

ST. BARNABAS PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 29, 2025

Present: Fr. Gerardo Carcar, Rachel Borden, Nancy Melcher, Terry Starns, Kathleen Dagenhardt, Jeff Stanislawski, Larry Horning, Ginger Ryback, Sr. Bernadette, Kitty Klein

Guest: Kevin Bourassa

Rachel noted that Vicky Quezada left the parish.

The meeting was opened at 6:34 p.m. by Rachel.

Kitty led the prayer.

Father spoke of the final Mass at St. Rita on November 23, the short timeframe and the many details that need to be accomplished before then. Archbishop Grob will be the main celebrant, and it will be bilingual.

Fr. invited Kevin to the meeting, as Kevin had asked for help from Council regarding the closing. Kevin suggested that a legacy document be created as a memorial for those attending. He said Pat Rogutich will assemble a pictorial revue of parish activities for viewing at the reception following Mass. Hospitality/Stewardship will be involved with the reception planning.

Ginger, Rachel and Nancy will work on getting a laminated photo of the St. Rita window, with a timeline of the history of the parish on the reverse side. These would be given as memorials to attendees. Kitty suggested that small cards be available as remembrances, with a photo of the St. Rita window and a prayer on the reverse. Jeff will provide the 75th anniversary book, and the three recent parish directories to aid in creating the timeline.

Larry reported on the CFS (Confidential Financial Statement) that is required by the Archdiocese. He said the first quarter that ended in September was a little behind projection because of the festival, expenses were a little more, but that we were not too far behind and it was not worrisome.

Retreat followup was omitted because of planning for the last Mass at St. Rita.

Commission reports:

Nancy noted that Human Concerns and St. Vincent de Paul showed an openness to community engagement, especially since many of them were at the Community Conversation meeting last week. They are eager to serve, just need direction. Homelessness and flood relief are the most pressing needs. There was confusion about the change in name of the Hospitality/Stewardship commission. Sister commented that Hospitality thought their only role was coffee and donuts after Liturgy, when in fact, they were doing much more. After explanation from Rachel, some understood their role better. More volunteers are needed and Ginger will be joining them. For the weekend of Veterans' Day, a blessing will be given to Veterans at Mass at Holy Assumption, followed by a social time with a snack.

Nancy said they decided that the collection for St. Rose will be dropped after the closure of St. Rita because there was never a close connection between the two parishes. She also said the Giving Tree will continue at the two sites and a new recipient of the Tree's gifts was found.

Jeff said the architects questioned the future uses of the buildings that are part of Holy Assumption site. He wondered if part of the convent should be opened as a warming shelter for winter. The parish was asked if it was possible to rent the school for a shelter after school hours. Father reminded us that we do not have the certified staff to operate such a facility. Jeff suggested if someone is close to Fr. Matt, to contact him to find out what is involved in opening/running a warming shelter. (Fr. Matt helped open a shelter in Fond du Lac.) Father reminded us that the commissions need planning and evaluation to carry out their missions properly. Everything must be evaluated to see if it is fulfilling the needs of the parish and community. Staff is asked to perform a tremendous amount of work to align our parish with our mission of evangelization.

Kitty reported on the activities of the Worship commission. The last Mass (bilingual) at St. Rita will be Nov. 23. Postcards have been printed for distribution to all, a slide show will be shown at the reception. A new Mass schedule will be in the bulletin following the closure. Discussion was held about retaining some of the practices, such as Rosary before Mass, Adoration, etc.

Jeff brought up the fact that there seems to be no succession planning for any of our commissions and activities that are being led by older members. He said that the architects need to know how much space each needs and what the plans are for their future. Will some buildings be re-purposed or torn down? The architects need to know the plans for these groups. Father reiterated the need for planning and continual evaluation of our programs.

Ginger said there is a website, "FORMED", that has a series of videos on leadership and suggested that it might be a good idea to get people together to watch and discuss the videos. She said that a Bible Study series was scheduled for January. Father and some others noted that they would not be able to attend on Monday nights.

Nancy said that since the Deanery program was restarted by our new archbishop, we need two representatives. She is the only one currently on it. She reminded us that the next Community Conversation was Nov. 17 at SA site.

Next meeting of Council is Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Father led the closing prayer.

Adjournment was at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Klein