St. Margaret Mary Parish

The meeting of the Pastoral Council was called to order by Chair, Carlo Mascari on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 6:37 PM in the Parish Center.

Members present:
Pastor: Fr. Mark Payne
Chairperson: Carlo Mascari
Secretary: Steven Gastreich
Trustee Secretary: Cheryl Vosswinkel
Kurt Bardele
Krystal Burke
Diane Detampel
Natascha Nill

Members excused:
Associate Pastor: Fr. Francis Assisi
Vice Chairperson: Martha Perez
Trustee Treasurer: Timothy Gensler
Paul Estante

Guests:
Finance Council Chair: Dan Hohl
Betty Novak

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the December 7th Pastoral Council meeting minutes as written.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Mark is going to discuss with the staff of all 5 parishes on how to improve communication. This is especially important when the parishes have joint events. This will be discussed at a meeting at the end of the month.

Fr. Mark was pleased with the Christmas Masses and House Blessing placard distribution. All went well.

With the Christ Child Society taking over the lower level of the rectory, there is the possibility that Fr. Francis might move to Blessed Savior. A decision has not yet been made.

On January 1st, someone reported to the Milwaukee Fire Department that smoke was coming from St. Margaret Mary. Somehow, the Fire Department gained access to the church and damaged some doors in the basement. There was no smoke, but Fr. Mark is contacting the department to ensure that they contact him first. Dale Maier is working on repairs.

Commission Reports
All reports where meetings have occurred have been sent.

New Business
A fruitful brainstorming session followed, led by Dan Hohl. This was a combined effort between the Pastoral Council and Stewardship Commission. The aim of this session was to think of ways to recruit and enhance volunteerism within the parish. Krystal recorded the ideas that were mentioned. These notes will be reviewed and then it will be determined what the next steps will be and when continued discussion will take place.

On January 5th, Kurt, Carlo, Cheryl, Diane and Tim met with members of the Milwaukee Police Department to do a Safety Walk through the church. The group was impressed by what they saw and made several recommendations. Kurt will publish a summary of what was discussed and send it out to council members. Among the highlights was a recommendation that St. Margaret Mary could apply for grants for new equipment. Fr. Mark and Cheryl have ideas of whom they could approach for help with this. There will be more to come.

Kurt was able to make this connection with the Milwaukee Police Department through a crime stopping organization. It was decided that this organization's Monday, July 20th meeting will be held at St. Margaret Mary in Sampon Hall.

Kurt has put together contact cards for the parish that anyone will be able to pick up. The cards will have QR Codes so that information can be saved digitally.

The next meeting between the Pastoral Councils of St. Margaret Mary and Blessed Savior will take place at St. Margaret Mary on Wednesday, January 21st at 6:00 PM in Sampon Hall. The goal is to learn what ministries each parish has and where collaboration can take place.

There is an opening on the Pastoral Council. Jerry Nance has departed. An announcement will be published to fill the remaining term of this position.

Next Meeting
Fr. Mark announced that he will be out of town for the Wednesday, February 4th meeting. A decision was not made as to whether to hold a meeting that night, or to wait until Wednesday, March 4th. Nevertheless, the time will be at 6:30 PM and will take place in the Parish Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Gastreich, Secretary