

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
Finance Council Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2025

Members Present: Fr. Ryan Harpole, Bayne Million, Steve Thornton, John Winstead, and Chris Vowels

Members Absent: Kathy Kemp

Guests: Sharon Luster

Call to Order

Father Ryan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with an opening prayer.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The first item on the agenda was a review of the July 29, 2025 meeting minutes as prepared by Steve Thornton. With no further discussion or corrections, John Winstead made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Bayne Million. The Council unanimously approved the July meeting minutes.

Review of Financial Statements

The Council next reviewed the July and August 2025 financial statements and notes prepared by Sharon Luster, Finance Director.

July 2025

At the end of July, the Parish had \$389k in its general funds and \$750k in Renew funds. Notable items from the July financial statements included:

- Grant Income – Young adult grant funds
- Miscellaneous Income - \$4.9k insurance claim proceeds from Rectory storm damage
- Maintenance Expense - \$7k in storm damage costs
- Priest Retirement - \$7k annual contribution
- Workers Compensation - \$900 annual payment
- Property/Liability Insurance – 35% annual increase
- Diocesan Assessment – 23% annual increase
- Other Parish Special Collections – \$2k pay out to WKU Newman Center

August 2025

At the end of August, the Parish had \$380k in its general funds and \$750k in Renew funds. We just received the final Scott, Murphy, Daniel billing for Renew II (\$108k) in order to finalize the loan from the Diocese, but we may not need to borrow any more funds depending on any other final expenses. Notable items from the August financial statements included:

- School Maintenance Director Reimbursement – Two months' worth received
- Miscellaneous Income – Includes \$2k reimbursement from the Diocese for the Charismatic event
- Property/Liability Insurance – Includes \$5.6k payment for 502 Church Ave. Property

- School Subsidy – 60% annual increase went into effect

Following a motion from Mr. Winstead and a second from Mr. Thornton, the Council unanimously approved the July and August financial statements.

Ms. Luster also reported that the year-end annual report has been submitted to the Diocese.

Property/Building Updates

- The DeVries House Committee held a second meeting on October 6 to discuss what to do with the DeVries office building. It is almost beyond repair, and the cost to demolish the building is approximately \$55,000.
- The Marian Shrine is in need of updates. There are excess building materials from the Church restoration that could be used, which would offset the cost.
- The nursery school building (former nuns' residence) is decrepit and in need of a lot of repairs and maintenance. One option is to demolish it and rebuild, but the building is listed on the Historic Registry. Further discussions/planning to be held.
- Recently, there were bequests from two estates totaling \$150,000.
- The Council agreed the bequests should be deposited into the Renew account, and approved a recommendation be made to the Parish Council to move forward with razing the DeVries house and to remodel/update the Marian Shrine.

Employment Retention Credit (ERC) Funds

- Fr. Ryan updated the Council on a recent issue with the Diocese. Approximately \$850,000 in employment retention credit (ERC) funds from the government were issued to St. Joe's (about \$25,000 to the Parish and about \$825,000 to the school). Funds were also provided to all the parishes and schools throughout the Diocese totaling about \$15 million.
- The Diocese had helped to apply for and obtain these ERC funds and was just going to deduct an administrative fee from the funds for doing so. However, due to a previously undisclosed \$30 million shortfall unfunded pension/retirement liabilities for all Diocesan employees (including priests and teachers), the Diocese decided to keep all of the ERC funds and apply them to the pension funding shortfall.
- Letters of disagreement from several priests around the Diocese will be sent objecting to the Diocese's decision in hopes of getting the Diocese to reverse its decision and allow the parishes and schools to receive their ERC funds.

Chesterton Academy Update

- The Chesterton Academy has applied for its 501(c)(3) non-profit status and is also seeking state accreditation.
- The Academy is beginning the fundraising processing and solicitation of donations. There may be a fundraising dinner held in conjunction with Fr. Ryan's 15th anniversary of his ordination.

Other Business

- The School is adding a security officer, contracted from the same security company used by The Covenant School in Nashville. The cost will be funded by an additional student assessment of \$20/month per student.

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- The annual reverse raffle fundraiser will be on October 25 with 200 tickets to be sold at \$100 each, along with a chili cook-off competition. The net proceeds will be split between Renew and the youth group.

Next Meeting Date

The Finance Council set its next meeting for Monday, November 17, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Adjourn

With there being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chris Vowels
Secretary