PPEC Mission Squad Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2026

Time	6:30–8:15 PM
Location	Mary, Mother of the Church
Meeting Type	PPEC Mission Squad Meeting
Members Present	Sarah Bertram; Rebecca Brubaker; Brett Forsman; Nicole Forsman; Fr. Jim Perkl; Tami Richardson; Greg Robinson; Vivian Rogers; Sylvia Saboutey; Rebecca Schmid; Amy Schroeder; Paul Tinebra; Michelle Tanley; Stacy Tonnessen; Roxanne Tozier, Michael Wilde

1. Opening Prayer and Fruit of the Holy Spirit

The meeting opened in prayer, entrusting the work of the PPEC, parish families, and the renewal of holy marriages and families to the intercession of Mary and St. Joseph.

The PPEC will continue its practice of reflecting on a Fruit of the Holy Spirit each month. The fruit for this month is Love/Charity, chosen in connection with the Archbishop's pastoral letter and its emphasis on the love of Jesus.

Members reflected on St. Thérèse of Lisieux and her understanding of her vocation as love within the heart of the Church. Discussion emphasized that parish activity must flow first from relationship with Jesus. Our works bear fruit when they are rooted in Christ rather than simply in activity or obligation.

Members were encouraged to prayerfully consider during the coming month where they are being invited to love more deeply in their families, parish, work, and daily lives.

2. Archbishop's Pastoral Letter

The group continued reflecting on the Archbishop's pastoral letter, particularly Section 1.

Several themes emerged:

- Families are made for eternal life, and the Church accompanies families toward that end.
- Relationship is central — relationship within the Trinity, the Church, families, and the broader community.

- The Archbishop's message is joyful and hopeful while also calling families to remain attentive to challenges that can weaken relationships.
- God's superabundant grace, particularly through the sacraments, enables ordinary and imperfect families to grow in holiness.
- Humility and honest recognition of our own shortcomings are essential to healthy relationships.
- The Archbishop's comments regarding screen time prompted reflection about being more intentionally present to one another.
- Parents' role as the primary educators of their children will remain an important lens for the PPEC's work this year.

The PPEC's work continues to be grounded in the parish mission of Live Jesus and the Archbishop's invitation that Only One Thing Is Necessary.

3. Moving From Vision to Action

The group reviewed the work begun at the July Visioning Meeting and the discernment gathered from previous parish conversations.

This meeting represented the next stage of the process: moving from broad vision and discernment toward actionable parish work.

The goal is not to create additional structures simply for the sake of structure. Rather, the PPEC will identify important areas of parish life, discern where the Holy Spirit is leading, establish practical goals, and then work collaboratively to accomplish them.

The guiding cycle discussed was:

> *Discern → Act → Look for Fruit*

The group acknowledged that this process will continue to develop as it is used. The goal is to create enough structure to move forward without expecting the process to be perfect before beginning.

4. Clarifying the Mission Areas

The four working areas previously identified were reviewed:

- Discipleship & Evangelization
- Whole Parish Formation
- Belonging & Welcoming
- Care for the Whole Person

Discussion revealed that the categories can feel confusing because many parish ministries naturally belong in more than one area.

Rather than forcing every ministry or initiative into a single category, the group discussed identifying a primary area that leads the work, while intentionally collaborating with the other areas when needed.

All four areas share one center: Jesus Christ.

The discussion began to clarify the work in simpler terms:

Encounter / Evangelization

Helping people encounter and fall in love with Jesus.

This includes relational evangelization and pre-evangelization — building relationships, inviting people into parish life, sharing our stories, and creating opportunities where people can encounter Christ.

Examples discussed included small groups, Adoration, retreats, Alpha, community gatherings, cultural events, and other welcoming entry points.

Formation & Discipleship

Helping people learn to live as followers of Jesus.

This connects the heart and the head through Scripture, Church teaching, prayer, the Mass, the lives of the saints, and practical formation in Christian discipleship.

Examples include Bible studies, OCIA, seasonal studies, children's and family formation, and other opportunities for ongoing faith formation.

Belonging & Welcome

Helping people know that there is a place for them in the parish and in the Body of Christ.

Hospitality and belonging are not simply programs but should be present throughout parish life and should support people's movement toward deeper relationship with Jesus and the parish community.

Care for the Whole Person

Helping the parish recognize and care for Jesus in one another throughout every stage and circumstance of life.

This includes physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and practical needs from cradle to grave.

Examples discussed included Stephen Ministry, Eucharist to the homebound, funeral ministry, care of older adults and persons with disabilities, mental-health support, Loaves and Fishes, and other works of mercy and community outreach.

5. Small Groups and Relational Evangelization

The group discussed small groups as an important means of parish renewal and relational evangelization.

Stacy Tonnessen shared insights from ECT formation, including the understanding that small groups can serve as an engine for many dimensions of parish life.

Discussion also emphasized that “small group” should not be understood too narrowly. Different people have different capacities and needs. Families with young children, older adults, widows and widowers, isolated parishioners, and others may need different forms of relationship and accompaniment.

The experience of a widow/widowers group illustrated why the mission areas must work together: a group that begins primarily as fellowship or faith formation may uncover loneliness, practical needs, or pastoral-care concerns requiring collaboration.

6. Integrated Parish Mission

Members discussed the importance of avoiding ministry silos.

A parish initiative may have one primary purpose while supporting several dimensions of parish life. OCIA was noted as an example because it can simultaneously involve welcome, belonging, evangelization, formation, discipleship, and whole-person care.

Similarly, outreach beyond the parish — including meeting neighbors, offering prayer, inviting people to approachable parish events, and following up personally — can become a pathway from initial relationship to encounter with Christ and deeper participation in parish life.

The common question underlying all of the work is:

> *How does this help people encounter, follow, belong to, or experience the love of Jesus?*

7. From Squads to Work

Members will spend the next month praying about where their gifts, passions, and charisms best fit within the parish’s mission.

Each working group will ultimately identify one or two concrete priorities for the year rather than attempting to address every possible need.

At the next PPEC Mission Squad meeting, members will gather according to their discerned area and consider:

- What have we been hearing?
- Where does the Holy Spirit seem to be leading?
- What one or two areas should receive our attention now?
- What practical next steps can we take?
- Where will collaboration with another group be needed?
- What fruit will help us recognize whether the work is bearing fruit?

A process map will be piloted over the next several months to help move the PPEC consistently from discernment to action and evaluation.

8. Preparation for the Next Meeting

Before the next meeting, members are asked to:

- Pray about the four mission areas and where they feel called to serve.
- Read the Archbishop's pastoral letter through the lens of that area.
- Reflect on the gifts and charisms they bring to the work.
- Come prepared to sit with their selected working group.
- Continue identifying people in the parish whose gifts may need to be invited into this work.

Updated descriptions of the mission areas will be provided to make their purpose and relationship to one another clearer.

9. Closing Vision

The meeting concluded with a vision of the parish as a place of accompaniment — similar to pilgrims walking the Camino together.

People arrive at the parish at different places in their journey. Some are ready for worship and formation; others first need welcome, relationship, healing, practical care, or a safe place to ask questions.

The parish's role is to listen carefully, meet people where they are, and intentionally accompany them toward deeper relationship with Jesus and life within His Church.

The parish therefore needs a rich "menu" of ministries, relationships, small groups, formation opportunities, and pastoral care that can serve people at different points along the journey.

The process may be messy as the structure develops, but the goal is greater intentionality in how Mary, Mother of the Church helps every person encounter Jesus, grow as His disciple, belong to His family, and experience His love and care.

10. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed in prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, hearts attentive to the needs of others, strength for the work ahead, and the intercession of Mary and St. Joseph.

> **Meeting adjourned:** 8:15 PM