

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION | ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
Pastoral Council Minutes
Wednesday, April 8, 2026 | 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Parish Life Center Gym – Church of the Transfiguration

PC Members in attendance: Rebecca Hartman, Marissa Phelps, Lindsey Ricci, Tracy Volkmann, Michael Schell, Kasey Wise, Tom Cincebox, Diane Yacoby (also recording secretary - T)

PC Members Excused: Bob Ciccone, Kristen Graham, John Hurley, David Pritchard

PC Members Absent: Skip Lehman, Erica Jones, Michael Musa, Charlene Weeks

Pastor: Fr. Rob Bourcy

Recording secretary – (SC): Donna Michalik

Ministry Representative: Bob Goldbach

Staff: Karen Luke, Dan Hofford, Karen Rinefierd

Visitor: Keith Bock

Recording Secretary: Diane Yacoby

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 7 PM

Opening Prayer

Tracey Volkmann led the group in “The Prayer of St Francis”

Approval of March 2026 Minutes

We do not have a quorum to approve last month’s minutes. Rebecca will send via email and ask PC members for approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parish Mission/Vision

Tracy then reported on the Parish Mission & Vision. She & Kristen Graham will speak at the 4 PM Mass at Transfiguration and the 10:45 AM Mass at St. Catherine this weekend. Consensus was that this should be communicated at all 4 Masses at both parishes in the coming weeks. To be scheduled. At least 2 individuals have responded to participate in this initiative.

New Bishop – DOR perspective – Dan reported that at this point he has no input. Others commented that they read Bishop Bonnici’s column in the *Catholic Courier* and while he seems different than Bishop Matano, we are looking forward to getting to know him. Fr. Rob reported that he has attended clergy dinners on Saturday nights and that has gone well.

Easter Vigil had 17 people brought into the faith (OCIA/OCIC). News reports have indicated that the Catholic Church is actually growing, with young individuals becoming more active and interested in becoming Catholic (!).

Karen Rinefierd offered a historical perspective of how planning and changes have occurred in our diocese in response to 3 factors: a decline in the number of priests, decline in Mass attendance, and a decrease in giving and parish budgets. Each bishop has his own style in adjusting to these changes. Bishop Clark had all parishes across the diocese participate in planning through groups; Bishop Matano initiated planning in particular areas, usually depending on finances. Parish re-structuring (clustering or

merging parishes) is one strategy used by our last two bishops. This happened first in rural areas, inner city Rochester, and small cities like Elmira, Corning, and Auburn. Another approach is for the bishop to appoint a Pastoral Administrator (lay or deacon) to lead one or more parishes, but there still needs to be a priest appointed for the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. There are currently two Pastoral Administrators in the diocese who are both ordained deacons. The parish leadership of Transfiguration and St. Catherine was proactive. For instance, when Fr. Mike retired, he and Fr. Rob proposed that the two parishes be clustered. Our finances are being well managed, and we are working to be as welcoming as possible. Karen encouraged the Council to continue to be proactive and to remember that Bishop Bonnici is responsible for parishes in all 12 counties of the diocese.

Fr. Rob has been approached by parishioners as to when we will have Bishop Bonnici for a visit to our parishes. We will consider inviting him to our parishes later this year.

Sat 4/11 there is a Rosary & Holy Hour for peace being led by our new bishop at noon at Sacred Heart Cathedral per request of Pope Leo (the Diocese announced this today).

PC Nomination Process – Karen R requested that one person from each Parish is needed to make phone calls to nominees from each parish. Marissa Phelps and Tom Cincebox both volunteered to fulfill this need. PC members are encouraged to recommend individuals and also discuss the purpose of PC. A “talking points” document will be prepared by Karen so that both Marissa & Tom can have an outline for their calls.

NEW BUSINESS

PC Meeting Format Discussion

Rebecca discussed the timing/frequency of the meetings. Discussion was supportive of having monthly as the frequency and keeping the timing at 2 hours and from 7-9 PM on a weeknight. Also having published agendas is important. Having staff members present is vital as they often have the answers to questions brought up at the meetings. Dan usually attends as Finance staff member. Dan can work with the Finance Chairs of both parishes (both PC Council members) to determine if there are meetings where they can report on financials so that Dan can be excused.

Ministry reports are still expected to be completed and shared before the PC meetings. This saves meeting time in that reports can be discussed, as needed, without expending extra time repeating the content of the report itself.

Opening prayers should be limited to approximately 5 min duration.

Open Forum

Easter Services were discussed. The churches were beautifully decorated. The Triduum services were well attended and quite special. The Easter Egg Hunt at St. Catherine’s was again very popular, with many non-parishioners and community members attending. Over 2000 eggs were hidden. Parishioners from both parishes assisted in filling eggs. This is an event opportunity to minister to others outside of our parishes. The saxophone played by Mateo from Transfiguration on Palm Sunday (T) and Good Friday (SC) was also very well received. The new projectors were working at Transfiguration in time for Easter!

Easter activities (First Communion and Confirmation) will continue through the Easter Season. First Communion will be celebrated at all Masses the weekend of May 2-3. Confirmation will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral on May 7th.

Kasey brought up that there is variability in engaging children amongst the volunteers who lead the children's liturgy. Karen and Kasey will meet to discuss the issues and potential training for volunteers that would be helpful to engage the children more.

Donna asked about training for the various ministries so that the leaders of the MANY ministries (80+) we have could have some sort of guidance to assure the Parish Vision/Mission is woven into each ministry. Ministries led by a staff member will be the first to instill this concept. How do we assure that the Parish Mission/Vision is shared with Ministry leaders? Need Fr. Rob's help with this. The Mission/Vision initiative needs to be finalized before we can consider this. We will discuss this further in a future PC meeting (agenda topic).

Lindsey Ricci reported on an organization she is affiliated with in CNY called *Hope, Healing, and Solidarity* and shared an April 2026 Program card with PC members. This organization focusses on healing for victims of sexual abuse within faith communities.

Fr. Rob offered closing remarks and reiterated how wonderful our Easter Services and activities were, and he is looking forward to the remainder of the Easter Season!

Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM

***NEXT COUNCIL GATHERING: Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 PM
St. Catherine of Siena – Community Center***

ADDENDUM

Pastoral Report from Transfiguration

Parish Council Meeting

4/8/26

Transfiguration Pastoral Report

LITURGY

Lent

Monday Night Prayer at Transfiguration – 3/16/26 – 65 in attendance.

Diocese *Day of Penance* 3/24/26

StCS – 9:45AM -11:30AM; Transfiguration - 1PM-3PM -Attendance per Fr. Rob

Lenten Penance Service
3/23 (7PM) - StCS

Holy Week

- Chrism Mass -Tuesday, 3/31 (6PM) at Sacred Heart Cathedral with Bishop John.
- Holy Thursday – 4/2 (7PM) – StCS
- Good Friday Service 4/3 (3PM) – StCS
- Good Friday Simple Stations (7PM) – Transfiguration – 42 in attendance.

Easter

- Easter Vigil - 4/4 (8PM) – Transfiguration (OCIC – 8 Adults/8 Children) followed by a reception with 240 in attendance.
- Easter Sunday - Transfiguration 8:45AM/10:45AM – Just under 900.
- Margie's gratitude to the Arts & Env ministry, Liturgical Ministry and the choir for their dedication in bringing beauty with prayerful and sacred worship to Lent and Easter.
- Next quarter Liturgical Ministry schedule (June-Aug) to be emailed in late April/early May.

Ascension Thursday

5/14/26 – StCS – 9AM and Transfiguration – 5:30PM. Transfiguration

Additional Notes:

- Two front wall projectors installed just before Easter.
- Upcoming pulpit presentation recruiting liturgical ministers with a special focus on the Usher ministry.
- A Social Events Committee planning meeting takes place on Sunday, 5/17/26
- Working on plans for a Ministry Fair at both parishes in late September.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES:

- Emergency Response Plan completed for the parish with specific Emergency "toolkits" well marked and placed in all buildings.
- Our Security Ministry met last week to discuss the Emergency Response Plan and other ongoing plans in caring for our parish community.

- Grief Share concluded 4/1 with ten attendees' participation in a Memorial Prayer Service. Thanks to Judy Herlihy and Elaine Carpin for facilitating and caring for the bereaved.
- Our appreciation to the Funeral Ministry for their ongoing care of our families not only through the years but these past months when we have had an unusual number of funerals.

- Our "Brookdale" ministry continues. This Memory Care facility has just changed hands moving its name to "Rittenhouse".
- Ongoing ministries include and not limited to Cloverwood and the Highlands Communion visits, Funreal Ministry, Good Samaritan, Make-A-Meal, Reception Ministry Respite, Visitation and Spiritual Direction.

PEACE & JUSTICE

- Update - Potato Supper – Due to the increasingly lower numbers yearly for our Potato Supper, at this time the committee felt it was time to "sunset" the ministry always with the option to reassess its re-establishment in the future.
- Our *Just Faith* Program called *Just Action – How to Advocate and Mobilize for Justice* continues with thirteen participants.
- In the current climate and discernment of participants of last year's Just Faith program, a new Peace & Justice Education program to encourage non-violence has been established involving both parishes with Judy Herlihy and Leslie Hulbert coordinating. Look to the bulletin for articles and the potential of parish education through various avenues.
- Ongoing active ministries include our Open-Door Mission Collaborative, PBJ Ministry, local food cupboard support, Care of God's Creation and the Monthly Food Drive.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Benza
Pastoral Associate