

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
05-08-25
St Mary Catholic Faith Community
Hales Corners, WI

Present: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Maureen Riemer, Elisabeth Chojnacki, Brenda White, Janet Miller, Jim Podweils, Clem Budny, Steven Rice, Gilbert Frenn, Pilar Azmani, Dave Lownik

Excused: Joe Plassmeyer, Caroline Schachtlie, Tammy DuBois, David Fritz, Mel Hendrickson

Opening Prayer: We watched the Pope selection ceremony and said a prayer for Pope Leo.

Approval of Pastoral Council Minutes: Deferred to next month.

Parish Festival Outreach: Dave Lownik stressed the need for volunteers and chairpeople. The festival has over 1000 slots (volunteer opportunities) for 3 days, including setup and teardown. Current volunteers are aging out. The ask is for everyone to spread the word regarding the need for volunteers, or sign up yourself. Areas where help is really needed: soda, kid games, bingo, mostaccioli dinner, garbage cleanup, and finance (it's the finance person's last year in this role). We should explore getting the youth of the parish involved, such as Boy Scouts. The website for volunteers is open. Father Aaron asked the Liaisons to allot time during their next meeting to discuss the festival. One suggestion: have the Pastoral Council take on Mostaccioli for Saturday? To that point, Jim will check to ensure there is still a need.

Liaison Reports:

Finance:

- Brenda said they met on 3/12/25. They spent time on the 2025-2026 budget, which is currently \$4 million. They are projecting a slight (2%) budget deficit at this point, due to a smaller enrollment than we had hoped for. Staffing needs include a Marketing Coordinator and Associate Pastor. May be able to make up for deficit with the Special Needs Scholarship Program, offertory increases, or an uptick in enrollment. There are adequate reserves to cover this slight deficit.

Deanery:

- No updates from Elisabeth this month. Father expects activity for this will pick up in the Fall.

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Discipleship: [Discipleship Minutes 03-20-25 Final.pdf](#), [Discipleship Minutes 04-14-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Pilar said they met on 3/24/25. She reported that Easter attendance was up over 33%. The post cards seemed to help. They discussed other ways to outreach to those who don't know God; show them community and make them parish members.

Human Concerns: [Human Concerns 03-05-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Jim said they discussed the new Lenten partnership method. The speeches in the beginning of the Mass went over well, and nobody had any issues. In fact, people seemed to come earlier to Mass because of this. Father's Flocknotes really seemed to help. They also had a conversation regarding people discerning their call in the parish. Jeff is working on "Called & Gifted", which encourages others to get in touch with their gifts & charisms. Also looking to have a Ministry Faire, but timing still needs to be ironed out.

Pastoral Care: [Pastoral Care 03-05-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Jan reported there were no updates.

School: [School 04-08-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Father reported that the 4K Mom's program went over very well. Mary Wackman has announced her retirement, so we are looking at a Mass celebration. Band & Gym teachers are leaving. All other teachers have signed their contracts.

SLAW: [SLAW 04-08-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Steve reported that SLAW did meet last month. However, the discussion was on Holy Week and Easter Mass preparation, so there is no report-out to this group.

Pastor's Report:

- Director of Communication opening has been posted for one week. So far we have held one interview, which went well. Looking for someone with a marketing & communication background plus discipleship.

- May crowning will take place at this Sunday's 9AM Mass.
- At this Sunday's 11AM Mass there will be 5 more confirmations!
- May crowning for the school will take place on Tuesday 5/13/25.
- The last day of school is 6/6/25.
- There will be a Memorial Day Mass at 9AM that day.
- Mass attendance was up for Holy Week and Easter.
- First Communions this year were held across 6 Masses.

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Discernment Schedule:

- Announcements will go out on July 5-6.
- Nominations will open on July 12-13, and close on the 20th.
- Nominees will be called between July 22-25.
- Orientation will take place July 29-30.
- Discernment will take place on August 14.

New Member Welcome: No update this month as the notes were misplaced.

Hospitality Weekend. There are rumblings that hospitality weekends are a burden or done too frequently. The Pastoral Council sees this as a welcoming opportunity for parishioners. Liaisons: please continue to advocate for this within your commissions. Advertise this as an opportunity to showcase your Commission. This will build parish leadership and draw in new members to the commissions. Gil noted they have got some hospitality ministers out of it.

What Are You Hearing?

- Is the choir doing any Mass but 11AM? In the Fall it was 4PM. It was commented that it would be nice to see them rotate to a different Mass. Could we get a children's choir?
- Magnify will take place in May, but not July. Attendance is holding steady at around 100 people per session.
- Father reported that the Spring Assembly was good and went smoothly. We will make an attempt to have an outdoor Mass at 10:30 (not 11AM) on the Sunday of the Parish Festival.