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

**December 21, 2021 6:45 pm**

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

Fr. Anthoni opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**Committee Reports**

**Faith Formation:** From Sr. Vivian: 15 of our confirmandi made a retreat with National Evangelization Team in November in preparation for their Confirmation on May 4. Sr. Vivian participated in a workshop for directors of Faith Formation on the Holy Father’s recent directives on Catechists role in the Church today and how directors of parish programs need to assist catechists to explore their ministry in able to become disciples and help our children better encounter Christ in Faith Formation. Catechists absenteeism has been high in November. A few children have been in quarantine but no known COVID in Faith Formation classes, but 2 of Confirmandi in Catholic High were unable to make retreat. We try hard to have children wear masks and keep Safe Distance but it is a real struggle. New director of diocesan Safe Environment Office is doing site visits in all programs this year. We are being audited 11–16-21 at 9 a.m. which includes Pastor and Director. Fr. Anthoni reported that the audit went well, but they had 2 suggestions for improvements. The first was posting the Safe Environment information in the parish hall. The second was getting background checks on all parish hall keyholders.

**Youth Group:**  From Barbara: Youth Group will be doing the children’s Christmas movie night for the kids. I have been talking to the kids about camp so we will probably be doing our fundraising again. We also have been talking about a weekend retreat. Still thinking on that. We also discussed participating in the Right to Life walk. We have a lot of possibilities but nothing definite just yet. Fr. Anthoni reported that the movie night was a success, with 25-30 children in attendance for games, visit with Santa and a movie.

**Music Ministry & Liturgy Committee:** Fr. Anthoni reported that they are carrying out the plans for the Advent/Christmas season. The children’s Christmas program will be January 2, 2022 in the parish hall.

**Finance:** David reported that the hall and OCS payments were made for October and November. The December OCS payment was also made. The December parish hall payment has not been made yet. Fr. Anthoni said we are hoping we can use some of the 12 month raffle money to complete the payment as we do not currently have enough in the building fund for the full payment. If we have to move money from the collections then we would have to pay 17% to the Diocese as usual in the general fund before moving it to the building fund.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Fr. Anthoni reported that Tony Hayden has been doing some work on the mortar on the front of church. He suggested that we need to paint the brick to seal it and reduce further deterioration. There was a tree that fell behind the parish hall, Bobby will get that cleaned up. We also discussed other repairs that need to be looked at and prioritized such as the plaster on the walls inside the church.

**Owensboro Catholic Schools:** No report

**Social Concerns:** The committee took Christmas goodies to the shut-ins of the parish.

**Old Business**

* Parish Council Vacancy – Due to Don Peters resignation we have a vacancy. Fr. Anthoni will initiate the process for nominating and electing a new member in the new year.
* Parking Lot Resealing – Tabled until Spring.

**New Business**

* Listening Sessions – Each parish is to have listening sessions for the Synod on synodality. There was a letter from the Bishop in the bulletin explaining. The listening sessions will be January 25th and February 22nd for St Alphonsus. Parishioners are asked to come and voice their concerns and suggestions to be brought before the Bishop and then up the ladder to Rome.
* Fundraiser Meeting – Dates were discussed for the upcoming years fundraising events. Once the dates and persons responsible have been confirmed a list will be released.

Next meeting: No meeting in January. Next meeting Tuesday February 15, 2022 at 6:45 p.m.

The meeting was closed by Fr. Anthoni with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Blandford