

Tri-Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

October 21st, 2025

6:30-8:00PM

St. Joseph Parish Center

Minutes recorded by Mackenzie Hewitt

**Attendance:** Fr. Jim (P), Fr. Ryan (P), Sr. Janeth (P), Magali Barajas (P)

**Trustees:** Mary Henningfield (P), Don Siehoff (P), Barb Bakshis (NP), Terri Newbury (P), Bob O'Neill (NP), John Gabaldo (NP)

**Pastoral Council Members:** Maddy Miller (P), Mackenzie Hewitt (P), Megan Cash (P), Julie Mermal (P), Michelle Pederson (P), Janna Tichenor (P), Joe Dedick (P), Holly Reesman (P), Laura Freeburn (NP)

**Guests:** None

Maddy Miller opened the meeting, prayer read by all, followed by spontaneous prayer by all.

Mission Statement read by all.

**Approved of September minutes:** Approved with no edits

**Standing Committee Reports:**

(Reminder to Liaisons to inform their committee secretaries to send the approved meeting minutes to each parish so they can post them on their websites.)

Liaisons need to report only significant information that needs feedback from the Council.

\*\*\*Send your minutes to Secretary (Mackenzie) so they can be sent out and viewed by PC members prior to our meeting

**Worship/Liturgy liaison Michelle Pederson:**

- No meeting to report on

**Human Concerns liaison Holly Reesman:**

- Fr. Ryan solicited ideas for who should be chair of the committee. No decision was made but the committee was encouraged to think about it. Fr. Ryan is planning to make an announcement regarding new leadership for the Human Concerns committee when the time/talent survey goes out. He will work with secretaries to identify candidates.
- Outreach: Members of St. Joseph's purchased school supplies at the beginning of the school year to help ease the burden on teachers and students.

- Pro-life: 20 adults and 5 children gathered for the Life Chain around St. Mary on 10/5 and more at Fred's. Prayers have been taking place at Affiliated Medical Services and a life was saved last Friday, 10/3. November 5th is the fundraising gala for Life Choices in Burlington, at Veteran's Terrace
- Pastoral Care: The three volunteers who take communion to homebound parishioners are managing well and continuing their work. Helping Hands and Caring Connections volunteers might be able to help take communion to the homebound; the committee plans to explore ways these ministries could work together.
- Prayer Network: Fr. Ryan will ask Sue about the next reset
- Catholic Teaching on Social Issues: Pope Leo's birthday celebration had a decent attendance. Unfortunately, there were some technical issues. Fr. Ryan will put a link on the Facebook page so people can watch the video at home. Small groups are going well.
- Prison Ministry: The schedule for services has changed from Saturday to Thursday
- Additional information: Attendance at Spanish Mass dropped by about a hundred over the summer but has picked up. We will try to gauge interest in restarting English classes in a parish building, while considering school and safety concerns

#### **Evangelization and Formation Liaison Megan Cash:**

- Retreat Resolutions: Make it easy to invite people to events/groups and meet people where they are at
- REP: We have a day of service in place of the second Life Night for October, including the Teens for TLC Walk. They've raised over \$15,000 so TLC is very thankful. We will have a mass to pray for TLC on Sunday at 2pm at St. Joseph. The Confirmation Life Night class will stop taking new students on October 1st in the future. It is too disruptive for the class (since many started preparation last spring or summer). I've been pleased with our homeschool program and we have families interested from surrounding churches. Parents who are interested are sharing their ideas, contact Ellie. Ages K-4.
- OCIA: Requested an updated sponsor form to ask for a sponsor email address. Fr. Ryan will handle that with Patti. We had a discussion about rites and schedules to coordinate the adults and children.
- Hispanic Ministry: Our Holy Hill Pilgrimage on October 4th was very successful with 41 attending. In November, we are having a retreat for the children (ages 7-11) and also preparing the altar for All Souls (Nov 2).
- Adoration schedule:
  - October 16th: Thursday, family friendly 7:00-8:00PM after mass
  - November 14th: 6:30pm at St. Charles: Fr. Jim reflection on All Souls
  - December 11-12: 7:00pm-7:00am Our Lady of Guadalupe- St. Charles
  - January: Fr. Ryan has an idea, TBD
  - February: First communicants and families
- New Business:
  - Tri-parish "Walk With One" - Tami is updating the handout and Colleen will meet with Fr Jim.
  - Catholic Social Teaching: overall it was good but there were some technical issues

- St. Francis DeSales Young Adult Group- pulpit announcement Oct 19 at 8am, St. Charles. All young adults are surrounding parishes can participate, meet once a month, James Waller
- Parish Lenten Mission - There is a meeting scheduled with Alex and Deanna Chernouski to give them the current plans and enlist their help moving forward.
  - Topic suggestions:
    - Sunday: spiritual healing in general
    - Monday: divorce care, care for children of divorce
    - Tuesday: adoration, confession, prayer, music
  - Move the other topic to May (leadership change, Fr. Thomas Sweetser, SJ from Marquette University) because it doesn't fit with the spiritual nature of the mission theme and we will have details about the leadership change around that time.
- Ellie has been in discussion with Margaret Rhody from the Archdiocese as a possible speaker for one or two of the nights. She has suggestions for the other night(s).

**Stewardship/Parish Life liaison Julie Mermal:**

- **Mission Objectives and Personal Pledges- Retreat Review:**
  - Inviting people and giving permission to fail- asking people to help step in and contribute even if you are unsure of how you will do so. Allow yourself to fail
  - Next year retreat: August 21st (Friday) to August 22nd. Looking for anyone looking to facilitate and/or help with hospitality
  - Sent around Thank You cards to sign- cards are for those who helped lead our festivals
- Looking at the Human Concerns list of events: there is a lot of stewardship and sending of disciples
- In bulletin: corner blog about BCS students forming student council
- If someone would be willing to compile all our events and contribute a small blog of Pastoral Council participation
- Are people encountering Christ at our events? One of our volunteers saw a man in need at the Fall Festival and helped feed him because he needed help
- Helping Hands: 72 dinners delivered to people
- St. Mary Fall Festival: looking for people to help sell 50/50 raffles
- Discussion about Sanctification from Soly: explained why Sanctification is so important in leadership, getting people to follow your leadership, next year's retreat could be centered around Sanctification
- Concern from a BCS family: when a student is sick and has a fever, do they need to have a doctor's note to clear them to return to school? Parent is self employed and pay out of pocket for all doctor's visits

**Burlington Catholic School Board of Directors liaison Maddy Miller:**

- Color run this week, Trunk or Treat next Thursday, Kringle Fundraiser over the holidays in lieu of the calendar fundraiser, planning of the Blue Jean Ball going on now
- Enrollment was good, 425
- Color run: hoping to get some facility upgrades with the money raised

**Finance:****St. Charles liaison Laura Freeburn:**

- Buildings and grounds: Mike is taking charge of safety concerns (fire regulations etc.). Boiler should be fixed soon. Would like to put in new Knox boxes (bigger ones than we have now) and add a third one. \$1,500 for three boxes. St. Charles' Knights are combining with St. Mary's Knights to make one group. Trying to decide where to meet and where to keep their supplies.
- BCS: Financial situation is good this year. Families need more information and guidance about applying for assistance with tuition (school choice funds, various scholarships). Changes to tuition payment due dates improved cash flow for the school. Hired a company (Booster) to help with the color run. Collaborating with CC – meeting with the admin team monthly. Partnering on reverse Advent calendar project.
- There will be an effort to inform school families more about parish events and resources. Many of our school families don't attend Mass.
- Still working on accounting issues, deadlines. Confidential Financial Statement for the Archdiocese may not be ready by due date (update: it did meet the due date).

**St. Joseph liaison Janna Tichenor:**

- Repairs on rectory roof, landscaping, working towards issues for security between the two buildings, tweaking in the vestibule
- Talking to our council groups and sharing the retreat information: finance committee had a some questions regarding the information and how to move forward

**St. Mary liaison Joe Dedick:**

- Renovation work, about a week behind schedule, hoping to have everything done by Christmas
- Cash flow: moved some funds around due to having mass in the basement
- Fall Fundraiser- this Friday, starts at 4:30, roast beef and pork dinner, 50/50 raffle, 200 tickets for the dinner

**Hispanic Committee Report- Magali:**

- Alter for the All Saints: October 29th-November 6th
  - Candles, flowers, and pictures of the deceased; it is a way of remembering those who have passed. Anyone is welcome to bring pictures of those who have passed to the St. Charles' office if you want someone to be remembered on the alter
- Festival: had a good turnout this year, each year they get more and more people

- Sr. Janeth has been assisting family members with Novenas, those who had family members pass away
- Planning of Lady of Guadalupe in December
- Looking for helpers to assist at mass

**Deanery Report (Michelle Pederson/Holly Reesman)**

- Meeting is next week and will be having a guest speaker to speak on human trafficking. Looking for questions and input to be reported to Archbishop Grob.
  - Safeguarding: Maybe hosting more meetings at our Tri-Parish could be attractive to people, are other parishes having issues with parishioners complaining about getting Safeguarded? Does one safeguarding program fit everyone? It could be difficult for those who don't have access to a computer. Can we make a class geared towards the elderly? Maybe different levels of trainings targeted towards volunteers who won't be involved with children but are still volunteering within the church
- Safety: ArchBishop Grob or other attendees could have some ideas of how to convince people getting safeguarded is a very good thing for our parish and the children
- May need to host/bring snacks, talk to Tami about keys for the doors

**Catholic Community Events: (including Hispanic Community events)**

-October 24: St. Mary Fall Fundraiser Dinner

-In the cafeteria

-December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Pastors' Comments -Fr. Jim:**

- Time and Talent renewal coming out in November, renew their commitment to the parish and working in the different committees
- Pilgrimage was great
- Annual meetings for the parishes
  - St Charles: November 9th, 9am in Andre Hall (after mass)
  - St. Joseph: November 15th after mass
  - St. Mary: November 23rd after mass

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- **Event Requests:**
  - Annual Baby Bottle Campaign: October 18-November 2 (Proceeds benefit Life Choices) APPROVED

- ACTION ITEM: Mackenzie will email Paul Dujardin letting him know it's been approved to pass out baby bottles this weekend
- Grocery Bag Food Drive- St. Charles and St. Joseph Knights of Columbus. St. Charles: Bag handout 11/1 and 11/2 after mass. Drop-off truck picking up food: 11/8 and 11/9 prior to mass. St. Joseph: 11/8 and 11/9 after each mass. Drop-off truck 11/15 and 11/16 prior to mass: APPROVED
  - ACTION ITEM: Maddy will email Joe
- Notes for next year: Boy Scouts: do 2 weekends of the wreath sales, instead of 3

**Voice of the People:** (opportunity for parish member input)

- Julie gives thanks to Fr. Ryan for holding down the fort while Fr. Jim was on the pilgrimage

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 18th, 2025 St. Joseph Parish Center**

**Need volunteer for Closing Prayer:** Holly Reesman

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**Closing Prayer:** Megan Cash

**Meeting Adjourned:** Maddy Miller