

St. Frances de Chantal Parish Council Meeting Minutes 9/9/25

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

Opening Prayer and pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2025

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

1. During the month of June, the students of our elementary school (preK programs and upper grades) celebrated their advancement to higher education with graduation ceremonies and Mass. An end of the year Mass for all students was held on June 12 with an honors award ceremony following the Mass.

2. Early Elections were held in de Chantal Hall from June 13 to June 22. Many thanks to Jim Corbett and his team for a very smooth operation.
3. HVAC worked on the system during the summer months and we were delighted to have a/c all summer in the church. Final work should be completed before Labor Day. More details to come.
4. Preston High School held its Graduation Mass in our church on Thursday, June 5 at 7 pm. Part of Schurz Ave. was re-named for Preston on September 4.
5. Holy Name Society held its end of the year dinner on June 23. Many thanks for all of the help from the members of the Society throughout the year. Also, thanks to Mr. John Mullane for hosting the coffee and munchkin break after the De Chantal Mass on August 12. About 75 parishioners attended this special Mass.
6. On June 29, we celebrated the renewal of marriage vows for about 25 couples at the 10 am Mass in Eng and at the 11:30 am Mass in Span. Congratulations.
7. School offices were open during July and August for visits and registrations. At this point we are approaching 400 students. Information from Sister Patricia. Also, a meeting was held with the parents committee to plan several special events for the school. The first event was the Family Picnic on Sat., Sept. 6 in the school yard. Many thanks to these parents for their dedication to the school and the students.
8. Thanks to fund-raising of the CYO parents in the Gym, the floor of the gym was refinished at the end of August.
9. The community sports/day camp in July until August 22 --- a successful and safe environment for the children using the gym and the lower church.
10. Thanks to Councilwoman Mamorata, a shredding machine came to our parking lot for people to bring their documents for disposal. Thanks also to the Councilwoman for donating backpacks for the children of the school which will be distributed in September. She is also sponsoring a distribution for the community children at the end of August.
11. The Guadalupe Committee has been meeting during the summer to plan the FESTIVAL OF NATIONS for September 14. Thanks to Leo and his committee members for this special event.
12. A summer book discussion club was held during the summer with 4 evening sessions thanks to the Walking with Purpose ladies. From 10 to 15 ladies met to discuss a book on Mary.

13. The Catholic School teachers of the Bronx will be meeting at our school and de Chantal Hall to begin the school year with workshops on “active shooter” exercises and other school issues --- September 2 and 3. Our faculty and staff will open our school year with Mass on Wednesday, September 3 at 11 am followed by lunch. Students arrive on Thursday.

14. MASS INTENTIONS BOOK will open for selecting Mass dates on Monday, September 8 from 10 to 4 pm in the rectory.

15. Blood Drive was held on Sunday, August 24. Many thanks to Jack McCarrick and his team for another successful drive.

16. Proposals were presented for the replacement of the bell system (**mechanism not functioning so digital mechanism being considered -\$15K vs regular bell \$50K**) in the church; replacement of burnt out lights in the church; repair of the tower cracks (**cost \$56K with scaffolding**. More information will be forthcoming. **We could consider selling the bells.**

17. A second Capital Campaign Appeal was sent out especially targeting parishioners who have not made a gift for the HVAC SYSTEM whether it be a large or small gift or pledge. **The hope is to raise \$500k more to hopefully end up with \$1.3 million total to try and eliminate a loan from the Diocese. We have raised about \$1 million thus far.**

18. A school prayer service to be held on 9/11 before school in the yard with parents; school Mass with the parish on 9/11 at 9 am in church.

Discussed at meeting by Monsignor:

- **The organ is acting up again, not water damage with was the most recent issue, the 3 motors are from 1970's and are malfunctioning, cost is \$77K**
- **The boiler has been decommissioned and papers are being processed at NYS level with a 10 year warranty**
- **Plumbing costs are estimated at \$1900, Gutters \$4000, Church lights replacements (better to do all at once due to scaffolding need) \$8k, Trees with lantern flies spraying in the Spring cost \$1400**
- **Jim will look into a vendor for the scaffolding and send info to Monsignor that may be more reasonably priced**
- **Discussion on how many people are signed up for envelopes (about 700), every 6 mos Monique reviews who is not using them and removes folks from the**

mailing. We do not know of those 700 how many are left that can contribute to the HVAC campaign.

- **Natalia Fernandez (State Senator)** - nearly close to submitting grant for extra funding for \$150k
- **Councilwoman Marmorato** has not committed any funds, on-going conversations b/w her, her secretary and Monsignor
- **Recognition** that more families are at mass and moving into Silver Beach where there may be more opportunities for additional engagement and financial support
- **Last Sunday mass**, many children disturbed, messaging is complex on this issue and there are risks to how much we suggest stepping out to the vestibule where speakers are available, microphones were unchanged at 10 am mass despite some of us in the council noting it was harder to hear even without the noise of the children

Committee Reports

1. **Spirituality/Liturgy:** Report given by Monsignor. October is the Month of the Rosary. 10/7 after 8 am mass and 9am mass the rosary will be prayed. Fr. Sandro will hold a Rosary and Benediction bilingual service the first Sat in October. On 10/11, In Remembrance of Our Lady of Fatima, at noon in front of the Church we will hold a prayer, weather permitting. We are still in need of Eucharistic ministers, bilingual. The need is for the home bound, approximately 12 people are in need but the # may vary. Ministers are assigned case by case and the next step is to recruit more ministers. We currently have 3 that speak Spanish. Fr Sandro stated there is a book where this information is maintained.
2. **Evangelization:** Report given by Peter Moussott. Light and Spirit seminar was held on 6/7 and included a breakfast. This was very successful and talks were appreciated. Ten ladies traveled to Tampa for the Magnificat for Women and are now an official 501c organization "Our Lady of Grace and Joy". This is pending paperwork from the Cardinal's office to make it an official chapter. Nov 1 there will be a breakfast "Magnificat Come and See" where the group will speak about the goals of the

magnificat with 3 planned talks about 10 min each at the Jeanne Jugan Residence to help build women's spiritualization. Ms. Christie has volunteered to provide music for the event and John Mullane will support with breakfast. The first night of the "Walking with Purpose" walk is tonight. (9/9). We also had a successful Summer book program with good feedback. About 10-15 participants.

3. **School:** Report given by Monsignor. 9/9 is meet the teacher night in person with Sister joining classrooms by Zoom. Orientation for PreK and 3K was held last week focusing on entry and departure from the building. 396 student are enrolled and even today 1 more enrolled so we expect to be at 400 by next week. There are 2 first grade classed and 2 K classes which shows the potential growth. 9/11 a mass will be held for grades 3-8 with prayer service. 9/25 at the 9am mass, Grade 1-8 will participate in A Holy Spirit Mass. 9/27 is the rescheduled date of the family picnic (due to inclement weather last weekend) which is organized by the parent association. ? 10/2 is Field day. NYS scores were very good and continue to increase. The A/C in the cafeteria is repaired and there are many freshly painted areas throughout the school. There has been a recognition of the impact on the school community with the shooting in Minnesota and active shooter drills are happening and will be happening for all staff.
4. **CCD:** Report given by Joy Costan Vanadio. CCD resumes **October 1st**. We are open for registration. Choir practice will begin this week both for adults and children.
5. **Activities:** Report given by Marge Wiehler. Next food collection will begin again the third Sunday of the month and distribute to St Benedict's Parish for distribution on Saturdays. The **Kyler boys ??** are interested in leading the Christmas Shoebox collection as of Nov 1.
6. **New Business:** New Parish Council Secretary, Dr. Adriana Matiz announced that she is open to providing a vaccine workshop for parents given the timeliness of this discussion. She is a general pediatrician at Columbia University and works in Community Health, provides

workshop in Eng and Spanish. Monsignor will discuss this with the school leadership team and see how best to proceed.

7. Closing Prayer: Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

8. Next Meeting will be Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 7pm.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Adriana Matiz-Zanoni.