

St. Frances de Chantal Parish Council Meeting Minutes 10/7/25

Adriana Matiz-Zanoni	Maria Brogli*	
Bernie O'Hara	Maria Rosario***	
Christie Costa	Marianne Hughes***	
Deacon Fernandez*	Marianne Ryan*	
Eileen Abin	Monique Moussot*	
Fr. Sandro	Monsignor Graham*	
Fr. Jonas	Peter Moussot	
Jack McCarrick*	Ramona Ferreira	
Jim Corbett*	Reynaldo Ramirez	
John Connolly*	Rosemary Lilis	
John Mullane*	Sean Mota*	
Joy Costan Vanadio	Sharon Heaney	
Larry Holz ***	Sr. Mary Ann Dantonio***	
Leo Gonzalez	Sr. Patricia Brito*	
Liz Castagna**		
Liz Donnelly*		
Marge Wiehler		
Margie Disilvio***		*Excused
		**Absent
		***Observer

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from September 2025

-approved by Christi and Bernie.

Pastor's Report: (note BOLD areas were additions to the report that occurred at the meeting)

PASTOR'S REPORT - OCTOBER 7, 2025

1. Our elementary school opened with an increased enrollment. The school and the parish celebrated 9/11 with a beautiful Mass and we celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit on September 25 with another beautiful Mass with Bishop Whalen and the presidents and principals of the Archdiocesan High Schools. At both Masses, we were led in song by the children's choir. They were great!
These masses were beautiful and featured over 20 kids in the choir.
2. Children had the opportunity for confessions on September 16 and 17.
3. CCD religious instructions began on October 1 with an increased enrollment and several new teachers. Ms. Christi spoke at the Masses to encourage registration. We still need one more teacher for several 7th and 8th grade students preparing for First Holy Communion.
4. Ms. Mary Beth Greene spoke at the Masses about volunteers for the Lamp Ministry and several people signed up to help with the program.
5. The adult religion classes for the sacraments has begun with Deacon Fernando in Spanish and with his wife, Elizabeth, in English ... more to come regarding enrollment.
6. Festival of Nations sponsored by the Guadalupe Committee was held on September 14 ... it was success with food, entertainment and raffles. Thank you to the group for their donation of nearly \$2000 to the HVAC fund.
7. The Marriage Group celebrated their 7th anniversary here at SFdC with a special dinner on September 28. The group has been helpful with encouraging Matrimony and convalidations.
8. The East Bronx Deanery held its first meeting of the clergy on September 29 with prayer, lunch and a discussion on how we can work together here in the East Bronx with collaboration of events and activities. Thank you to Jim Corbett for helping with the luncheon.
9. The bus trip to the Divine Mercy Shrine is scheduled for October 9 with parishioners from several parishes. Sponsored by our Spirituality Committee.
10. Father Sandro and I participated in the street naming for Preston High School with several invited politicians celebrating the good news that the school remains open. Fr. Sandro is helping with school Masses and confessions as well as Mass at the Maritime College.

11. Fr. Jonas celebrates Mass for the Lamp Ministry members and Msgr. Graham celebrates Mass at the Throgs Neck Rehab Center.
12. We hosted an Active Shooters workshop on September 24 with about 30 people present from various parishes including our own. Again, thanks to Jim Corbett for helping with the luncheon arrangements.

Discussion held about how the active shooter training went. Overall, great feedback on the detail of the training and timeliness.

13. Flea Market is beginning its raffle sales and collecting of “lightly used” donations. The dates are October 18, 19.
14. School parents held a back to school picnic in the school yard on September 27 and it was a great success with bouncy houses, hot dogs, cotton candy and activities for the children.
15. The administration officers of the HVAC project were here to teach Leo, Tim, Fr. Sandro and myself the intricacies of controlling the system. So far, so good!
16. Food collection has resumed on the 3rd weekend of the month for the food distribution line at St. Benedict's. Many thanks for your generosity and to the ladies of the Social Action Committee of the parish council.
17. The month of October is being celebrated with many opportunities for praying the Rosary in English and in Spanish
18. More information at the next meeting regarding the maintenance projects and repairs that are needed and necessary.
19. I will be taking my summer vacation these next two weeks traveling to Spain, Portugal and Morocco with friends. I will remember you in my prayers at the different shrines and churches that we will visit. Be good in the meantime!

Also discussed:

September 22, 2025 – during the 8 am mass the police had to be called b/c a man was noted to be acting strangely. He was quiet and stayed at the end of the mass. He was seen at the 9am mass gesturing ? like with a gun (using his hand). Monsignor spoke to him and they chatted about the loss of his mother and he cried, he eventually left. Lorena however and others were concerned and called the police. They came about 1 hr later when he had already left. There is video of him available.

In summary, the group felt prepared, “if you see something, say something”. We reviewed the importance of always knowing where the exits are, look at what is around you to injure a perpetrator ? microphones, many booklets, etc. In any event, probably best for several people to call 911. We agreed concerns should be addressed and not ignored to ensure the safety for

everyone. Suggestion of the importance of greeters at mass to make eye contact with any potential dangerous people as this could be “disarming”. Sharon will address this directly with Monsignor as the suggestion was made to ask the 45th to have a patrol car around mass times.

Committee Reports

1. **Spirituality/Liturgy:** Report given by Peter Moussott. This Thursday, October 9th the bus to Sturbridge, MA for the Divine Mercy. There are still some available slots, we will depart at 7:30am, bring food but there will be a cafeteria and water and chips available on the bus ride.
2. **Evangelization:** Report given by Peter Moussott. November 1 is the day for the Magnificat Breakfast, 40 women have signed up thus far (max 60). This will be held at the Little Sisters of the Poor. Christi will take care of the music. All the license issues are good and we are just waiting for the final OK from the Cardinal. Verbally we have the OK. The paperwork will be final next week and once they get the papers they will be officially licensed. We expect this will be the case by 11/1. For now we will be a “Come and See” . All are welcome. There will be a real breakfast with sausage and potatoes! Once we are licensed and officially a chapter, the Cardinal will come. **Also** November 8, the Knights of Columbus will host the Annual Dinner Dance. There will be a band and food. It will be in this Hall and will begin after the 5pm Mass on Saturday.
3. **School:** Report given by Christi.

Principal's Report

- Congrats to our parent social group for once again organizing Field Day, Mini Field was held 10/2
- Social Group is now planning Trunk or Treat for Saturday, 10/18 in the school yard. Come join the fun from 12-3pm.
- Our 1st Fundraiser is underway. If you know of SFdC students (neighbors, friends, relatives) please support this on-line gift-candy drive. All purchases are mailed directly to your home.
Suggestion to distribute Fundraiser information/link via email.
Christi to send to Sharon.
- Enrollment is great. 394 up from 374 in June. Keep spreading the word.

- State Test scores have been received and are up once again. Our children did very well.. We do not have ranking yet...more to keep you posted.
- The Archdiocesan Elementary School Principals will be at SFdC Parish for the 9am Mass on 10/15. The student choir has been asked to sing at this Mass. Christi and Joy will lead children "We are on the road with our choir". We are very proud of this honor. Bishop Bonnici will be the celebrant.
- We received a \$14,000 grant for our theater program. This year's performance will be Beauty and the Beast. Many thanks to the talent of Christi and her crew for taking on this major production. Money will be used for props, professional costumes , music, equipment, stipends and more.
- More to come....

4.CCD: Report given by Christi. We are still looking for 1 more teacher for a small group of First Communion students (7+8th grade). We have 70 students. Peter proposed he could teach to fill in gaps but will be away Jan and Feb for several weeks. Christi to consider. Fr Jonas is teaching a 6th grade.

5.Activities: Report given by Marge Wiehler. Next food collection will begin again the third Sunday of the month on 10/18. They are also looking into a coat drive.

Old Business:

-Church Bell replacement (Leo): 1 bell working for now, electrical issue fixed, 2 bells still don't work

-Organ Update (Joy): 3 motors acting up, need replacement, they are negotiating a better, lower price resulting in a smaller deposit, original estimate was \$77K, we will now do this in phases, the work will start with the organ above the choir first

-Light replacement(Leo): a contract was signed to do this work, should start in 1-2 weeks

-Vaccine talk for school (Adriana): per Monsignor, the principal is considering this offer.

New Business

**-Discussion of when to hold next Parish Council meeting as it will be Election Day.
Suggestion to move meeting to 11/11. Sharon will confirm with Monsignor.**

Closing Prayer: Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

4. Next Meeting will be Tuesday, November 11 at 7pm (tentatively).

Minutes recorded by Secretary Adriana Matiz-Zanoni.