Christ Our Light Unified Pastoral Minutes

Thursday, September 11, 2025 – 7:00 PM
St. Augustine Rectory Basement

Proposed Agenda

1. Prayer & Reflection –

Mark Francis led with our opening prayer. Trevor read a read from Colossians 3:12-17. Erin Niekamp guided the Council with reflection and Council members shared aloud of the spiritual excerpt. The Council offered intercessory prayers for family, friends, community members, and worldly children of God.

2. Beacons of Light Annual Reports for Christ Our Light

Nick offered a breakdown of the Pathway of the Christ Our Light BOL. He identified that there are 2 reports needing to be completed (Annual Report & Family Planning Report).

Annual Planning Report

- The A.R. provides multiple criteria for evaluation pertaining to the "6 Principle Areas" of Beacons of Light. This is strictly for the archdiocesan staff. The archbishop does read this. It allows us to acknowledge the advancements and growth of our family. From our data, several archdiocese staff visited the COL leadership team and offered assistance in what they can do to help us keep moving forward.
- Eucharist: We do have a Director of Worship and have established a family worship commission. Nick feels that we are in a good spot right now. We gather and celebrate the eucharist in a higher percentage of occupancy than other families. One area that we are struggling at is a 50% capacity for one mass (HR 8:00 mass is below benchmark). While this may be slightly under 50% capacity attendances, it has greatly helped the 10:00 overcrowded capacity problem. In comparison, we are still exceeding capacity at many masses that other families are operating at.
- Church: We have a liturgical calendar for all COL parish feast day celebrations. The COL family is trying to keep the identity of each church. Each feast is celebrated in the bulletin. Nick highlighted other areas of strength as well: Minster coffee donut for St Augustine celebration, working with other parish families and bringing communion to hospitals and nursing homes.
- Leadership: Highlights include a unified pastoral council with a unified vision statement. The family as a whole, including our youth, have grasped the value of "Knowing, Loving and Serving God". The family leadership team is working with the archdiocese for building culture within our Family. This requires evaluating our needs and bringing them to light and fruition.
- Stewardship: We are just starting to get off the ground. A Core Stewardship team has been established. The archdiocese has scheduled time to work with our Stewardship team. As a reminder, stewardship is a life-long process that encourages parishioners to identify their God given gifts, be grateful for them, cultivate and use them wisely, share them lovingly in justice with others and return them back to God with increase. In short, Stewardship is the recognition

that all that we are and all that we have are gifts from God and we say thanks to God by returning a portion of our gifts to God and others.

- Evangelization: There are many big areas involved in evangelization. We have a director, Jodie Blindauer. She is in the infant stages of developing a team. She has a large role (CCD, St Monica's Club, First Friday recollection, praying with the Psalms, Our Fathers Father)
- Love in Action: This one area we haven't gotten to. It is a broad principal with no dedicated staff to this area. We do have many activities that pertain to this area: celebrating the diverse background of our parishioners, Helping Hands for COL (service day for helping folks in our community). Some of the key features of this are providing for the poor & needy, respect life, care for the immigrant, bereavement ministry, mission commission. We do not have a specific staff member for this yet.
- Administration and Communication: Leslie Tyler (administration) and Sarah Mescher (communication). Two areas that we are excelling with are fiscal responsibility and offering the sacraments. Fr Ken reports that both areas are in good shape.

Family Planning Report The Family Planning Report provides a summarization of what is happening in our family of parishes, which is dedicated for parishioner knowledge. This report will be published to the parishioners. Nick feels that we are excelling in many areas compared to many other families!! This family report will be modeled off of those families that are excelling as well. It provides a quick synopsis of where we are, and where we are progressing. It also provides a more detailed approach to what is happening (phases, funeral/wedding, financial standings, duration, vision, culture and planning) . A lot could go into this!

3. Christ Our Light Updates

a. Family & Mass Updates

- Religious education classes kicked off last week. The annual youth spirit mass was celebrated by our youth at Chickasaw. This mass rotates throughout each parish annually.
- RCIA has now been renamed OCIA (Order Christians Initiation of Adults). Father was happy to report that we have more than 15 people interested and attending sessions.
- Father attended a workshop dedicated to the spiritual benefits of offertory giving. Nationally giving is unfortunately not keeping up with inflation.
- Next Monday, Archbishop Casey will be in the deanery to meet with clergy and leadership teams.
- CALLED AND GIFTED training will begin for a 6 person team. They will concentrate on the discernment of what our gifts are and what to do with them.
- The family is looking for deacons in the church. Classes will be held in McCartville this year. Pass this along through personal invitation. We are blessed with many deacons in COL, but need to be looking to the future.

b. Staff Updates

- Precious Blood has requested that their mass be moved back to 9:00. St. John and Precious Blood Parish Councils agreed that the PB mass will return to the

9:00 time, and St Johns will move to 11:00am. Next weekend, September 20-21, starts the new schedule.

- Tess Mescher has retired from CRE at Nativity and Julia Tuente will be replacing her.
- Chris Wibbenmeyer resigned from CRE at St. John's and Dana Kugel has been hired.
- St. Augustine/St. Joseph Youth Minister Stacey Lamm resigned, Julie Homan has been hired as coordinator of youth activities.
- Anthony Moeder resigned as music director for St. John's and Precious Blood. Brenda Barhorst has been hired as PB and SJB music director. Brenda comes to our family from St Henry in October. She is a 28 year veteran as a mass organist.
- Jenny Seller has resigned as CRE and youth minister at Holy Redeemer.

c. Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule (see below)

- Has been revamped due to over crowdedness at many masses. Several Masses were moved to 3 PM and one Mass added.

4. Christ Our Light Family of Parishes Events & Updates

Holy Redeemer -

The commissions have all met. A new HVAC is able to be ordered (2- 20 ton units with a quicker installation)

- Additional security cameras will be installed

Marion Catholic Community -

St. Johns- Frank and Kelly Evers are getting together with the Precious Blood committee to organize snow removal. The SJB mass time is moving to 11:00 starting next week. Father provided a brief summary of the insurance statement involving the destructive fire.

St Rose- the Healing Garden has been completed. Everyone is welcome to visit. SR feast day was celebrated in August. Repairs to the office (painting and floor covering) have been completed.

Precious Blood- The parish council will be meeting Oct 6th. They also reported on switching mass times. They discussed an effort to make more parking possible. They are currently investigating required roof work. Stair treads have been replaced. The election in October will receive new members.

Nativity- They will be expanding the gravel lot, but have to work around drainage. There was water in the basement and rectory which will require work to possibly the drainage. The parish picnic moved from the summer to September and doubled their attendance from the previous year. They will also hold PC elections in October.

St Sebastian- They are currently looking into an estimate on brick work. Recently some parts of the roof were replaced. They are also looking into ways of expanding their cemetery as they are close to full capacity.

St. Augustine - The ADA ramp is near completion. The steeple campaign has reached their goal and has ended: 590 donors contributed. They have started on the security system upgrades recently, which included the addition of more cameras.

St. Joseph - They are currently looking into parking lot ideas, as they need more space as well. They are changing bylaws on how members will be elected to the COL unified council.

d. Other concerns/questions

- Father updated the council on the St Johns insurance process. More information is available on the COL website. Mitigation, Rectory, Contents, Church Structure,
- The Church Directory is being printed. Should be here anytime!

5. Concluding Prayer - Beacons of Light Prayer

Abby Moeller read aloud the concluding prayer dedicated thanksgiving to Mary, the Mother of our Church.

6. Next Meeting – Thursday, November 20, 2025 Holy Redeemer

ATTENDANCE

Fr Ken Schnipke	frkencpps@gmail.com
Michelle Ashman	
Nick Wilker	nwilker@christourlightohio.org
Amy Bergman	
Erin Niekamp	
Sue Bruns	
Jenny Albers	
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Tony Homan	
Nate Kirwen	
Mitch Schwieterman	
Trevor Wynk	
Jack Homan	
Abby Moeller	
Pam Meyer	
Linda Baker	
Stacie Enneking	
Cory Ahrens	
Tess Mescher	
Mark Francis	
Adam Koesters	