

Tri-Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

September 16, 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 (NP)

Trustees: Mary Henningfield (P), Don Siehoff (NP), Barb Bakshis (NP), Terri Newbury (NP), 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 (P)

Guests: None

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

Mission Statement read by all.

Approved of August minutes: Approved with one edit

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:

- Went over upcoming liturgies, will bring back Minister's Evening of Reflection Nov. 9 at St. Joseph, went over tri-parish outdoor mass went well- need people to help clean up afterwards
- **Action Item: Mackenzie send out minutes to everyone**

Human Concerns liaison Holly Reesman:

- Meeting will be next month, Laura will attend for Holly

Evangelization and Formation Liaison Megan Cash:

- Meeting will be tomorrow

Stewardship/Parish Life liaison Julie Mermal:

- **Mission Objectives and Personal Pledges: Retreat Review**
 - 17 of 20 people invited participated, we are planning on meeting again in the future to discuss the retreat, one hour on a Sunday
 - Fr. Jim recommends having another retreat next year. The September retreat was a good time because it prepares us for the new school year and it allows new Pastoral Council members to join
 - Using our gifts: being open to the Holy Spirit, giving people permission to lead how they see fit, personal pledges (goals we set for ourselves), and how we are growing and meeting these goals
 - Communication with parishioners: current events, stories to highlight, asking someone at BCS to have a student create a newsletter of events that have happened to share with parishioners (maybe once a month newsletter).
 - ACTION ITEM: Maddy- talk to Emily to see if there would be a student or several students that would be interested in being involved with the newsletter idea. Could be a good way for those who don't use social media to see updates in BCS. Current school and parishioner events
 - Create a standing mission statement to be on the agenda every month
 - Each liaison bullet point could also have this. The liaison could ask at every meeting if there is anyone who wants to share a personal pledge they have
- Julie handed out a resource from the Archdiocese about our roles in parish life and what our purpose looks like as a council. We are encouraged to see where the spirit is guiding us to help out in the Tri-parish. Our presence and willingness to help allows us to notice gifts in other people as well.
- We have an opportunity for Called and Gifted, St. Thomas is interested in hosting and will open to other Catholic churches in the area. Various people come to speak about each talent and the signs of that talent in your life. Get a one-on-one meeting with a spiritual director. St. Thomas is thinking of doing this for their Lenten Mission. 2 weeks long, 3 hours for each meeting. The third week is the one-on-one meetings. We need to let St. Thomas know if we are interested. This is for all parishioners. Could advertise in the bulletin if we decide to move forward with this, \$40 per person.

Burlington Catholic School Board of Directors liaison Maddy Miller:

- Enrollment: 428 students
- St. Thomas preschool closed, picked up 8 families, still trying to reach out to the families who were going to attend St. Thomas (40 families).
- Trying to get the parish more involved in the school
- Smooth start to the beginning of the school year

- Talked about the shooting in Minneapolis- got some direction from the Archdiocese, putting in some safety features, especially when kids are in church. The school has never done a drill while in the church, so this is something that is under consideration
- Blue Jean Ball in April
- St. Peter's school closed

Finance:

St. Charles liaison Laura Freeburn:

- Confidential financial account: person who worked there wasn't getting back to us. We terminated our account with the accounting firm. St. Charles got an extension for the late payment
- B&G: repairing the parking lot, ongoing storage problems (for the activities that are happening). Is there a possibility of a physical library coming back for the school? We unfortunately don't have a room for a library.
- Fire escapes: there is a temporary ladder there until we are able to replace the fire escapes
- Festival: volunteers are down this year, should've gotten an email from Mary Labadie (going out to the tri-parish parishioners). Sign up sheets from the weekend did not inspire parishioners to sign up

St. Joseph liaison Janna Tichenor:

- Finished their summer renovating, updated some sidewalks, discussed security issues and electronic keys and fobs. The roof of rectory may be the next big project
- Financial report was processed

St. Mary liaison Joe Dedick:

- Meeting tomorrow

Hispanic Committee Report- Magali:

- Working for the festival
- Pilgrimage to Holy Hill October 4th

Deanery Report (Michelle Pederson/Holly Reesman)

- None

Catholic Community Events: (including Hispanic Community events)

- September 27-28: St. Charles Fall Festival: next weekend, encouraging everyone to volunteer
-Hispanic Community Food Tent
- October 24: St. Mary Fall Fundraiser
- December 12th: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Pastors' Comments -Fr. Jim:

- Father Steve passed away, he was Priest at St. Charles from there from 2006-2014

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Event Requests:**
 - Selling Christmas wreaths at the end of St. Charles and St. Mary masses for the second and third weekend in October: APPROVED

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

- A BCS parent expressed concern about Tuesday school mass: is there a way to do a mass with just students and not the students attending the public mass? All-student mass is no longer open to the public
- There will be a Safe Environment class this Saturday, can still sign up, contact Marilyn Putz if you have any questions
- People who express frustration with the class- ask them what they would say if a kid came up to them with an issue. Would you know how to address the issue? Having parishioners take the class shows kids there are trusted adults around that they can talk to if needed
- Megan mentioned there were no more brochures or information at St. Peter's in East Troy to get information about Catholic Central
 - ACTION ITEM: Laura will pass on the information

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 21st, 2025 St. Joseph Parish Center

Need volunteer for Closing Prayer: Megan Cash

Closing Prayer: Julie Mermal

Meeting Adjourned: Maddy Miller