

ST EUGENE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

2025-2026
Asheville, NC



LOCATION: Parish Hall

DATE: May 12, 2026

TIME: 6:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

Participants (P – Present; NP- Not Present)

Rev. Sabastian (P)	Rev. Dr. Mike Zboyovski (P)	Rev. Dr. John Langlois (NP)	Joe Stritch (Chair, 6/26) (P)	Abel Lomeli-Garcia (Vice Chair, 6/26) (P)
Laurie Zone-Smith, PhD (Secretary, 6/26) (P)	Betty Lynne Lear (6/28) (P)	Nathan Lawrence (6/28) (P)	Dr. Ellen Lawson (6/28) (P)	Vanessa Garcia Hernandez (6/28) (NP)
Michael MacCauley (6/26) (P)	Ginny Raviotta (6/27) (P)	Noe Valdez (6/27) (P)	Dr. Daniel Frayne (6/27) (P)	Terry Ryan (6/27) (P)

Guests:

I. Call to Order – Abel Lomeli-Garcia 6:08 pm

II. Opening Prayer – Deacon Mike

III. Welcome & Introductions – Abel Lomeli-Garcia

IV. Approval of Minutes (3.10.26) –Ginny Raviotta approved. Terry Ryan seconded approval.

V. Father Sabastian Agenda Items- Father Sabastian

- **Nominations Review & Selection:**

- Abel, Joe, Laurie and Michael will be finishing their terms in June 2026. Thank you to Abel for sending the Mass announcement summary to the council for the opportunity to nominate or nominate oneself to join the council, placing applications at the narthex table, the suggestion box, and in the bulletin. Thank you, Betty Lynn, who announced during daily masses. Thank you to the members who signed up for each weekend mass time to make announcements.
- 16 nominations were reviewed, voted upon, and selections were made to fill seats. The council agreed to seat 15 members for the next pastoral council term. 7 new members were selected. They will be invited to attend the June meeting for induction.
- Welcome new 2026-2029 Pastoral Council members: Todd Wilson, Yazmin Maldonado, Abel Melo-Hernandez, Peter Olynick, Mary Selby, Jose Jimenez, and Kristi Teske

- **Church office vacancies:** Secretary and Bookkeeper positions will be posted.
- **Mission Statement:** Father Sabastian presented 5 suggestions. Ellen presented a 6th synthesis statement. Terry proposed acceptance of one with amendments. The council selected, as amended:
 - *“Saint Eugene is a faith community animated by the love of God and neighbor to welcome all, irrespective of their background, and through education, spiritual programs, and the sacraments, bring them to the fullness of Christ, forming intentional disciples to serve God in the Church and the wider community.”*
 - Next steps to determine short-term and long-term goals. What will we do to sustain the mission statement? What actions will we take to bring our faith community to the fullness of Christ? A subcommittee was formed to discuss and propose goals. Volunteers included: Abel, Dan, Ellen, Joe, and Deacon Jon
 - The budget will be formed based on the mission statement. (e.g., fund adult and children’s faith formation such as seminars, workshops, financial support needs for the poor, charities such as St. Vincent De Paul, Care of Creation Garden food support and expansion to help those in need.)
 - Assess current church ministries to align with the mission statement. Add, delete, or modify as needed, such as adding Youth Ministry.
 - Terry suggested announcing at the beginning of Mass to welcome visitors and extend a welcome to new parishioners. All agreed.

V. Commission Reports

- **Buildings & Facilities** – Nathan Lawrence
 - Verbal report.
 - Split pew seat bottoms were repaired with the help of Salvador
 - HVAC Service scheduled to do checks and replace filters 2 times a year (mid-summer and mid-winter). Salvador performs filter replacements periodically. The return air tunnel, which accumulates water after storms, needs to be addressed.
 - Lights outside front door and by parking lot; Nathan provided proposal & estimate. Father Sabastian suggested that if it costs \$300 - \$400, Nathan can move forward without finance committee approval for that amount. Lighting changes to be done.
- **Education & Formation** – Abel Lomeli-Garcia
 - Written and verbal report submitted.
 - **Summer Camps**
 - Camp Hidden Lake (Middle School)
 - June 22nd – 27th
 - 24 Spots Available. Only 5 students registered
 - Push to reach out to ACS and other churches
 - Amy has been in contact with Betty to promote to St. Lawrence, and now St. Barnabus
 - Push to reach out to Michael MacCauley again for ACS students
 - Camp Covecrest (High School)
 - July 27th – August 1st
 - 40 Spots Available. 5 spots left. Greater success with high schoolers.

- **Evangelization & Communications** – Betty Lynne Leary
 - Parish Council minutes are on the bulletin board and the website.
 - Betty is making an announcement at the daily morning masses about nominations.
 - Camp flyers taken to Basilica and St. Margaret Mary, St Barnabus, and Joan of Arc
 - Suggestion box is locked. Betty has the key, and a key will be given to the new secretary. Suggestions can also be submitted online.
- **Liturgy & Worship** – Rev. Dr. Michael Zboyovski
 - Verbal report, sending an update after the 5/18 meeting.
 - Quarterly meeting to be on 5/18.
 - Father suggested better chairs, to replace metal chairs in narthex
 - Discussion of Triduum services
- **Outreach (Ecumenism)** – Ginny Raviotta
 - Verbal Report.
 - **Feedback about Tithing.** People have connected with Ginny to say they would like an update about tithing and an announcement in the bulletin regarding allocations and to which charities. Currently awaiting mission statement approval to follow tithing with mission intention.
- **Parish Life** – Dr. Ellen Lawson
 - Verbal report.
 - 25th Anniversary Deacon Mike to be held on 5/16 at 5:00 pm Mass and a meal to celebrate. Joe and Ellen are helping to coordinate celebration efforts.
 - Planning for Feast of St. Eugene
 - Planning for next parish council meeting to be at Ellen's home.
- **ACS** – Michael McCauley
 - No report.

VII. Open Issues

- **Finance Committee Update** –
 - 6-month report to Parish Council – Father Sabastian to send request to committee.
 - Diocesan Philanthropic Initiative to occur in October. Deacon Mike is leading the group.
 - Ginny will follow up with Karen Bradley to email Father to request \$600.00 check that was approved by the council vote for the Walking with Moms in Need (WWMIN) Ministry discretionary funds allocation.
- **Columbarium expansion:**
 - New Diocesan guidelines have been issued, allowing expansion and maintenance. On this Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Dying, Bishop Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv., promulgated new *Diocesan Norms for the Governance and Stewardship of Cemeteries and Columbaria*. Terry provided and reviewed a handout highlighting Part II. General Diocesan norms for sacred space and environment and Part V. Free-standing Columbaria request, operations, Care & Maintenance
 - Father asked for a deacon and 2 council members to serve on an advisory board to discern needs and make a request. Volunteers and recommendations included: Deacon Jon, Terry, Ginny Raniotta, Mary Selby, Walkiria, and Todd Wilson.

VIII. New Business –

- **Catholic Charities Fundraising dinner 5/21/26.** Father has a table for 8 people. Pastoral council members are welcome to join the table. Please contact Father through the office staff, if you would like to attend.
- **Parish Fund Raising:**
 - Father wrote to Monsignor Winlo giving reasons to fund the sanctuary revision, parking lot and roof replacement. Father sent a pastoral plan. The next step is a meeting with the Diocese to set the plan using templates.
 - Father read letter of accommodation and requests were approved with conditions: Submit master site plan by June 1; combine capital campaign; pastoral planning process; meet with the Bishop in 2027.
 - Letter was read discussing combined capital campaign. A summary guide was provided. There will be an October 27th meeting held to meet with the parish leadership, clergy, parish staff, parish council, and finance council. The mission statement will help to explain the template responses. Need to collect more details on the projects and master site plan.
 - Subcommittee volunteers top plan for the June master site plan submission and an August meeting to plan for October meeting included: Joe, Terry, Nathan, Abel and Betty Lynn (if she is in town).
- **Suggestion Box -Laurie Zone-Smith**
 - There was 1 suggestion submitted from the suggestion box and 2 suggestions submitted online.
 - Closed caption in church as others- most Baptist churches have them. Difficult to offer without screens and the current state is no screens allowed per Diocese. Review the AV guidelines to verify.
 - Barbara Hinton suggested for Eucharistic Ministers - move the sanitizer holder to the bottom stair area to avoid up and down the steps with slippery hands for safety. Council agreed to a great safety suggestion and is easy to do and is an easy fix. 98% of sanitizer alcohol should dry fast. Joe and Nathan will create a holder at the end of the brick wall to avoid steps; Nathan will address and check the fire code as well.
 - Patrick & Annemarie Clancy offered a suggestion/follow up about Columbaria. Bishop Michael Martin's comments in the Catholic News Herald were encouraging with new policies asked for Father and the parish council to move forward with opening additional sections of the Columbaria to allow parishioner's cremated remains to be interred at St. Eugene. There is much discussion by the council on this topic, and Ginny Raviotta will follow up with the Clancy family.

IX. Closing Prayer – Father Sabastian

X. Adjournment – Abel @ 8:33 pm

XI. Next Council meeting: Thursday, June 11 (New council meeting induction); to be held at Ellen's home at 6:00 pm; Bring a dish to pass; families of council members are welcome.