



ST EUGENE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

2025-2026

Asheville, NC



Meeting Minutes August 20th, 2025

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

I. Call to Order – Joe Stritch

- a. Called to order at 6:03pm

II. Opening Prayer – Father Sebastian

III. Welcome and Introductions – Joe Stritch

- a. *Special Welcome, Father Sebastian* – Ginny presented a gift to Father Sebastian of a Stoll with label from St. Eugen's Parish embroidery from the parish council and date.
- b. *Parish council introduced* themselves and shared experience at the parish involvement, and their families.
- c. *Welcome new Council members:* Vanessa, Nathan, Betty Lynne, and Ellen. Joe held an orientation for the new members a month ago.

IV. Approval of Minutes from last meeting (6.24.25) - Joe Stritch

- a. *Correction:* Dr. Dan Frayne was unable to attend.
- b. *Minutes were approved.*

V. **Commissions:**

a. Building and Facilities – Joe Stritch

- i. *Joe provided a written report.*
- ii. *One opening to this commission.* Nathan Lawrence offered to be the liaison for this commission.
- iii. *HVAC* – all new 13 units within the parish have been replaced this year. New company – Sheer Comfort. 13 units connected to the internet for monitoring. Thermostat red buttons will have plastic covers added. 4 units without protection around the fins need cover mesh guards for protection and efficiency.
- iv. *Roof* – Patching a few months ago was effective. No leaks in summer rains. Most leaks were under solar panels, critter access into the roof shingles and underlayment, which will be mitigated in the fall using wire mesh in the solar panel grid. Life 3-5 years before replacement. When the roof is replaced will require the removal and re-installation of solar panels.
- v. *Solar panels* - Existing 147 solar panels- significant monthly electricity savings; at roof replacement, solar panels will be 15 years old. Review with a study for next-gen solar panels when the roof is replaced.
- vi. *Verizon contract* – significant income to the parish; In negotiations with Verizon for a new contract, would like to renew the lease.
- vii. *Sanctuary Beautification* – project is live but on pause at this time; it is part of the 5-year plan developed by the steering committee to submit to the diocese.
- viii. *Asheville Catholic School* – new sloped roof installed over the gym by Benton Roofing, replacing a 20-year flat roof. The new roof provides positive water drainage. The ACS Roof over the middle school has been retaining water due to poor drainage. Benton Roofing added width to existing drains and added 3 more for increased drainage that will redirect to an adjacent roof that is dumping into the middle school gutters. This work will extend its life by 10-15 years.
- ix. *5-year Building & Facilities Plan* – all major building and facilities investments planned in the next 5 years are incorporated into the plan and have been submitted to the diocese for approval.

b. Education & Formation – Abel Lomeli-Garcia

- i. *Faith Formation* – FF registration open since 6.22 and ends 8.24.25 (Last day to sign up.) 200 youth signed up (K-12) K-5 = 106; middle = 66; high school =30. Last year, 340 students. We are expecting procrastinators.
- ii. *High school youth minister open part-time* 20 hours a week. If you know of anyone interested, reach out to Amy Arias-Cordova at faithformation@gmail.com.
- iii. *Communication with parents* – Utilizing “Remind” text messaging (cancellations, last-minute changes due to weather)
- iv. *First day of FF weekend of 9.7.* Sunday K-5 10:20-11:20; high school Sunday evening 4-5:30; Middle school- Monday 6:30-7:45

- v. *Confirmation mass* 10.27.25 at 6:30 pm- open for anyone to attend, arrive early for parking.
- c. Evangelization & Communications – Open Liaison position
 - i. *Major activity* was the evaluation of our website to improve and modernize.
 - ii. *Focus areas*: Bulletin Boards; Facebook; Hispanic translation and interpretation, ministry fair, online giving, parish website, welcoming of new parishioners
 - iii. *Vanessa volunteered*. She is interested and would like to be the liaison. She would like to add Instagram. *Betty Lynne volunteered* and has a background in journalism and marketing and offered to participate as well. Mechelle is working on the website as well. Council members will support Mechelle. She has requested information, such as commission reports, to add to the website and ministries' activities. Vanessa and Betty Lynne are to meet with Mechelle.
- d. Liturgy & Worship – Rev Dr. Michael Zboyovski
 - i. *Quarterly liturgy commission meeting* Monday this week.
 - ii. *Adoration chapel security* while in prayer and the Blessed Sacrament. Key pad # changed at the office. Rick and Terry (security team) support. There is interest in having partitions or an accordion wall in the day chapel attached to the church.
 - iii. *Eucharistic ministers/lectors* – involvement with youth, invitation to participate, personal ask to youth to participate.
 - iv. *Sacristans at each mass*- would like a couple to be a team with primary lead; update procedures and refresh. (e.g. 15 minutes before mass check in for covered roles and meeting in prayer). To be distributed and refresh communication with all in ministries. Choir is here early and accommodates parking to be here early.
 - v. *Preaching schedule*: Deacon John mentioned Father Sebastian asked to preach 1 weekend a month; Preach the entire weekend; 1st Sunday of the month Father Sebastian; 2nd weekend Deacon John; 3rd Sunday Father Sebastian; 4th Sunday Deacon Mike. Visiting priests preach at the mass they are presiding over.
 - vi. *Reconciliation* – Acknowledging large numbers on Saturday, one hour with a long line after 1 hour is complete; possibly add time in the week. List in the bulletin the reconciliation sacrament times at local churches. Deacon Mike will talk about Father's scheduling with Mechelle.
 - vii. *Eucharistic ministers* – meeting on 8.28.25 at 6:30 pm.

- e. Outreach (Ecumenism) – Ginny Raviotta
 - i. *Ministries under the commission* include Catholic Charities, Diocese of Charlotte, Community Tithing, Ecumenical prayer service, KOC, Prison ministry, Refugee Ministry, Sharing Sunday, Sing with Sister Anita's Friends, St. Vincent De Paul and Nurse Outreach.
 - ii. *Dr. Ellen Lawson offered to co-lead* the outreach and Ecumenism Commission with Ginny.
 - iii. *Bereavement Ministry*: Planning annual hope for the holidays - Saturday, 11.15.25 at 2:30 pm for the bereaved who have lost loved ones this year.
- f. Parish Life – MaryEllen Shephard (Written report submitted.)
 - i. *Parish Picnic* – 8.24.25
 - ii. *Eucharistic ministers* meeting with Father Sebastian in the sanctuary 8.28.25 at 6:30 pm
 - iii. *Ministry leaders meeting* 6 pm-8pm social hall with MaryEllen Shephard and Father Sebastian 9.11.25
 - iv. *Potluck dinner* 9.18.25 6-8 pm social hall for parish council; church provides main dish and beverages. Identify the speaker. Hopefully Father Sebastian to be the speaker.
 - v. *Coffee and Doughnuts*, all masses except 7:30 am, September 6-7, 2025, weekend, and 9.16-17.2025, weekend. 1st and 3rd weekends. Need support to lead the doughnuts and coffee. Confirmation class to assist. Requirements for FF for service hours to participate in the parish in the ministries, serving as lectors, helping with doughnuts and coffee, etc.

VI. Commission Discussion

- a. *Ellen's recommendations*: Name tags for Council members. Joe will talk with Mechelle about name tags. The parish hall dinner has a Parish Council table.
- b. *Joe's Recommendation*: Asheville Catholic School Liaison - consider a commission liaison to the school from the parish council. There are no responsibilities to know their mission, needs, priorities, and focus is to know how we can support the Board of Directors at the school. Laura Palmiri is the chair of the school board. Lots of activities to work together. Laura to visit the parish council, and the parish council rep can participate in the school board meeting that meets every 2nd Wednesday. Review commission documents to see if this role fits into a commission, and if not, a guest to the council. Also, consider adding guests to the Parish council agenda if they would like to present.
- c. *Attendance at Parish Council*: Anyone may attend the parish council as an observer. If you would like to present a request to be added to the agenda for time to speak, you must do so by requesting time via the chair. Joe cautioned on expectations. Place on the agenda to report out. Michael MacCauley offered to be the liaison to ACS.
- d. *Commission reports*: Commission leaders will submit 1 1-page written summary for attachments to minutes. Please send Laurie the e-copy of the commission report summaries to add to the minutes.

VII. Open Issues

- a. *Parish Planning Finance* – Terry Ryan
 - i. Annual financial summary in progress.
 - ii. Church audit conducted – issues under review (e.g., church/school and diocese). The diocese sends out an audit team to review and close books.
 - iii. *Target date present*: September meeting.

VIII. New Business

a. *Suggestion Process Revision* – Joe Stritch

- i. Joe shared written new business proposals: Joe requested feedback on all proposals.

1. *Commission Ministry Leaders Invited to Parish Council Proposal*– one commission per month- liaison coordinates starting in September, Oct/Dec/Jan/Feb, March. Mutual introductions, face-to-face with Father Sebastain and Council. Share ministry scope/mission/current focus/support needs; 15-minute timeframe; provide 1-page summary for minutes.
2. *Parish Council Transparency Proposal*– Provide visibility to the parish as to what the Parish Council is and does. Proposed: Quarterly “State of the Parish” may be in the sanctuary, council would open with a presentation outlining our priorities, decisions, actions, statuses, along with future project potential. Then open the floor for parishioner Q&A.
3. *St. Eugene Suggestion Process Proposal*
 - a. Create a formal suggestion form with optional inclusion of contact info for council response; Joe provided an example of the Parish Suggestion Form and requested feedback.
 - b. create suggestion email or website, sending copies to council secretary, create live history/record of submitted suggestions with record of suggestions received.
 - c. Post the pastoral council on the bulletin board every month.
4. *Parishioner Request report on “Friendship” Garden* – Suggest same as above Commission Ministry Leader Invite to Parish Council, provide scope, mission, current focus/support needs; this would be the Peace & Justice Commission to report on the “Friendship Garden”.

- b. *Farewell - Frank and Becky Dosier* are leaving to go to the Raleigh area. Deacon Mike asked if we could do something nice for them as a farewell. Recommendations: Upon their return, present a thank you for all they have done for the parish, such as draft a letter that Father could sign in recognition, Father Sebastian do a blessing for years of service, and a cake if they are here for a future mass.

c. Suggestion Box - Laurie Zone-Smith

i. 7 suggestions presented.

1. *Parish Picnic* – think of ways we can integrate single people and those new to the parish. – Referred to Parish Life Commission /Family Life Commission.
2. *Music at 11:30 am Sunday mass* - How can we get more audience singing participation? Can we have screens with the words? - Referred to the Liturgy & Worship Commission /Music ministry to review.
3. *Confession 5:30 mass: long lines (this is a good thing); available by appointment, could another time be offered, or a communal healing service.* – Referred to the Liturgy & Worship Commission.
4. *Sanctuary Window Screens- Understand reasons related to blinding light to choir or pianist, but can we find something better that doesn't block out natural light, such as polarized light screens to block glare, but can see through.* – Referred to the Facilities Commission.
5. *Parish Council 2025-2026 membership: Share with the Parish the new members of the council in the bulletin or update the church website. With names, photos and a couple of sentences about each member (background, how long a parishioner, goals for the term)* – Referred to the Evangelization and Communications Commission.
6. *Silence before masses – Requesting no talking in the presence of the Eucharist before masses.* Referred to the Liturgy Commission.
7. *Hymnal Number Board - can the board be moved behind the organ a foot higher, not visible to congregation?* – Referred to Facilities Commission.

IX. **Adjournment** – Joe Stritch at 8:07pm

Next Meeting: September 10th at 6:00 pm in Parish Hall

Next meeting: October 22nd at 6:00 (3rd Wednesday)