

## Minutes for the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

May 29, 2025

Zoom

*Members in attendance:* Fr. John Dillon, Marianne Deausen, Guy Federico, Todd Grams, Christine King, Bernie McGuire, Ann Pierre, Vincent Price, Jose Silva, and Hoai-an Truong.

*Others in attendance:* Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan

- The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

Given the slow loss of parish ministry leaders through retirement and age, Fr. John Dillon asked the Parish Pastoral Council to consider hosting a ministry fair this fall to build up our ranks of ministry leaders and volunteers.

“For the health of the parish, it would be a good thing to do,” Fr. John said.

While Parish Council members agreed that a ministry fair – especially one tied to the physical church celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall – is a good idea, the pastor’s request opened a larger conversation on the challenges we face in recruiting new ministers. Fr. John mentioned that several of our ministries with critical needs are those serving or drawing from youth, including Children’s Liturgy of the Word.

Ann Pierre said the parish needs to encourage parents to get more involved, so they can, in turn, get their children to participate. Other members suggested launching a communications campaign to convey the benefits of volunteerism; communicating more widely that ministry service is an obligation of being a parishioner; and having smaller groups of ministry leaders sit in the Gathering Space after Masses on a regular basis to answer people’s questions.

Fr. John also reported on the results thus far of the Upgrading Our Parish Home for Our Children’s Children capital campaign. As of May 29, he said that more than \$875,000 had been pledged and more than \$330,000 had been received in down payments. Fr. John also reported that he had submitted paperwork to the Archdiocese of Washington to solicit bids for a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. He said the parish would have an in-pew appeal by the end of June.

In other business, Fr. John also said:

- A new parishioner, Jin Pattinson, had asked whether the parish had strategic goals that it communicated to church members. Fr. John suggested that he invite Jim to speak to the council.
- Parishioner Jack Price had asked whether the parish could offer facilitated listening sessions on how to build hope in the church community; Fr. John said he would respond to Jack, asking whether he’d be interested in helping develop those listening sessions as part of our Jubilee Year of Hope.
- The archdiocese is encouraging parishes to offer viewings of the religious documentary, “A Place at the Table: African Americans on the Path to Sainthood.” Council member Ann Pierre

commented that such a viewing would be especially appropriate in November, which is Black Catholic History Month. Fr. John said that he would present the idea of a viewing to Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson to see what she thought.

Several attendees also gave ministry reports: These included:

- **Communications Ministry:** Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan reported that the ministry had supported the Upgrading Our Parish Home for Our Children's Children capital campaign; recorded two of the four Lenten Mission talks; and promoted all events and liturgies that occurred during the Lenten and Easter seasons.
- **New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance:** NNIA Board President Chris King reported that the organization has gotten 16 new families to host and help since March, bringing the total number of families currently being served by NNIA to 100. Of those, NNIA is supplementing rent for about 20 families.

Chris said that, given the presidential executive order suspending the United States Refugee Admissions Program, NNIA is now the only organization in the county helping settle refugees. Two NNIA families are currently at risk of deportation, because they don't have asylum, she said. "We used to be the tail, but now we're the whole show," she said.

- **Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council 2323:** Bernie McGuire said the Knights are hosting a Family Night on June 13 and a Texas Hold 'Em poker night on June 24. He also reported that the new Grand Knight is St. Francis parishioner Steve Willer.
- **Couples for Christ;** Marianne Deausen reported that Couples for Christ had a Family Assembly on May 24 in the Kuehner Room. The group shared on the Blessed Mother.

In addition, Chris King asked Fr. John whether he had any news from the Office of the Archbishop. Fr. John reported that council members Todd Grams, Chris King and Guy Federico would be taking part in a synodal-style listening session with Archbishop Robert McElroy. Fr. John also said that Pope Leo XIV is talking about peace – and he's a graduate of Villanova University, making him a fellow alumnus of that institution alongside Fr. John.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.