

NIAGARA FRONTIER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY PASTORAL COUNCIL

September 8, 2025 Minutes

St. Peter School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. Luke, Dcn John Phillips, MaryBeth Carroll, Maxine Menshon, Dianne Wysocki, Mary Palmer, Maureen Ingham, Rich Helfrich, Joe Conti, Bill Taczak, Claire Curione, Roisin O'Leary, Maria Gleason, Judy Penzotti, Kim Fleckenstein, Erica Brenner, Jeff Danner, Cindy Curione, Barb Malinowski, Mark Piazza, Cheryl Milicia, Eddie Saleh, Dan LaNasa, Jennifer DePonceau

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Fr. Alphonse, Mari Boland, Dcn Dave Augustyniak

Meeting began at 6:30pm with Hallow prayer

JUNE MINUTES: Emailed previously - APPROVED

PASTOR REPORT

1. **OVERVIEW OF REPORTS:** Fr. Luke reported that registration & baptisms this past year are up. Other sacraments are roughly the same and marriages down.
2. **OVERVIEW FOR UPCOMING YEAR:**
 - a. Ministry book for the congregation has been updated and just needs to be finalized
 - b. OCIA will start up in October with the same content, but with a modular design to meet people where they are at in their spiritual journey & collaborating with St. Mary's of Swormville.
 - c. HALLOW has just been launched – so far 100 or so signed up.
 - d. Catholic Parenting Initiative (CPI) survey will be going out once faith formation starts up.
 - e. Sacraments – The programs for both parishes will be combined.
 - f. Adult Faith Formation – Dcn John has been running various small groups; Donna Kelsch (IC) would like to educate people on the missions; Stella has been offering many retreats; Donna Seaman will be offering groups through the Catholic Parenting Initiative (CPI).
 - g. Youth Ministry – Fr. beginning with an informal approach of pulling together some families with children that he currently does things with and will expand on that – meeting monthly.
 - h. Capital Improvements: The leadership team met last week – IC's air conditioning units have been fixed; new organ at St. Peter and new baby

grands at St. Peter & IC; new carpet in the St. P rectory Office; soffits fixed at St. Peter; stained glass window at St. P; new lighting at St. P & St. B; sound systems fixed at St. B & IC; security cameras for the school; sidewalk at St. P rectory (N. 7th side); new phone system; new boilers at St. Bernard; siding under the windows at IC; IC maintenance day coming up; shatter-proof film was put on the windows of the school; work done on the playground and sealed the parking lot at the school; new white boards.

- i. BANKRUPTCY IMPACT: - The sale of St. Raphael Church closed and First Baptist Church is moved in; The sale of the rectory closed; We have 3 possible offers on the school building. The St. Bernard rectory sale closing should happen by the end of the month with a shared driveway agreement. The residents have already moved in. The I.C. house on Plank Road sold and has closed. We are positioned well to insulate ourselves from further law suits and move forward in our mission.
- j. PENDING:
 - i. St. Bernard will now need a shed for the snowblower with the sale of the rectory.
 - ii. At IC, the parking lot needs to be sealed; network upgrade; Our Lady of Revelation Grotto.
 - iii. Stained glass at St. Peter broken; internal fobs in the school
 - iv. Moving of the St. Raphael statue – volunteer to do
 - v. Add cement planters in front of doors 1 & 3 of the school for security – there was a \$2,000 check given for that purpose.
 - vi. The roof between the school and the Church still leaks; waiting on a couple more bids (have a \$25,000 bid and \$60,000 bid – not sure why the discrepancy)
 - vii. Waiting on 1 heat pump at St. P that was missing freon when delivered.
 - viii. Outside electric work is done except the lighting at the flag pole, sign and sensors.
 - ix. To look into, but not a priority at this time – deck at St. Peter
 - x. Father's dream list: Narthex upgrades consisting of a bathroom upstairs at St. B; handicap accessibility & PR screens highlighting events at all campuses.
- k. FINANCIAL STANDING: School enrollment is up by 5; We will have an 8th grade class next year (this year's 7th graders); Budget improvement to \$75,000

running deficit; Collections are up \$50,000 at St. P. We are exploring additional staffing.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

1. Representatives from all the churches in our family have met to allocate St. Raphael's leftover inventory. There are maybe 5 crucifixes left. A committee will be formed to move the faith formation boxes Maria packed for St. Peter's.
2. Holy Days – It was decided there will be the same number of Masses, but at different times as not to duplicate. The old Vigil Mass schedule was at 5:30 at St B & 6:30pm at IC and at St. P, 7:45am and 7pm. The new suggestions are as follows Vigil- 6:30pm @ IC Holy Day- 7:45am & 12:10pm @ St. Peter- 7:00pm @ St. Bernard. The worship committee will analyze and finalize make the necessary adjustments.
 - a. Holy Days on a whole have not been well attended, so we will focus on Mass announcements by the priest and Flocknotes as well as the bulletin and website. It was also suggested to use HALLOW as an additional resource for holy days.
3. All Souls Traditions
 - a. St. Bernard Vespers Service was started by Fr. Cole when he was here along with a scroll and candles; St. Peter & St. Bernard has scrolls made by Erika Conti
 - b. IC utilizes candles with names arranged in the narthex as well as some to bring to the altar; RA goes to the cemetery to say the rosary that Saturday
 - c. Father Luke suggested merging the two as a Mass and candle remembrance for those who have passed after the homily. We would do it this year at IC and rotate each year.
 - i. This year it is a Sunday and would fulfill the weekly obligation.
 - ii. Collections were discussed but thought more appropriate to just have a basket at the back/front of the Church.
 - iii. Since they are involved in the funeral planning, the bereavement committee will head up the planning with the help of RA at IC.
 - d. The Worship Committee will review and finalize.
4. The Worship Committee will review devotions before Mass, i.e. October rosary
5. Jennifer finalized the spiritual calendar, many thanks
6. Requiem - Nov. 7th is the Latin Mass at St. P. Rob Pacillo will organize it. Adoration will need to end at 5pm that evening
7. Blessing of Pets is Oct. 4 – 6pm at both St. P & IC
8. School/Faith Formation Masses – Erica & Dianne to meet and possibly combine with the days the children's choir sings

9. It was brought up whether we could let people know when funerals are, however with the timing involved, sometimes it is not possible to get it in the bulletin. There were differing opinions, so the Worship Committee will review and decide.

FAITH FORMATION:

1. 2 yr plan – This year we have all the additional add-ons (hallow, CPI, Fatima, Stella...) Next year we would take a look at all the faith formation programs.
2. The catechist retreat went well – about 22 participants
3. As of the writing of these minutes, Confirmation date is Oct.18 at 7pm at St. Peter.
4. There is a possibility that the Homeschool co-op may move to IC as they are running out of space at St. B, however there are logistics to work out.
5. There is a school meeting with Dianne & Erica to be sure there are no gaps and everyone is on the same page. It was suggested we find out where our parishioners go to school.

MISSION & MINISTRY:

1. Need to get updated rosters from all organizations
2. Greeter's tags for all ushers and bereavement
3. Barb will keep us posted on St. Mary's Hospital's meetings – every 3rd Thursday of the month. Mainly they are looking for community feedback – they can't fix what they don't know.
4. Making Every Person Count – With CPI's survey, perhaps we don't need this right now. Mission & Ministry Committee will discuss.
5. MaryBeth reported the possibility for a widow's group based on conversations that she has had with past widowers. There were no objections and she will bring it up at the next committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fundraising – Any events should be run by the office (both rectory & school) for scheduling to assure there is not more than one event at the same time. A schedule for that should be submitted by the end of the school year. We will probably need a listing rather than a calendar based on the # of entries. We need to update google calendar accessibility on website for publication (monthly).
2. Minutes will be typed up within a week of the meeting and distributed to committee members for response by the end of the 2nd week for a timely period to publish on the website for transparency. Motion by Barb/2nd Dan
3. Security: Cindy will call a meeting to investigate safety measures for the parishes.

As of the writing of these minutes, the Diocesan School Superintendent has called for a trained security officer at all Catholic schools, paid through a grant.

NEXT MEETING: Monday November 3rd at IC Hall at 6:30pm

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:10pm following the Closing Prayer. Motion by Joe Conti/
2nd Maxine

Respectfully Submitted by *MaryBeth Carroll*