

ST. BARNABAS PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2025

Present: Fr. Gerardo Carcar, Rachel Borden, Nancy Melcher, Terry Starns, Kathleen Dagenhardt, Jeff Stanislawski, Larry Horning, Vicky Quezada, Ginger Ryback, Sr. Bernadette, Kitty Klein
The meeting was opened at 6:37 p.m. by Rachel. Ginger gave an opening prayer.

Father spoke of a recent Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article by Sophie Carson about Rev. Lisa Bates-Froiland at Redeemer Lutheran church in downtown Milwaukee. With the help of generous donations, she revitalized the parish and turned it from maintenance to mission, making it responsive to the needs of the neighborhood by offering a meal program and onsite mental health clinic. As a result, membership has increased. He stated that we can learn something from that in our effort to also move from maintenance to mission.

Father reported that Dave Leukam resigned from Parish Trusteeship. Fr. asked Kathleen to complete Dave's term that would expire on June 30, 2026. He praised Dave's help at St. Rita's over the years and especially during the merger process to become St. Barnabas.

Father talked about the pending sale of St. Rita and announced a Town Hall meeting on Sept. 28 at St. Rita's after 9:00 a.m. Mass to update everyone. There will be no 10:30 Mass at H.A.

Father also reported that the staff is moving to the ground floor of the convent, and many of the commissions have moved into classrooms in the school on the first floor. The second floor is rented out for before-and after-school daycare.

Father noted that the Renovation Committee met with the architects and liturgists to begin planning the transformation of Holy Assumption site.

Larry gave a financial report and said the results were about the same as last year. There were repair expenses, but also Covid credits that evened things out. The festival lost a little money; weather was the probable cause, but the community came together to work and play.

The sale of St. Rita property is pending approval.

Richardson School renewed their contract at SA until November of 2026. Larry said the same broker is being used for the SA property as is used for SR property.

Kathleen reported that the eCIO group was selected as the investment group for St. Barnabas, as they specialize in non-profits. An investment policy will be developed and things will be moved from Wells Fargo.

Reports were given on Commission meetings attended by Council liaisons.

Nancy and Rachel attended Human Concerns and said that the activities under that commission deal with the hunger and homeless issues in West Allis. They wanted to acknowledge the contributions of the commission and were touched by their enthusiasm to reach out person-to-person to meet the needs. The group would benefit from direction and encouragement.

Jeff reported on the Service Commission. He said Rachel and he have been working to get the individual groups to recognize that they are part of the bigger picture of service to those who are homeless or poor in West Allis.

Ginger suggested bulletin blurbs to publicize what activities take place as a result of the commissions' efforts. Knowledge may inspire parishioners how they can best help.

Sister wondered how we can market ourselves. She noted that we have social activities like the fish fry and card socials that bring people together.

Nancy answered that by partnering with the city association on some projects, they will do the advertising and possibly provide funding. We need to provide the meeting space and workers.

Rachel noted that the social media is run by volunteers, but that the communications department of the city can educate us.

Vicky reported that the Hispanic Ministry helps the parish by collecting aluminum cans to provide funds for the Food Pantry, trains servers and lectors for the Spanish Mass, cleans HA church on the last Friday of each month. She said that they would welcome a few English speaking people for that task too.

She said that she would like others to know the reasons for the celebration of the Day of the Dead, and the meaning behind the symbols used. She would like to share the reason for the importance to Hispanic people of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the importance and relevance of the Posada tradition.

Vicky also wondered how we can honor Veterans. Suggestions were made to have a celebratory Mass and lunch near Veterans' Day, or a special blessing at the end of each weekend Mass.

Jeff said there will be some educational programs about Hispanic celebrations scheduled for all.

Sister noted that there is a need for more teachers for the Blooming Catholics program, and also there are more students who have special needs, so there needs to be more adults helping.

Someone suggested requesting help from local Catholic high school students.

Kitty reported on the Liturgy Commission: choir rehearses at a different site each week and then sings together at the weekend Mass at that location if possible. On the fourth weekend, each goes wherever they wish.

Nancy is involved with the City Center Neighborhood Association and has gotten a wealth of information on connecting St. Barnabas parish with city activities.

She is our representative for the Archdiocesan Deanery, which is being restructured under Archbishop Grob.

She was selected as a Board member of the Community Impact Partnership and Foundation of West Allis.

Father led the closing prayer.

Adjournment was at 8:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Klein