NW Racine Parishes
Pastoral Council Minutes
August 11, 2026

Attendees: Fr. Thomas Vathappallil, Fr. Mark Obeten, Corinne Angotti, Colleen Bohl, Mary Jane Carreno, Lisa Christiansen, Dennis Collins, Randy Holub, Andy Horstman, Tammy LaMeer, Mary Loendorf, Jess Olle, Mark Schmitz, Stephanie Warner, Jean Weaver

Excused: Sharon Gierahn, Jim Sisak, Jennifer Tremelling

Meeting

Meeting called to order by Fr. Thomas at 6:30 pm.
Opening prayer was led by Fr. Thomas
Minutes: Minutes for the June 8th pastoral council meeting were distributed and reviewed via email prior to the meeting.

Introductions

Introductions of all council members were made.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Thomas

- Council training will be held by the archdiocese on 9/2 at 6:30 at St. Paul's for all new (or existing) members of the pastoral and finance councils.
- St. Paul's sprinkler status – still waiting for engineering drawings to be completed.
- St. Rita school roof – roof is leaking. Currently being evaluated. If a new roof is required, costs to be split 50/50 between Siena school system and St. Rita's
- St. Rita 100th anniversary mass is scheduled for Saturday, 8/29 at 4:30. Please plan on attending. Suggestion was made to have Fr. Thomas contact St. Leo's to let them know and encourage attendance.
- Archdiocese Pallium Lecture is scheduled for 9/9.
- Welcome to Fr. Mark and all new members of the council.
- Trustees and Finance committee chairs to be invited to attend a meeting on 10/1 at 7pm at St. Robert's to discuss a new Archdiocese policy covering parish rectories.
- Parish Merger Status
    - The archbishop requested town hall sessions be held with each of the four parishes prior to obtaining approval to move forward with the merger process. He also requested a summary report from Fr. Thomas on the meetings held.
        - 5 sessions were held June-August.
    - Fr. Thomas presented his draft report to the council. He will make changes discussed during the meeting and then present the report to the merger committee at their meeting the week of 8/17.
    - The final report will then be forwarded to the Archbishop after the merger committee meeting.
    - If the Archbishop says yes to moving forward, the naming process will begin.
    - A Q&A from questions generated from the town hall meetings will be prepared and sent to all parishioners' homes.
        - Siena Q&A to be published separately since those questions were not specific to the merger.
    - Ongoing adult formation covering different topics and articles of our faith to be hosted by Fr. Mark
        - 2 sessions to be held the 4th Wednesday of each month beginning 8/26.

PPC appendix

- The updated PPC appendix was distributed prior to the meeting.
    - A motion was made to approve the appendix as presented by Corrine Angotti and seconded by Mark Schmitz. All approved and the motion passed.

Commission Liaisons

- Commission Liaisons final assignments – Liaisons are PPC at large members unless otherwise noted
    - Stewardship – Mark Schmitz, Jess Olle
    - Human Concerns – Colleen Bohl, Tammy LaMeer; Mary Loendorf (trustee) to assist
    - Prayer & Worship – Lisa Christiansen
    - Formation – Mary Jane Carreno, Jenny Weisensel (St. Rita member active in religious education/schools and also on the School committee of the NW Parishes transition team)
- Jean distributed an updated handout on liaison responsibilities including lists of contact information for parishioners involved in each of the commissions
- Some initial liaison work has started with the stewardship commission having held their first meeting with parishioner committee members
    - Stewardship/Fellowship commission report – presented by Mark Schmitz and Jess Olle
        - Mark and some other parishioners attended the archdiocese stewardship workshop
            - Arch staff member indicated they could meet with our committee as we are getting started
            - Key points - Digital communication, culture of vitality, parish reflection questionnaire
        - Met with 12 members (identified by parish staff) that were in charge of various sub-committees/programs
            - Standard template of 6 questions regarding each program distributed and answered
            - Focus was on info gathering
            - Purpose determined
            - Potential suggestions – volunteer fair, welcoming committee
            - Key concerns voiced on maintaining parish identity
            - Questions for council identified and reviewed
- Discussed need for a standard form to be completed by each commission liaison that can be sent out prior to council meetings; highlights and key issues/challenges from the report to be covered during the meeting.
- Jean requested liaisons to forward any face-to-face meeting invites to Jean Weaver and Jenny Tremelling so they are aware of when meetings are taking place and can join as schedules permit.

Closing Prayer – Fr. Mark

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, at 6:30pm at St. Paul Church

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm