

ST. MARY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

April 28, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

I. Attendance:

Present: Fr. Brian McGrath, Fr. Jacob Janczyk, Charles Houff, Richard Lacey, Erin Pollard, Bill Fiske, Chad Klapes, Lori Koperek, Holly Cusack (ex officio), Leslee Durfee (ex officio), TJ Ryan (ex officio), Tom Burke

Absent: Jesse Gallego, Zeke Chichester

II. Fr. Jacob led an opening prayer. The group read the Mission Statement together. .

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III. The proposed minutes from the March meeting were reviewed.

IV. The calendar was reviewed for upcoming important events. The Oratory is doing a 25th anniversary at SMC at 4 pm Mass with dinner afterwards on Saturday, July 26.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

Building and Maintenance: New door at the Oratory. It would be great to have a carpenter volunteer to do some of the smaller list items. The front step at the library side needs to be replaced.

St. Joseph's Cemetery : A check was sent for the stone arch pillar. There have been Complaints from a neighbor regarding trees at cemetery abutting their property. We need to remove some of the hemlocks. Bill offered to look and see if he can help with the removal of trees.

Homebound Ministry: No new updates.

Youth and Young Family outreach: No new updates.

Health and Peace: Chad connected with Theresa Reynolds (nurse) who helped to put together a list of support resources for South County.

Latinx Outreach: We had two RCIA candidates of Latinx heritage this year and their whole families have been attending Mass regularly. Chad will consult with Jesse as to How we can reach out to more families.

Time, Talent, Treasure: Erin and Chad are planning TTT weekend on September 13 and 14th after each of the Masses. We will need speakers at each Mass. Leslee will add to master calendar. We will finalize flyers and coordinate with Richard in Stockbridge and Otis so they can share materials as well.

Murder Mystery Dinner: Bill. Libby sent the proposed menu to Bill. They are working on finalizing the menu. Libby will coordinate linens, table settings etc with KOC and map out

where tables need to be placed.

Walk with One: Evangelization program. . Fr. Brian and Erin will work on finalizing this Summer. We have materials. Chad will get the materials organized. We can piggyback with the TTT weekend to talk to Parishoners.

Website: Chad is working with Leslee and adding photos and redesigning. They are going to add some more photos and finish links.

Parish Council membership: Tom Burke is attending tonight's meeting. He is considering joining the Council.

Faith Formation: TJ submitted the calendar for next year. Coming to the conclusion of this years classes. First Communion ceremony is this Saturday at 9 am. The Confirmation rehearsal at St. Agnes last night went very well. The KOC gave gifts to the Confirmandi. Enrollment is online and ready for next years sign ups on the website. Overall, attendance was better this year. The 6-8 grade group is the largest right now. Chad stated bible study went well. There were regular attendees who were very engaged. We had non-parents of FF students in attendance as well.

.VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Eucharistic procession planning: Ken Hoffa has met with Fr. Brian. We need to finalize a date..

Pro-Life Ministry:

Lori is helping to coordinate rosaries before Saturday Masses. Pro-life dinner and March for Life are other items that new head should help organize.

Church Picnic: Lori reached out to Libby regarding having a picnic this summer and felt Like it was too late this year, we should organize for 2026. We should pick a date for next July.

Food Pantry: Lori. Doing well at new location. Serving 50-60 families every week.

We have a new person for music in Otis. Maryann Palermo is a guitarist from Sheffield whose daughter and three grandchildren attend Mass regularly in Otis.

-Fr. Brian said a closing prayer.

-The next meeting will be Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm. The Council BBQ will be on June 16th.

Submitted by Erin Pollard