

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
09-10-26
St. Mary Catholic Faith Community
Hales Corners, WI

Present: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Brenda White, Gilbert Frenn, Tom Gaglione, Paul Clifford, Clem Budny, David Mikolainis, David Fritz, Peter Bacalzo, Mary Beth Katorski, Frank LaSusa, Chris Wiken and Caroline Schachtlie

Excused: Tammy DuBois

Opening Prayer: Prayer intentions were shared followed by one decade of the rosary to honor our Blessed Mother's birthday celebrated on September 8.

Approval of Minutes: [Pastoral Council 06-11-26 Final.pdf](#)

- June 2026 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes were approved

Welcome and Introductions:

- Pastoral Council has four new members
 - Paul Clifford, Peter Bacalzo, Chris Wiken and David Fritz

Liaison Reports:

Finance:

- No meeting held in August
- Bob Watson has stepped down from his role on the Finance Council and an interim chair will be assigned

Discipleship: [Discipleship 06-18-26 Final.pdf](#)

- Commission meeting held in August
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a success; 40 children attended.
 - Positive feedback from the kids received, they especially liked the science aspect
 - VBS held a fundraiser for All Saints Food Pantry, central city parish. \$546 was raised.
- Jeff Kacala is retiring from his position as Director of Discipleship and will be speaking at all the Masses the weekend of Sept 26 & 27
- Sam Rasp has been hired as the new Director of Discipleship
- Discipleship Commission is looking to add more people to their group

Human Concerns:

- Commission meeting held in August
- Chris Warner's term as Chair for the Human Concerns Commission has ended and Joan

Flayter has stepped up to fill the position

- Focus will be on the Calendar of Events for the Commission as well as developing an evaluation process for the ministries involved

Pastoral Care:

- Using Notebird software to monitor the Eucharistic Ministry to people in the hospital, nursing home as well as Home Visits
 - From March - April, 2026, there were 672 points of contact within the various ministries and from May - Sept, there were 1180 points of contact
 - Is a very active group and is always looking for more volunteers to support the ministries, especially with home visits
- Pastoral Care also provides Grief Support and Intercessory Prayer opportunities

School Advisory: [School 04-21-26 Final.pdf](#)

- Commission did not meet in August

SLAW: [SLAW 06-02-26 Final.pdf](#)

- Commission did not meet in August
- The next meeting will be October to discuss Advent and Christmas liturgy planning

Deanery:

- Archdiocese Pastoral Council for the Southside Parishes
 - St. Alphonsus
 - St. Matthias
 - St. Martin of Toures
 - St. Mary Catholic Faith Community
 - West Allis Parishes
- Fr. Aaron will find out who the Deanery Commission Chair is and report back to the Pastoral Council

Discernment of Pastoral Council Positions:

- Chair: David Mikolainis
- Vice Chair: Gilbert Frenn
- Secretary: Caroline Schachtlie
- Finance: Brenda White
- Discipleship: Paul Clifford
- Human Concerns: David Fritz
- Pastoral Care: Tom Gaglione
- Deanery Rep: Mary Beth Katorski and Peter Bacalzo
- School Advisory: Frank LaSusa
- SLAW: Chris Wiken

Liaison Responsibilities:

- Handout provided outlining liaison responsibilities: Roles and expectations
- Liaisons have been asked to share their contact information with their Commission Chair

Pastor's Report:

- Strategic Planning update
 - First of Four Webinars has been held with the Catholic Leadership Institute to discuss survey results
 - Have met with Envisioning Team and have drafted three priorities based on those results:
 - Discipleship
 - Community
 - Formation
 - Drafted a Mission Statement for the Parish and School and have sent it to the Envisioning Team for review and feedback
 - The plan is to mesh with School and Parish; two separate, but one plan
 - Vision Statement will mirror Archbishop Grob's Mission Statement
 - Focus on five Values:
 - Intentional Discipleship
 - Evangelization
 - Word
 - Sacrament
 - Service
- New Discipleship Director - Sam Rasp
 - Will speak at all Masses this weekend: 9/12 & 13
 - Jeff Kacala will speak at all Masses on 9/26 & 27 to say farewell.
- Calendar of Events:
 - Magnify - 9/30 @ 6:30pm
 - Royal Run - 9/9
 - Royal Open @ Muskego Lakes Country Club - 9/18
 - Mass of Hope and Healing - Oct 13
- School Enrollment:
 - 370 students are enrolled at St Mary Parish School; budgeted for 385
 - Fr. Aaron did a Eucharist procession throughout the school to start off the new school year. (Procession was filmed and shared on Facebook)
- Magnify group to lead music at all Masses this weekend: 9/12 & 13
- Administration is creating a new Parish website with a goal to go live Jan 2027
- Ministry Partner Evaluation form

- Drafts have been created and will be emailed to the Pastoral Council members for review and feedback
- Discussion and vote will be held at October meeting
- Common Leadership Night
 - Purpose of CLN is to foster unity among and learn what exciting things are happening within the other Commissions here at St Mary
 - The proposed dates for CLN are Nov 12 and Mar 11. Once the dates have been confirmed, the Liaisons are asked to notify their Commission Chair and share the CLN handout with them.
 - We are in need of a food coordinator for the meetings

What are you Hearing?:

- There was a very positive response from staff and parishioners to the Eucharistic procession through the school on the first day of school

Share your Joy:

- Party in the Cul-du-Sac: 3 new families attended and it was a great opportunity to build community
- Fr. Mike Ignaszak feels very welcomed and at home here at St. Mary ● Pastoral Care - A parishioner was very sick in December and not expected to make it through the holidays. Through the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit, she has made an amazing recovery and is still with us.

The meeting was adjourned with a blessing from Fr. Aaron.

Submitted by: Caroline Schachtlie, Pastoral Council Secretary