

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) – Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 11, 2025

Time: 8:00 PM

Location: Loughrey Room

Attendees: Fr. Jake Beltran, Dcn. Dan Coughlin, Rich Kennedy, Carolyn Husnick, Greg Kozak, Dan Kraft, Beth Kraft, Tom Sear, Sean Dorsey, Jon Monroe

1. Opening Prayer

Fr. Jake opened the meeting with prayer, followed by a reading of the parish mission statement.

2. Rebuilt Presentation

Joe Tomasso, Abby Daniels, and Pam Lynch from St Francis de Sales shared reflections from the Rebuilt Parish Conference they attended. The presentation emphasized creating a culture of evangelization, discipleship, and hospitality rooted in parish renewal. St. Joseph's was noted by Cardinal Cupich as a model parish for the Archdiocese's "Renew My Church" initiative.

3. Discussion: Parish Renewal and Cultural Change

Council affirmed enthusiasm for Rebuilt but acknowledged a need for clarity and next steps. Members noted the parish's strength yet recognized cultural resistance to change and an occasional consumer mentality toward ministries and staff. Fr. Jake highlighted the goal of moving from hero-based ministries to layered leadership, empowering staff and volunteers alike. The group stressed the importance of joyful service, hospitality, and internal renewal over mere operational success. Rebuilt's focus aligns directly with the Renew My Church pillars and Vatican II's call to missionary discipleship.

4. Pastor Topics

a. Mission and Vision Alignment

The Vision/Mission Team, led by Greg Kozak, continues meeting weekly to draft a renewed mission rooted in parish identity. Process involves parish-wide input, including potential surveys or votes on proposed mission statements to foster ownership. Fr. Jake reaffirmed the parish's call to "be operationally worthy of our people's talents" and guided by the Holy Spirit.

b. Youth Leadership and Teen Mass Proposal

Proposal: make the 5 PM Sunday Mass youth-led (teens serving as lectors, musicians, and ministers). Concerns were raised about labeling it a "Teen Mass," which might create division. Consensus: move forward with discernment and inclusive naming; keep the Mass open to all parishioners. Fr. Jake to reconvene feedback from youth leaders before final decisions.

c. Clergy Staffing and Weekday Mass Schedule

Due to the shortage of associate pastors, Fr. Jake proposed reducing weekday Masses from two to one. Options: alternating days (e.g., 6:30 AM Mon-Wed-Fri, 8:30 AM Tue-Thu-Sat) or a single 7:00 AM Mass. Parish survey to be conducted; change tentatively effective Advent 2025. Fr. Jake also shared hope for a new associate priest in 2026.

d. Capital Campaign Update

A Place to Gather, A Place to Grow campaign surpassed \$8 million in pledges. Upcoming goals: \$9.5M (Sept), \$10.5M (Nov), \$12.5M (Jan 2026). Campaign presentations planned through fall; soft launch at Mass in the Park with remarks by Kevin Burns.

5. Commission Reports

Reports from the Social Justice and Accountability commissions were distributed electronically before the meeting. Highlights included: Bed Ministry – 2,607 beds delivered YTD; Food Pantry – 1,861 visits in May; Franciscan Lunches & PADS continuing with volunteer needs. Technology and Facilities: upgrades to sound system, fire alarm, and playground installation on track for September completion. Finance: revenue +5% vs budget; \$846k net through June 2025.

6. Other Topics

a. Mission Tiger Team Update

Vision and Mission Team progressing on storytelling-based approach (“personas” describing parish life 10 years ahead).

b. 2026 Thanksgiving Awards

Each commission to nominate a new volunteer (no repeat honorees). Father Jake to approve final list; bios and blurbs required.

c. Irresistible Ministry Summit – September 10

Hosted by Joe Tomasso and Anna Roeser. Theme: Radical Welcome and Joyful Engagement. Target attendance: 100 participants; council members to invite ministry leaders personally.

7. Closing Prayer

Meeting concluded with prayer led by the newest PPC member. Fr. Jake emphasized unity, continued discernment, and gratitude for the council’s commitment.