Parish Council Minutes
10 September 2026

Call to order 6pm – Terry Ryan

In attendance:
Father Sabastian, Terry Ryan, Peter Olynick, Ginny Raviotta, Daniel Frayne, Betty Leary, Nathan Lawrence, Ellen Lawson, Yazmin Maldonado, Jose Jimenez

Opening Prayer/Reflection – Ginny Raviotta, Focus on St. Francis

Notes from Father – working on Vision/Mission Statement and Action Plans, would like completed ASAP

Adoption of Minutes – Motion made by Peter Olynick to approve minutes from August meeting, second offered by Ellen Lawson, all in favor, motion passed

Communication & Evangelization Commission Report – presented by Betty Leary
Review of recent suggestions and the follow up provided by different council members.
Peter Olynick asked who supplies information to the office for the bulletin each week. He asked about possibly removing the military list and the "pray for" list to make room for other information. Terry suggested that Peter, Betty and Vanessa review this together and report back in October on options.

Commissions – Terry asked each council member to identify which commission they plan to support. Please send Terry and Paula an email with your choice. Attendees at the meeting noted their choices:
Yazmin – Education & Formation Commission
Dan – Liturgy & Worship
Jose, Terry, and Nathan – Buildings & Facilities
Ginny – Outreach
Ellen – Parish Life
Peter and Betty – Communication & Evangelization
Father suggested combining Evangelization with Outreach, he also wants a separate commission for reaching out to the homebound with communion; could be a "community ministry" – Terry will look into this and incorporate into the by-laws which are very outdated.
Father and Ginny both noted that the by-laws need to be reviewed, approved and signed by Father – Terry to handle this

Vision/Mission Statement – Terry passed out copies of the latest revisions to the Vision/Mission Statement and Action Plans, the announcement will be made soon at mass about this and uploaded to the website.

Action Plans – We'll need to figure out who on the council will act on the action plans, Terry noted that we have to help make these happen and spearhead what is written in the action plan.

Charities – Each person at the meeting was asked which charities were suggested to them in conversations with parishioners. These included Catherine's House, Haywood Street Respite, Pisgah Legal, Abiding Hope, Ascend Women's Center, pregnancy/baby support groups,

Homeward Bound, St. Eugene childcare (there is no childcare available for St. Eugene classes/events)
Terry suggested the child care issue seems more like a commission project for Parish Life, not a "charity" and he asked Yazmin to put together a plan for making this happen and to present the plan at the next council meeting. Father also suggested getting certification for anyone providing child care.

Discussion on charities continued with Father noting he would want to support organizations that lead people to Christ as well as feeding the hungry, not supporting organizations that aren't christian. Dan wants to clarify the criteria, such as, do we only support charities in Buncombe County?
The vote was tabled until next month's meeting when Terry will have created a ballot for council members to vote.

Parish Council Retreat – Father wants to do a 2-3 hour retreat on a Saturday morning, Nathan suggested November timeframe; would need a facilitator. Terry will send out an email telling people dates to consider and would need a project lead from the council.

Finance Committee – Terry contacted Erica from the finance committee about coming to the council meeting but has not heard back from her. Father notes that there has been some turnover on the office staff, but we have a new bookkeeper who is an accountant, and she is learning the church's systems and software. Mechelle is helping train and get her up to speed.

Eucharistic Congress – The bus is on line for the Eucharistic Congress trip on Saturday morning leaving at 6am.

New Business – Daycare offering during events/classes, Yazmin said that there is confusion during confession on Wednesday evenings as to how people are to line up in the pews. She also noted that most of the bulletin and website are in English with little Spanish provided. Terry suggested Dan chair a committee to address these issues – Bilingual Integration Committee

The Asheville Catholic School principal is coming to the October parish council meeting and will have 15 minutes to talk at the end of the meeting. The next meeting is October 8, reflection will be by Noe Valdez, and the Outreach Commission report will be presented by Ginny Raviotta.

Father suggested organizing something for the youth of the parish, a concert perhaps; Dan suggested asking Amy to work on this as she knows the youth and likely has contacts. The Parish Life Commission will contact Amy to discuss.

Father will be out of town from September 17-Oct 1. He has a priest filling in for him. Next weekend he will be offering mass at Givens Gerber Park.

The capital campaign is ongoing and going well.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm