

Building a Stronger, Larger, Engaged Parish Drawn to Jesus Christ

On a sunny Saturday morning in September, our Staff, Redemptorists and Parish Council gathered for a half day to focus on the **future of the parish**. Beginning with a prayer from our pastor (Fr. Pat) and opening remarks from our Parish Council Chairperson (Rich McAuliffe), the group engaged in a lively process that involved individual sharing and reflection as well as group dialogue and direction setting.

We reviewed and affirmed our Parish Mission:

St. Alphonsus Church is a Catholic faith community dedicated to the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a family of believers we unconditionally welcome all people and nurture each other with love, worship, music, prayer, education and hospitality. We dedicate to lifelong growth in faith and service with those in our church, neighborhood and community at large.

Through the morning's dialogue, we deepened our understanding of St. Alphonsus as a special place with many assets and strengths, and as a place that is dealing with shifts in society, demographics, the Catholic Church, our neighborhood and our parish community. We expressed a sense of urgency and willingness to tackle issues and opportunities that can help St. Alphonsus Parish thrive today and in the future.

We agreed through discussion that our goal is to build a **Stronger, Larger, Engaged Parish Drawn to Jesus Christ**.

We identified several priorities for the future of our Parish that will help us strengthen, grow and engage our parish:

1. Improve Parish Communications
2. Understand and emphasize stewardship and identify new possibilities to not only improve finances for the Parish but increase participation in other areas of our parish
3. Keep the Redemptorists
4. Maintain and improve our campus as needed to meet the growing demands of the parish

Staff and Parish Council are working on steps to be taken to meet these priorities now. We will meet again in January to finalize more exact goals that will lead to a **Stronger, Larger Engaged Parish Drawn to Jesus Christ** this year and into the future.

We encourage all to pray for the future of St. Alphonsus.

Staff, Redemptorists and Parish Council