Saint Marianne Cope Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2026

Present: Deacon Peter Dohr, Lou Ann Owens, Diane Gears, Kelly Brunacini, Diane Gargano, Al Ambroselli, Lisa Mercadel

Absent: Dean Ganskop, George Samarakody, Jerry Hoffkins

Meeting Called to Order: 6:35 pm

1. Opening Prayer - Deacon Peter.
2. Minutes from June 15, 2026 approved with no changes.
3. Agenda for today's meeting approved with no changes.
4. New Pastoral Council Member Al Ambroselli was welcomed and introduced to the group. Al currently serves as a lector during Mass, and will soon be assisting with Faith Formation (grades 4-6.)
5. Parish Updates: Deacon Peter emailed the list prior to the meeting.
   Questions/Discussion:
   a) 55 Ice Rose Lane – Peter had recent discussion with Mark Greisbgerger, Exec. Dir. Of Providence Housing re: possibility of Providence purchasing subdivided parcel plus a portion of our grass field at west of DDSO building adjacent. Hope to have an answer on interest or not soon. Council still desires to transfer subdivided parcel (at least.)
   b) (from Dean prior) Possible soft ask for donations on projects like new sign (maybe 'buy-a-brick') and Adoration chapel renovations? Conflict with CMA or not? – Peter will investigate with Diocese for possibilities.
   c) (from Dean prior) Altar stair project – electric wiring to baptismal font still part of renovation plan, but we may be using a different (electrical) contractor.
   d) Parish survey – Phase I anticipated soon after sort-out of clunkiness with new website
   e) Diane Gargano – suggestion on blessing of cars in parking lot (perhaps on Feast of Guardian Angels?)
   f) Strategic Plan – Daryl Mercadel kindly assisted with expansion of implementation timeline (into 2029). Peter distilled Values, Pillars, and (near-term) Strategies onto single sheet which will be published for parishioners in this weekend's bulletin.
   g) Personnel change – Sarah Prentice has tendered her resignation and will be leaving under good terms 8/21. Stephanie Gargano has earned the promotion to Coordinator of Family Faith and Youth Ministry (30 hrs/wk). We are also seeking to hire a 15-20 hr/wk position to assist Stephanie. Peter working on this with Finance and HR.
6. Future Meeting Dates – group agreed to continue on 3rd Monday of Month from 6:30-7:30 pm every month except July. Peter will send out draft schedule noting any holiday conflicts.
7. What Are We Hearing From Parishioners?
   a) Guest testimonial during Fr. Mike's homily this weekend – Kelly heard 2 mixed reviews, one positive (engaging) vs. one negative (felt it inappropriate).
   b) Making donations through website and new OSV commitment request have been somewhat problematic and cumbersome. Peter will follow up with Amanda for fix.
8. Other Items
   a) Please identify any Thursday (or other) office closing dates well in advance to minimize complications with Angel Care pickups (or other ministry needs.)
   b) Ministry Fair – Pastoral Council will not host a table but will mingle as observers/helpers as members are able.

c) Recommendation to evolve Volunteer Appreciation event to flow from Pastoral Council as opposed to from staff. Last year was catered event in February before Ash Wednesday – perhaps something similar for this year, but open to other ideas also.
d) Kelly offered printed materials created by Fr. Jim Hewes (Speaking for the Least Among us – book compilation, and article from ROC/Love, Inc/Mentoring Moms) and will forward electronic versions for further easy distribution.

9. Closing Prayer - Deacon Peter
10. Next Meeting: September 21, 2026 @ 6:30 pm
11. Meeting Adjourned: 7:35 pm

Submitted by Peter Dohr
August 18, 2026