

## ST. BARNABAS PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2026

Present: Fr. Gerardo Carcar, Rachel Borden, Larry Horning, Sr. Bernadette Kele, Nancy Melcher, Ginger Ryback, Jeff Stanislowski, Kathleen Dagenhardt, Terry Starns, Kitty Klein and Sharon Huizenga (Service Director)

The meeting was opened at 6:35 p.m. by Rachel.

Deacon Terry led the prayer.

The minutes from January were approved as printed via email.

Sharon Huizenga gave a report on the activities of the Human Concerns committee including: the Food Pantry, Lenten Rice Bowl collection for Catholic Relief Services, Valentine's Day Have a Heart for the Homeless for the Guest House, May Baby Bottle program for support for families, August School Supply program for Mary Queen of Saints Catholic Academy and West Allis students, the December Giving Tree for St. Vincent de Paul and other service organizations, the ongoing Sleeping Bag, Earth Angels and Peanut Butter and Jelly ministries.

In fall (Sept. 5-6) Sharon would like to have a Ministry Fair so that each program can offer information on what they do and when so that parishioners can volunteer to help. She said that new volunteers are especially desired for the Food Pantry since the current volunteers are overwhelmed by the amount of hours and muscle power needed to serve the poor adequately. She was hoping that information could be posted in the bulletin concerning which days and times volunteers were needed, especially for the gathering and transport of food to the Food Pantry.

She also wants to begin a Ministry to the Homebound, so that those who can no longer come to church will remain connected to the parish.

Father requested that Council find ways to help Sharon with the logistics of all these needs. Sharon, Nancy and Rachel will consult on ways to do that.

Sr. Bernadette said that perhaps we could tap the local Catholic high schools and universities for volunteers to provide help for the Food Pantry, which would give the students service hours.

Father was saddened by the lower numbers participating at Mass (perhaps due to extreme cold recently) and the number of people who left with the sale of St. Rita's site. He is happy about the number of people attending meetings at the Holy Assumption site and the use of the school building for classes. He also admired the work of those who help with the Food Pantry and other ministries that reach out to those who are marginalized. The transition of offices to the HA site is complete and makes staff meetings easier. He is also happy with the custodian and finds Brad Berghouse (Director of Administrative Services) knowledgeable and competent. He was pleased to attend the installation of a new pastor at a local church, extending St. Barnabas' presence in the community.

Nancy will summarize the meetings held by the West Allis Community Conversation group and other meetings at which she represents St. Barnabas, in order to see how we can all work together to improve our community.

Rachel led a brainstorming session on our goals for our ministries. Ideas surfaced about the possibility of having one central location in West Allis for a food pantry that would be open more hours; churches taking turns to serve a hot meal once a week/or month; integrating some of our ministries so there is better collaboration with the community to assess and then meet the needs of the poor; developing a Ministry to the Homebound; incorporating social justice issues into sermons.

The sustainability of the ministries was discussed and Ginger suggested getting the program “Called and Gifted” for use in the parish to grow leadership. She also thought a portable poster with information about various ministries and social activities of our parish would be helpful in getting more volunteers involved. Short fellowship gatherings were suggested for after the Masses, but that presented problems of not enough time between Sunday morning Masses.

The name for the “Hospitality” (versus Stewardship) commission was discussed and the commission decided to keep “Hospitality” at their last meeting.

Father stressed the need for people to feel welcome when they enter our spaces or activities, to feel recognized and accompanied on their faith journey.

Terry wondered if there was a mentor program for new parishioners and spoke of one he was familiar with from past ministry. He shared a model of the program.

Stewardship will be discussed at the March meeting.

Rachel led the closing prayer.

Adjournment was at 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting is March 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kitty Klein