

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: St. Joseph Room

Date/Time: August 20, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

Notes By: Sarah Navis

Attendees: Father Justin Lopina, Joe Herro, Alanna Wilgus, Kelly Ciriacks, Sarah Navis, Mike Smrz, Sandy Schmitt, Tom Zimmerman, Suzzanne Silman, Rachel Blackwood, Jeremy Blackwood, Paul Petrides, Jill Pitterle, Joel McCool, Karen Bartel, Megan Harney, Jennifer Mendoza, Larry Barbian, Carol Polivka and Duane Filtz

Meeting started at 6:30 p.m. with an opening prayer by Joe Herro.

The agenda was approved.

New Pastoral Council members were welcomed

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Carol Polivka started the meeting with a report on the storm damage sustained at St. Joseph. The school took on the most water damage. Thankfully the water was clean water and not sewage. The cleanup happened right away, and Insurance has been contacted and already viewed the affected areas. The areas have all been cleaned and sanitized and are safe for the start of school. B&G committee will be working on follow-up to areas impacted by water damage and possible options to improve drainage.

B&G will be working with Matt to stencil and paint necessary handicap access designations on all parking spaces on the circle drive. The work will take place on a Wednesday, August 27th following the 8:15am Mass to allow dry time before Friday morning Mass.

Numerous other small projects were undertaken in the school including installing screens, experimenting with cleaning lockers, installing Clevertouch boards in two classrooms and increasing plantings in gardens. Worked with volunteers to paint stained glass design on Parish Center porch windows facing Center Street.

We are also looking at possible ways to reduce operational costs including working with Focus on Energy to look at decreasing the electric bill.

Prayer and Worship: Suzzanne Silman reported everything is ready for Fr. Justin's installment mass on Thursday, August 28th at 6pm.

Human Concerns: Karen Bartel reported the Human concerns subcommittees continue to run themselves in their ministries. Some of the committees are the Sandwich committee, St. Ben's meal program and Food Pantry, all provide food to those in need in various locations around the city. The Bereavement Committee works with those who have lost loved ones and plan the annual Mass of Remembrance which takes place in November with a special recognition to those who have passed in the last year. The Outreach Committee meets twice a year to designate and distribute monies to local and state organizations in need. Tree of Life, Respect Life and Repairers of the Breach committees do work with those in need in our community by donating gifts in collaboration with Catholic Charities. They collect winter apparel which is distributed to various centers. Respect Life conducts a pro-life baby shower in the fall and is a part of the Milwaukee Life Chain. The Human Concerns ministry is looking for volunteers to assist with the drop-off of the Coats and Repairers of the Breach collections, contact Karen Bartel if interested.

Stewardship and Communications: Donut Sunday will be held after mass on Sunday, August 24, 2025.

Home and School Association: Rachel Blackwood reported they are getting ready for the start of school. The Back-to-School Picnic will take place August 21st. Biergarten organization is underway. It is September 13th, 2025. Sign-up Genius will be going up for volunteers shortly.

School Committee: Jeremy Blackwood reported elections were held at the end of the school year and 4 new members were elected. The main goal of the School Committee this fall is to have the marketing plan in place before Christmas. The committee has been working with the new principal Brianna VanVreede to ensure a smooth start to the new year. To address safety concerns a Safety subcommittee has been formed.

Athletics: Paul Petrides updated us with the date for the Golf outing, which is October 12th. Bulletin will have more details. The gym floor was resealed at the end of July and is ready for the volleyball season to begin.

Parish Life: Mike Smrz reported Bingo is being scheduled for November, stay tuned for the date. Also looking at having the Soup and Chili cookoff in January. More to come on that.

Faith Formation: For those who are not aware, Colleen Rooney has left to pursue other opportunities. Her position will not be replaced at this time. Larry Barbian reported they will be working on the Catechism program for the upcoming school year.

Continuing Business

- A. The quote for the grave marker replacement for Fr. Holzhauer was received and sent on to Father Justin for consideration.

New Business

- A. Biergarten: Rachel Blackwood reported that work is underway for Biergarten which will take place on Saturday, September 13, 2025, starting around 5:00 p.m. after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. The Athletic Department is working in conjunction with the Home and School Association for this event. Sign-Up Genius should be available shortly for volunteers to sign up work the event. There will be more information forthcoming in the bulletin.
- B. Fr. Justin addressed the committee regarding the recent financial audit. We are not able to meet the August payroll with the money collected. To cover the cost, we needed to take out money from our line of credit. He will be addressing the Parish this weekend, August 23-24 with this update. Further details will be forthcoming in September.

Miscellaneous

- A. Next Pastoral Council meeting will be September 17, 2025
- B. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. with a Closing Prayer.