

# Our Lady of Victory/Our Lady of Snow Minutes

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September 3, 2019 6:30pm Our Lady of Victory Parish Office Conference Room

Meeting called by	David Benjamin (President)	Attendees Fr. Patterson, Fr. Bellafiore, David Benjamin, Julie Darling, Adrienne Villano, Chuck Ciaccia, Brian Lewis, Chris Carroll, Sharon Ryan, Warren Dolan, Peter Ogno, Mary Wootten, Connie Steinbach, Antoinette Sanders
Type of meeting	Pastoral Council	
Facilitator	David Benjamin	
Note taker	Adrienne Villano (Secretary)	
		Excused: Kim Loccisano, Sara Detmer
		Absent:
		Guest(s): Vici Armsby, Thomas Cronin

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## OPENING PRAYER – EVANGELIZATION PRAYER

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**Approve April Minutes – Peter Ogno & Chris Carroll**

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➤ **Agenda topic – Evangelization, Tom Cronin**

Introduction of Thomas Cronin, Advisor to the Bishop for Family & Parish Evangelization  
Tom has spent 24 years as a parishioner at St. Joseph's in Greenfield Center, 10 years on Parish Council; is very active in the parish community

Tom thanked all who volunteer for Parish

Tom to throw out a couple concepts

Tom has been to 96 parishes meeting all

Tom – “What is evangelization? Simply, sharing the good news with spreading the joy of Gospel.”

Tom has been sharing his ‘contagious joy of love of Jesus’.

Tom asks, “How do you do it?”

#1 – Evangelization is everyone’s job by our baptismal calling. We need to challenge each other to be modern day disciples.

#2 – Evangelization is very personal, everyone evangelizes differently

David – not what expected but not what haven't heard before

Tom – Evangelization is simple, but not easy

Parish cultures are going to make or break future success

Tom has been to parishes that have no joy, are just a group of people fulfilling their Sunday obligation.

Tom – not here to create an evangelization or diocesan program which is personal and unique  
What are your challenges?

Evangelization is never ceasing, never ending

Maintenance versus mission

Don't think of us as parishioners of OLV/OLS – think: "We are the Catholics of Troy".

Tom – 4 Evangelization Pillars:

#1 – Prayer: Do we underestimate the power of prayer?

How often do we pray for those who have fallen away?

You cannot have successful evangelization without the power of the Holy Spirit...the power the Holy Spirit has.

Ask – How do I pray more deeply? How do I pray for our church?

We are in the business of healing.

#2 – Relationship: Relationship with Jesus, relationship with ourselves. Bring others into a relationship with Jesus

There is a difference between knowing *about* Jesus and knowing Jesus

#3 – Faith, Fortitude: Do we have the fortitude to share our faith?

Be opportunistic when have interaction with someone...Instead of saying, "I'll keep you in my prayers."

Say, "Could we say a prayer together?" or "Can I give you a prayer card."

#4 – Welcoming: Be welcoming

Need to have a critical self-assessment of ourselves - view as an outsider

Challenge all to think

Greeters need to greet as if welcoming into own home

Ushers need to usher and be helpful – not police

Every interaction matters

"A parish is a family of families"

Mary Wootten told story of her kids being loud at Mass

Julie – Thank you

Acquisition & Retention – It is 7 times more expensive to retain than acquisition

When we recognize that someone is missing, do we do anything?

If someone is missing for 4 or 5 weeks, call them

Parish Council members are the leaders of the Parish

Hospitality is so important!

Book – ‘From Maintenance to Mission: Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish’ by Robert S. Rivers

Tom, “If you have Jesus in your heart, show it on your face.”

### ➤ **Agenda topic – Summit Planning**

Chris – Marni is not available on date selected, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Nancy to replace.

Title of the Summit: ‘Live, Pray, Tell’

There will be activities on storytelling

Volunteers are needed for set-up

Chris asked if anyone knows a musician. Any type of musician. Marjorie is only available for first hour

Would like to announce soon to build excitement so perception changes from having to give up a Saturday

Time for set-up is 8am, Summit time is 9am to 12pm

How to advertise?

Chris would like to speak with Sara

Vici mentioned that the September 15<sup>th</sup> bulletin is now being printed

Does Nancy have a storytelling blurb?

Nancy will be very helpful, engaging

Ask yourselves, “Do my friends know I’m a Christian?”

Maureen Cox has volunteered as AV operator

### ➤ **Agenda topic – Pastor’s Report**

Father Patterson – enjoyed proposals on title of Summit

This summer:

- a new air conditioning unit was installed, Chuck was instrumental in accomplishing
- new boys and girls restrooms, new staff restroom.

All possible through Reigniting Faith

The gym floor was also refinished; routine maintenance which is part of annual anticipated expenditures

Welcome to new members: Father Bellafiore, Connie Steinbach & Antoinette Sanders

### ➤ **Agenda topic – Ear to the Ground / New Business**

Sharon – Eucharistic Adoration will be Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12:30-1:30pm Time changed to accommodate OLS members

Brian suggested to change time to 12:40 for exit of those leaving 11:30am Mass

Vici – New Parent Faith Formation Board meeting September 26<sup>th</sup>

Julie – Has 6 tickets for the Find Your Greatness event @ \$12.50  
Vici reminded tickets are now \$25

Food Pantry – Peter went with son, Lucas  
Sharon was there one morning until 10:30am, there were about 5 families  
Julie – We are now members of the Regional Food Bank. And go weekly to Capital Roots in Troy to get fresh fruits and veg for guests. The program that serves us is Squash Hunger which is not affiliated with the Regional Food Bank.

Every couple weeks they get a new family  
They have a great rapport with returning people  
Transportation is difficult for people  
Question: Is the other food pantry at the Senior Center being affected? No, they are not in competition  
Food pantry is NYS grant eligible to \$2,000 credit  
Julie did state that storage is a problem as they cannot use the basement

Chuck is starting a Bible Timeline which is Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00pm last one being March 19<sup>th</sup>, There are three sing-ups

Chris Carroll read excerpt from “The Time Is Now, A Call to Uncommon Courage” by Joan Chittister  
Would it be possible to give out book? Due to budget discussions, no. People would have to pay

**Meeting adjourned**

**Closing prayer**

**Next meeting:           October 1, 2019**