and logo graphics so we aren’t rushed. Tiffany will take care of making this happen.

Rummage Sale – Christina has a sign up sheet for workers to be scheduled so volunteers will have assigned jobs. We will be advertising on FaceBook and in the Messenger Inquirer. Last year most people said those 2 media where how they knew about the event. Christina is also going to ask Barbara for the youth group’s help to set up.

The next meeting will be at 6:00 pm Tuesday April 21, 2020.

The meeting was closed by Fr. Anthoni with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Blandford