

## St. Alban Roe Parish Council

**Minutes**  
**October 28, 2014**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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Attendance: Rob Bouche, Fr. Chrismer, Bob Conte, Keith Gegg, Luka Ijei, Deacon Mallon, Mike Rethorn, Susan Siebert, Fr. Stoltz, Jack Wahl

Call to Order: **Keith G**

**I. Opening Prayer** **Council**

### **II. General Business**

- The September 30 2014 Minutes were approved and can be published.

- Workshop for Parish Council Members **Keith G**

St. Alban Roe did not participate this year. Susan was supposed to go but was sick - she will attend next year - 2015.

- Trifold Brochure **Keith G**

SAR did get a time extension for this brochure. Keith showed it to Fr. Stoltz and it was approved. The brochure contained minimum verbiage and all pictures were taken from the SAR web site. Lifetouch requested we give them a digital copy as well as a printed version. The 3000 brochures will be done in a month. Keith feels that if we need additional copies printed it will not be very expensive and can be done.

- Parish Picnic **Deacon Mallon**

All bills/expenses pertaining to this event have been paid. SAR made about \$1,200 profit which is less than last year. Attendance was about 400 - 500 vs 800 - 900 for 2013. Weather was an issue - the tents blew down due to wind and activities were moved indoors. A discussion ensued regarding changing the format. At another parish, they had a road rally/scavenger hunt with everyone coming together after the rally in the SAR parking lot and tailgating with family activities. This idea met with much enthusiasm and ideas - i.e. decorating/naming the cars (after saints), getting local Wildwood vendors to participate. There would be little cost to SAR and the event would be based on people gathering, food and fellowship. It was mentioned that the "Truck & Treat" Halloween event was very popular and well-attended. We would try to get new people involved. It was also mentioned that the end-of-year school picnic hold over the rides and games and then have a picnic. It was noted that this is usually Memorial Day weekend and we have the basement sale and many families are also going on vacation. This needs to be looked at further (in the Spring) and a decision made.

**III Pastor's Report****Alban Hall****Fr. Stoltz**

- Complications have arisen with the redo of Alban Hall. Problems have not occurred with the Wildwood Fire Department but are with St. Louis County. When Alban Hall was originally done, construction was not done according to code. Consequently, to redo Alban Hall, the way we thought we could, we would have to bring all construction up to current code and the cost would be substantial. Many parts of the initial construction were not 'grandfathered' in -- issues with Emmaus Room walls, sprinkler system, double doors, etc. Fr. Stoltz will let us know what can and cannot be done.

**Deanery Meeting****Fr. Chrismer**

- All over the country, the Catholic archdioceses will be conducting meetings regarding the current ratio of priests to Catholics in each diocese and whether each parish is a 'vibrant' one. We do not have enough priests to effectively minister at all the parishes/churches -- many priests are retiring and the seminarian classes are not as large as they were years ago. In each parish, the Parish Council will be asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their parish - i.e. how many parishioners, how many attend mass, how many organizations and how many parishioners participate in these groups. Fr. Stoltz has already completed a data sheet for SAR -- number of masses, deacons, priests, etc. A parish may only have 500-600 parishioners but may be involved in many outreach and social activities and be considered 'vibrant'. Whereas a parish with 1500 parishioners may have be as active and would be considered not very vibrant. Sometimes numbers are inflated -- i.e. in south STL, there might be 15 priests for 4,000 Catholics, but in Cottleville, there are 3 priests for 9,000 Catholics. Possibly bigger churches are needed to cover a much bigger area of Catholics.

In the next 15 years, 35 priests will retire but our diocese will not get 35 new priests. How can one priest cover 5 masses? Although the STL seminary is full, many seminarians are from other dioceses. Fr. Stoltz' class was the last of the large seminarian classes and most will be retiring in the next 3 - 5 years. A questions - can we bring in more deacons? The deacons are currently being asked if they would like to move into a rectory and take on even more responsibility. Another question - can we recruit from other areas - outside the country? Language seems to be the biggest issue. STL has the lowest priest-to-parishioner ratio in the country; however, more church hierarchy comes from STL and anywhere else. Fr. Stoltz does not know what the questionnaire will look like but it will have very specific questions. Frs. Stoltz and Chrismer will let us know when we will be receiving this survey/questionnaire for completion.

**IV. New Projects**

- Evangelization - Holy Infant Program

**Susan / Jean**

Susan and Jean accompanied Chris Cummings and two other people from HI on Saturday, October ?? to visit parishioners from their parish regarding their program

'evangelizing' program. They have visited about 2700 registered families and had about 300 remaining. We each visited 9-10 homes -- many people were home and a packet of information was given to them; for those not home, a note was left on a card stating they stopped by and the packet was left. The parishioners were told the purpose of the visit was to say hello, they were asked if there were any prayer intentions and if they needed anything -- very nice and general - not probing. The parishioners that were home were very welcoming and glad we stopped by; they mentioned they were aware of the program. Each team had a clipboard with the names/addresses of the people we were visiting this Saturday and a space to write a comment or two. Teams went out for about 1-2 hours beginning at 9:30 am and tried to visit 9-10 homes.

It was noted that SAR has many parishioners who are registered but do not attend mass or get involved - similar to HI. HI's goal was to greet all registered parishioners and were not tracking/measuring if there was an increase in attendance and participation. HI did not spell out specific goals - just connecting with all registered parishioners. They did note on the clipboards if a parishioner stated they were involved with church activities. It was also suggested we might want to quantify and measure our goals; or do we want a program similar to HI. If SAR wants a true evangelization program, we may need people with a better and more specific skill set. At our meeting, it was noted that we have discussed this program for several months and we did agree to pursue something similar - now we need to take action.

Mike and Susan agreed to take on this project and will meet before the end of the year and put together a program outline. Other Council members should email their ideas and thoughts to all and Mike and Susan will put it together. They will present their outline at the PC January meeting. Some specifics --

- have 'blurbs' in bulletin for 2-3 weeks in December & January
- a mention in the Pastor's column
- 2nd week in January, pulpit talks at all masses noting that this is part of the 'larger' picture - Easter, name-tag Sundays, etc and calling the program '*The New Face of St. Alban Roe*'
- asking for volunteers

- **Usher / Greeters**

The following bulletin announcement was put together and it was suggested we have Dennis Delaney review it first:

"We're looking for some very friendly parishioners who would like to greet their fellow parishioners before each mass on the weekend. It takes just a few minutes before each mass and greet everyone as they come into church. If you're interested or for more information, there is a sign-up list in the Narthex after all masses."

Everyone thought it was great but to have Dennis review it first. This would be

wonderful to have in place for Christmas masses.

- **Advent Black Books**

**Jack**

Jack will look into getting these books since they have been so popular and handing them out for Advent. It was noted that instead of having them sit on tables, they should be handed out by PC members at all the masses.

- **Name Tag Sunday**

More favorable comments were received - everyone liked the idea and Fr. Stoltz said we would be doing this 3 - 4 times a year.

- **PC Name Badges**

Council members were reminded to wear their name badges to mass on Sunday.

**V. Closing Prayer**

**Council**

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

**7:00 p.m. Lower Level Rectory**