

ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on August 20, 2025, in the school library at 5:30 PM.

OPENING PRAYER

ATTENDEES: Fr. Joseph Rielage, Linda Mattmiller, Linda Furnish, Nancy Zaletta, Dominique Case, Darlene Kimbrough, Adrianna Haas, and Stan Lemons.

GENERAL CONVERSATION: Father Joe welcomed everyone to the meeting. He has been here since mid-July and has had several meetings with different committees in the parish. Father's main concern now is the deplorable condition of the three bathrooms in the rectory. He noted that he didn't think any parishioner would want to live there. He had several pictures on his phone showing out-dated tile, rust, holes in the ceiling, and drywall pulling apart in the corners. Shower drains are slow because of the out-dated plumbing. It was noted that the building was finished in the 1960's and the original plumbing is still there. Father Joe stressed that he did not want fancy, expensive fixtures. He just wants a clean bathroom that he would not be ashamed to have his guests use.

This council was made aware of the plumbing issues in June before Father Niby left. He estimated a \$30,000 plus project which is basically focused on the two upstairs bathrooms to the ground level. It includes a ceiling coming down. Fr. Niby said that due to the cost of the project approval at the diocese would take three months.

Father Joe thinks the project can be completed without waiting for approval from the diocese. He met with the finance committee. There are separate funds set aside that could possibly be used to help with the project. He thinks the project could be done in phases using some volunteer work.

A contractor came today who could help with installation of fixtures once the plumbing issues are corrected. Clinton Jones, Mark Perraut, Mark Sifford, and Dennis Witajewski have all discussed the problems. Clinton Jones knows someone who could help with demo to keep the cost down. Father Joe suggested working on the two worst bathrooms upstairs. These two bathrooms are back-to-back on the same plumbing line. He wants to remove the tub in at least one of them and replace it with a walk-in shower. The ground level bathroom could be completed last. He suggested making it a half bath by removing the tub. The vacant space could be used for a closet.

No written estimates have been received. Father thinks the entire project could cost around \$60,000 as a high estimate. He said that maybe he could have an Open House so parishioners could see the condition of the bathrooms. Linda Furnish suggested making a picture board showing the rooms to parishioners at weekend masses.

Dominique Case questioned not getting approval from the diocese. She is worried about what other problems could arise during the demolition.

Father said that Mark Sifford would be checking with the diocese. They will try to get a plumber to check the system to the ground. Mark Perraut will be checking at Lowe's for a ballpark figure for three toilets, three vanities, fiberglass combo shower/tub or walk-in shower, and wall tile. Laminate flooring will be used in all three bathrooms. They will use the church tax exempt number. Bids need to be compared.

Father Joe would like to have the project done by January 1st. Mark Perraut could have someone for demo by November. The biggest expense will be for replacing all of the plumbing with PVC. Stan Lemons noted that there are new pipes that expand/contract which never burst.

It was agreed that different estimates are needed. Ms. Grable contacted someone in Lexington and it was very expensive.

Father Joe said that Mr. Staley, a contractor from northern Kentucky, was coming on Monday. Mr. Don Knockelman, Director of Building and Property of the Covington diocese, will come with him.

It is early in the process. Father wants to let the parishioners know about the situation. He wants to be transparent and approachable. We don't want to start a project unless it is done properly.

Dominique Case is concerned about finding one project and continuing to find additional projects. Linda Furnish is concerned about finding mold.

EUCARIST MININISTERS: Adrianna Haas said that two people asked about receiving the Precious Blood on a recent survey. She said she would get enough people to serve as ministers and substitutes. Her goal is to start at Advent.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL: Father Joe read a letter from the diocese about appointing someone from St. Edward Catholic Church to the Deanery Pastoral Council. Each parish needs to appoint someone as ex officio to represent them. Lisa Wright recently resigned the position. Her expired June 30th.

The term is for three years; ending June 30, 2028. The person may serve two consecutive terms. There are approximately four sessions per year. Father Joe needs help with names as the seat is vacant. Linda Furnish suggested explaining the position and what is involved in the bulletin. A possible replacement also needs to know if the meetings are held at night.

MASS TIME ON TUESDAYS: Because of low participation on Tuesday night Father Joe is considering changing that mass to 9:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT/PRAYER: The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM.
The meeting adjourned with a prayer.

Respectfully,
Linda B. Furnish

