

“...to be a Christ-centered radiant light and bold witness to those whose lives we touch...”

In attendance: Marian McCord, Mark Benmuvhar, Wendy Franklin, Ann Madden, Mary Ann McWilliams, Cindy Yamnitz, Aimee Barret, Rich Blackford, Mark Inman, Susan Krieger, Enzo LiCavoli, Randy Howe, Fr. Steve

Guest: Jason LiCavoli; Absent: Linda Telthorst, Ellie Roche

Opening Prayer – Aimee Barret

- **Review & Approve June Meeting Minutes**

Minutes approved

- **Follow-Up Discussion:**

- **Update on the status of the DRE and Youth Minister -Fr Steve**

Ellie Roche 7/1 start date. Now working a FT schedule.

Kaitlyn Kennedy – she feels position only requires 10 hrs week. Contracted up to 20 hrs week. Planning meeting on 9/3 with adults involved in youth group. Rich Blackford reports communication has been very good. 8th graders can't join youth group until Jan 1st of their 8th grade year, per the archdiocese.

- **Update on the Parish Family Weekend- Rich Blackford**

Family weekend was a great success. Rich passed out a financial report. Net profit of \$2164.16. About 400 people were in attendance for the weekend. Rich will be sending a survey out to the parish, which will help with planning for next year. Next year will be limited to a two-night event.

Divine Renovation and Alpha Conference Randy Howe and Marian McCord

Attendees: Marian McCord, Randy & Mary Ann Howe, Becky McDonnell, Kathleen Belosi, Kathy Newbold. Emphasis on the Holy Spirit to help one's faith go from their head to their heart. Alpha Experience is a tool to help with the message. Alpha is an out-reach experience to be 'missional'. Randy detailed how Alpha is going to be used, starting in September, with PSR parents, and Confirmation class which will be 7th & 8th graders, and what changes will take place this year. Alpha will also be offered to young adults and High School students. Parish Council has agreed to support Alpha as part of our parish renewal. Randy expressed need for volunteers for the dinner prep. Anyone that is interested in volunteering should contact him via email.

- **Update on Stewardship Weekend-MaryAnn McWilliams**

9/27-28. Rich Blackford doing the pulpit talks at all masses on Labor Day weekend. Focus is going to be how the parish can help our parishioners. Theme is how the church can help your garden grow. All commissions are going to be involved. T-shirts ordered will be distributed at this event.

- **New Business:**

Follow up Procedure for New Parishioners-Marian & Cindy

MaryAnn – There would be follow up a few weeks after delivering the welcome bag with new people and their sign up to volunteer.

Additional New Business:

Marian McCord – bylaw review as required by our articles. Committee: Marian McCord, Mark Benmuvhar, Gary Leindecker, Ed Lewandowski, Lisa Klempert, Fr. Steve. Hoping to present updated bylaws to PC in Nov for full approval.

Marian McCord inquired if we had a program for parishioners who need meal assistance at home when recovering from hospitalization. This is provided through Comfort Meals, under Christian Service.

Wendy Franklin – additional discussion was had about what better ways to get the parish' attention to quiet down prior to mass. It was suggested that the lector reading the announcement doesn't continue until attention is given by the congregation.

- **Commission Reports:**

Any Questions/Comments?

Marian inquired about the guest speaker at the Ad/Fin meeting and the planned giving program.

Susan Krieger – more discussion about Mary Factor wanting to step away from MCU.

- **Chair Comments** – Marian McCord
- **Vice Chair Comments** – Mark Benmuvhar – Discussion about number of PSR students and how it compares to last year. Numbers are similar to last year. Marian will ask Ellie to provide a short report to send to PC since she wasn't able to attend the meeting.
- **Pastor Comments** – Father Steve – potentially 3-4 OCIA candidates. Fr. Steve will be working with Peace & Justice to consider a strategic plan. Leadership Vocations Support Program – he has a committee formed and will be working on a program.
- **What's the Buzz in the Neighborhood?**
- **Closing Prayer** – Aimee Barret

Next Meeting

- 9/23/25 - 7 - 9 pm in Rooms 1 & 2
Opening/Closing Prayer – Wendy Franklin

Upcoming Events

- 9/27 & 9/28 Stewardship Weekend
- 10/5/25 Pet Blessing
- 10/5/25 Pasta Dinner
- 10/25/25 PC Retreat Our Lady Catholic Church in Festus

Christian Service Commission
Report to Parish Council
for August 26, 2025

Notes from our **August 21, 2025** Christian Service Commission meeting (*no meeting in July*)

*The Mission of Mary, Mother of the Church, as a Christ-centered community, is to be a **radiant light** in the world and a **bold witness** to those whose lives we touch, inspiring them to love God and to love one another, as God loves us.*

Members:

- ❖ Susan Buerkle (Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl, Archdiocesan CRS Advisory Board, Legislative Action, Offering Letters for Bread for the World, Advocacy for International Relief and Development Funding)
- ❖ Mary Factor (Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) (*need replacement for Mary*))
- ❖ Lori Fick (Rock Church Summer, Christmas & Monthly Food Drives, Comfort Meals)
- ❖ Nancy Forsythe (Rock Church Christmas Gift Drive)
- ❖ Mark Fuller (The James II Project)
- ❖ Mike Jarvis (Sandwich Shoppes)
- ❖ Susan Krieger (Commission Chair)
- ❖ Becky McDonnell (Kids/Family Books for St. Anthony of Padua Food Pantry-*on hold*)
- ❖ Mary Lou Peters (Member)
- ❖ Jeanne Schepers (Peace & Justice)
- ❖ Leicha Schepers (St. Vincent de Paul Society)
- ❖ Jeanette Sloan (Funeral Luncheons)
- ❖ Patricia Tobin (Bridge Bread)
- ❖ Sharon Van Ronzelen (Tithing)

Present at meeting: Susan Buerkle, Mary Factor, Lori Fick, Nancy Forsythe,
Susan Krieger, Leicha Schepers, Sharon Von Ronzelen

Not Present: Mark Fuller, Mike Jarvis, Becky McDonnell, Mary Lou Peters,
Jeanne Schepers, Jeanette Sloan, Patricia Tobin

Opening Prayer: Lectio Divina: *Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (#123, Cycle C):
The Gospel of Luke 13:22-30*

Meeting Discussions:

- 1) Discuss possibility of Christian Service Commission joining with Peace and Justice team to provide further help to the Wellston Center for the victims of the May 16th tornado. Becky Quick had reached out to me asking if C.S. would be interested. The Wellston website indicates that there is *still need* for help. She has been in contact with Andrew (the Wellston Director). I will be responding to Becky indicating that several of us on C.S. would be willing to join with P&J to make sandwiches, request food and clothing items, etc. – whatever is being planned.

- 2) Before the end of the fiscal year next June, Mary Factor is planning to *step away* from representing MMOC for MCU. Mary is inviting others to consider working with her on an issue that MCU is addressing this year. MCU works on the *causes* of problems throughout the St. Louis area so we are not just putting ‘bandaids’ on recurring problems that never get resolved. MCU is a worthy group that makes changes to improve life for ALL St. Louisans. Mary is currently the *only* person from Mary Mother that participates/is the point person from MCU that bring the issues to our parishioners. Mary is willing to come to a Parish Council meeting to share some of the current MCU initiatives, the MCU meeting frequency and time she spends supporting to see if anyone might know of someone who would be interested. She is also planning to reach out personally to a few people. Additionally, we discussed that she put something in the Bulletin and/or in a Flocknote.
- 3) Ann Garavaglia had requested the current number of Volunteers for the various Ministries for her annual report. *All* Christian Service sub committees reviewed and provided updates.
- 4) I will be formatting our “Christian Service Catalog” into a *brochure* to be included in the Welcome Basket.

Other Updates/Sub Committee Reports:

Susan Buerkle (Catholic Relief Services, Legislative Action): **Report:** *There will be a Food Insecurity Summit / “From Hunger to Hope; Feed My Lambs” on Thursday, October 9th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at The Rigali Center.*

Mary Factor (Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU)): **Report:** *per Discussion note above, she is looking for someone to take over for her as she will be stepping down.*

Lori Fick (Summer Food Drive, Christmas Food Drive, Comfort Meals for Recovery): **Report:** *Gary Franklin is now the person who takes the donations from the Wire Bin in the Vestibule down to the Rock Church. He, along with 1 or 2 others, go about every 5 or 6 weeks/whenever there are enough items to warrant making the trip. Lori is going to resume putting a note in the Bulletin reminding folks that we still need the monthly donations.*

Nancy Forsythe (Christmas Gift Drive): **Report:** *Nothing to report regarding the Gift drive; however; Nancy did attend the “United in Purpose – Moving as One Southern Vicariate” meeting at Our Lady in Festus on July 17th. The focus of the meeting was to identify and address the specific needs within the Southern Vicariate community. They reviewed real-time data and historical insights from the most poverty-stricken county in our Archdiocese to develop a shared vision and practical strategies for impactful outreach. More to follow regarding MMOC involvement.*

Mark Fuller (The James II Project): **Report:** *In response to Ann G’s Volunteers Annual Report: Currently, we have 11 active volunteers from MMOC who are participating in The James II Project under The Christian Service Commission. In addition, we have 4 active volunteers from Our Lady, Festus, who join us as part of our Third Thursday group as well. I want to give them credit for teaming with us.*

Mike Jarvis (Sandwich Shoppes); Rob Telthorst (St. Anthony’s Food Pantry): (Sandwich Shoppe meets and puts sandwiches together each Friday at St. Anthony of Padua Food Pantry): **Report:** *There are approximately 24 people who regularly go to St. Anthony’s to Work and help make sandwiches. In addition, there are 6 people who make sandwiches in their homes at various intervals (once a month, every other week, etc.,) to be taken down to St. Anthony’s.*

Becky McDonnell (Kids/Family Books for St. Anthony Food Pantry): Report: Becky McDonnell reported that *the Books initiative is currently suspended as she has many books at this time.*

Jeanne Schepers (Peace & Justice): Report: none

Leicha Schepers (St. Vincent de Paul Society): **Report:** *There is going to be a “Friends of the Poor Walk” on Saturday, September 27th in Fenton Park at 8:30 (registration at 7:30 am; 1.5 mile walk).*

Jeanette Sloan (Funeral Luncheons): **Report:** *Due to the many recent Funerals, the Funeral Luncheons group has been restructured. They have created **two Teams** of **twelve** luncheon **Servers**. Additionally, they now have **two Co-Leaders** to help coordinate **each** Team. The new Team Co-Leaders are: Pat Echelmeyer and Lois Scully; Barb Leveque and Mary Knoke. They also have 76 parishioners who have volunteers to donate food (Sides, Desserts, etc.).*

Patricia Tobin (Bridge Bread): Report: *10 Volunteers for Bridge Bread weekends*

Sharon Van Ronzelen (Tithing): **Report:** *There is going to be a “Meet and Greet” for the Recipients of our Tithing program. This will be held at Mary Mother on the weekend of November 8th and 9th. **40** organizations were invited; so far, **15** have responded that they **will** be attending. There will be more information in Bulletins and on the Website.*

Reminders:

--Next Christian Service Commission Meeting: (3rd Thursday) September 18, 2025 @ 2:30

Submitted by: *Susan Krieger*, Chair

Health Ministry Report to Parish Council
August 2025

HMC Meeting August 19, 2025 – 7:00pm

Attendance: Aimee Barrett, Amy Kelemen, Lisa Roseland, Mary Scalzo, Linda Telthorst, Michele Venable

Approval of June meeting minutes (no meeting in July)

New Business

- Item from HMC for new parishioner welcome bags – worked as a group to put these together. We are going to use recycled medicine bottles and fill them with Band-Aids, life savers and other information to help promote our commission.
- September Welcome/Information meeting for parishioners interested in joining HMC – stuffed and addressed envelopes for mailing invites to this meeting.
- Stewardship Weekend Saturday, Sep. 27 – Sunday, Sep. 28 (“Mary, Mary, our sweet Mother, how will our garden grow?”)
 - All commissions will have a table in the Riley Center
 - Include information about what our commission does (visual)
 - Handouts, giveaways, something interactive (game, questions, etc.)
 - Parishioners will receive a bingo card to be stamped by the commission as they visit each table
 - Mary is putting together baskets for the winners that will be drawn from each mass. If you get your card stamped at each booth you will be able to enter your name in for the drawing for a basket. One basket will be given away at for each mass.
 - Ideas for interactive part, handouts/info? Could probably reuse items from welcome bags. Another idea would be to hand out files of life (card pouch that attaches to the fridge; add your medical information for first responders)
 - We discussed having two poster boards with some flip card questions to be an interactive part of our table. We might also color code some flowers with questions and bring in a skeleton. Linda offered to come up with the questions/answers. Mary will help put together the rest of the table.
 - We need volunteers to be at the table for each mass. We will get a list together for the next meeting in September. So far Lisa and Aimee are available to help Sunday.

Standing Agenda Items (new information in *italics*)

- Parish Community Forum/Morning of Renewal continued discussion
 - How can HMC further address some of the priorities, weaknesses, etc. that were identified?
 - Aimee talked to Cheryl about the possibility of using a PSR night in the fall for a follow-up presentation from Tom Caffrey. She is open to the idea and willing to help with scheduling.
 - Cheryl is retiring at the end of June (see Parish Council notes below), so we will probably need to reach out to the new Director of Faith Formation once the position is filled.
 - Michele has reached out to Tom to find out if he is willing to speak again and if he has open dates in the fall. *Michele has communicated with Ellie, our new DRE. She has provided two possible dates in November 10th or 17th for a presentation from Tom to PSR parents.*
 - Other ideas for getting important health info to parishioners now that the Update has ceased? Events? Displays? How can we help Michele communicate this information?
 - Next meeting we can review our commission’s top priorities from the Morning of Renewal.
 - What have we already accomplished?
 - Is there one need, topic, weakness, etc. that we can focus on next?
- *Added activities – line dancing*

- *Mental Health – reflection journals in vestibule during May Mental Health Awareness Month*

Other News/Information from Members?

Nothing additional to add

Parish Nurse

- Line Dancing Friday, July 25 – It was a great and enjoyable event. We had 30 people attend.
 - Next event Friday, Aug. 29. We could use some help an hour before the event to help set up.
- Hospitality Ministry training Wednesday, Aug. 20 – includes medical emergencies review of first aid bags, other equipment, AED use.
- Good Samaritan Driver Ministry. The lady we have been given a ride to in the morning and afternoon has passed away. The past two months there was a total of 16 rides given between her and other individuals.
- GriefShare – There are currently 3 people signed up.
- CPR/AED class – At this time the class isn't planned but will probably be in November. We will use the same company we used most recently, Keepin' The Beat.
- Next blood drive Thursday, Sep. 18, 2:30 – 6:30pm (1 less hour) We will be using Impact Life again. Linda and Aimee as well as her mom will all volunteer to help during the event. We really need to work on improving our blood donation numbers.

Closing Comments

- Next Meeting – Tuesday, Sep. 16th, 7:00 (Welcome meeting)

Christian Formation Commission
Parish Council Report
August 2025
8-26-2025

Peace & Justice Committee

August Meeting 8-12-2025

Present: Fr. Steve, Lori Fick, Libby Long, Mary Mertzlufft, Alice Weis, Sharon Barron, Mary Ellen Factor, Mary Ann Lause, Becky Quick, Kim Blackford, Kim Thomas
Visitors/New members: George Herrera, Ralph Hennicke, Andrea Veras

Formation and Discussion

- Building A Bridge: Libby Long lead discussion of “Building A Bridge” pgs. 99-108. This was the final group discussion. Members are encouraged to read and reflect on the remaining chapters of the book on their own.

Sub-Committee Reports

Culture of Life – Kim Blackford

- The group continues to focus on race relations and is planning events for early 2026, including a movie series. The date for the “Am I My Brothers Keeper” workshop is set for Feb. 21, 2026 at MMOC

Love Thy Neighbor – Libby Long

- The group did not have a regular meeting in July, however, several members met with Ellie Roche, DRE and Parish Council leadership to familiarize them with the ongoing work of the group and inform them of plans for moving forward.
- Two members of Love Thy Neighbor will attend the September Parish Council meeting to present this information to the whole council.
- A letter is being sent to Archbishop Rosanski informing him of the work of the MMOC Love Thy Neighbor sub-committee.

Seasons of Creation – Lori Fick

- The group has received a \$250.00 Laudato Si Micro Grant.
- The grant will be used for a guest speaker, Luz Rooney.
- The presentation date is Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 12:30 pm.
 - It will include a 45 minute presentation on the dangers of plastic on health and the environment, followed by a Q&A and light refreshments.
- Flyers were distributed after masses featuring two upcoming events:
 - Aug. 20, 2025 – Social Action Leaders: How parish leaders and educators are engaging Care for Creation in their communities.
 - Sept. 13, 2025 – Creation Care Summit sponsored by the Laudato Si Commission.

Social Justice Collaborative – Mary Ellen Factor

- The group did not have a meeting in July,
- The next meeting is Aug. 21.
- A review of the June 19, 2025 minutes was presented.

General Business

A brief history of the Peace & Justice Ministry at MMOC was given by Kim Blackford.

George Herrera, Social Outreach Director for the Southern Vicariate, spoke of his goal to expand peace and justice ministries throughout the vicariate. Through his experience in the military and working with veterans he has learned to use data to encourage conversations which aid in advocating for others and serving all neighbors. Rural areas have already begun feeling the effects of recent changes in federal aid programs and funding. Mr. Herrera has been collecting data and stories regarding these effects for an article to be in the St. Louis Review. He believes there will be the need and opportunity for existing P&J ministries to act as “mentors” to newly formed ministries in the more rural areas of the vicariate. There are also many opportunities for involvement with tornado relief and other challenges faced in the Southern Vicariate. Tentative discussion for our members to visit some of these locations.

New Business and upcoming events

- The *Be SMART Newsletter* discusses protecting youth from firearms.
- The September P&J meeting will focus on immigration. National Migration Week is Sept. 22-28, 2025. World Day of Migrants and Refugees is Oct. 4-10, 2025.
- “Am I My Brothers Keeper” A workshop examining the sin of racism through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching will be held at Mary, Mother Feb. 21, 2026.
- “LGBTQIA+, Catholic Social Teaching, & The Church” Panel Discussion at St. Margaret of Scotland. Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 7:00pm-8:30pm. Contact Becky Quick at (314) 703-1131 or rampquick@yahoo.com for information on carpooling from Mary, Mother.
- “Hope into Action Workshop” Sept. 6, 8:30am-Noon, St. Joseph-Imperial. Prayer, learning, and discernment for all those interested in social action on behalf of the poor and vulnerable in our Vicariate.
- “Mary, Mary-Oh Sweet Mother! Help My Garden Grow” a Stewardship Weekend event will take place after all masses Sept. 27-28. We will have table displays featuring our work and ways to be involved. If interested in helping with the display or being present at the event, contact Becky Quick at (314)703-1131 or rampquick@yahoo.com.
- Tornado Recovery support for The Wellston Center is on hold, pending their changing needs. Christian Service has agreed to partner with us if possible. More information will be emailed once available.

Next meeting is September 9, 2025.

Respect Life Updates

August 13, 2025 meeting

From Missouri Catholic Conference--please pray--

Recently, Planned Parenthood and other big abortion businesses were banned from receiving federal Medicaid dollars for one year. However, Planned Parenthood sued, and a preliminary injunction was granted by the court that requires taxpayer funding to continue. Archbishop Timothy Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and Bishop Daniel Thomas, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, are inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of [daily prayer to stop taxpayer funding of the abortion industry](#). The prayer will invoke the intercession of Saint Joseph, Defender of Life, beginning on July 25 and continuing until October 1, marking the start of Respect Life Month.

The invitation for prayer comes as Planned Parenthood announced the closure of two of its six clinics in the Houston area, including its Prevention Park location, which was known as the largest abortion facility in the world until the state's near-total abortion ban in 2022. Texas Right to Life President Dr. John Seago called the Prevention Park location's closure an "unmitigated victory for life." At its peak, this center aborted 10,000 babies a year, up until 24 weeks of pregnancy. [Click here](#) to read more from the Catholic News Agency.

From Missouri Right to Life --

Missouri Supreme Court Ruling, August 12, 2025

On Tuesday, August 12, the Missouri Supreme Court rejected to hear Attorney General Andrew Bailey's appeal to restore health and safety regulations on abortion, sending it to the Western District Court of Appeals for a hearing. This hearing will be on September 10th.

For now, women are in grave danger from abortion since all health and safety requirements have been thrown out by the lone Jackson County Judge Jeri Zhang and court justices.

Pray for the babies that are losing their life through the horrendous procedure of abortion and for the women whose lives are at high risk now.

Attorney General Andrew Bailey is fighting for protection for these babies and women. The State of Missouri has a compelling interest to ensure that women are not being harmed by an unregulated abortion industry.

Read more here: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/missouri-supreme-court-rejects-attorney-generals-appeal-to-restore-pro-life-laws-for-now/>

From Missouri Catholic Conference --

Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins has certified HJR 73 for the November 3, 2026, general election. Ironically, the measure will appear as "Amendment 3", even though it aims to roll back some of the worst provisions of the pro-abortion constitutional amendment that was narrowly approved in last year's general election.

If approved by voters, the "new" Amendment 3 would amend the Missouri Constitution to guarantee access to care for medical emergencies, ectopic pregnancies, and miscarriages; limit abortions to medical emergencies, fatal fetal anomalies, rape, and incest; restore health and safety standards for abortion clinics; ensure parental consent for minors; prohibit public funding of abortions except in limited circumstances; and, protect children from gender-transition treatments and procedures.

As expected, the announcement quickly sparked a legal challenge from abortion advocates. On Wednesday, the ACLU filed a lawsuit against Secretary of State Hoskins for certifying what they deem to be "an intentionally misleading and inaccurate summary statement and fair ballot language". The full petition filed by the ACLU is available [here](#).

To view the official documents issued by the Secretary of State website, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events

We will begin the Spiritual Adoption Program again in September at Mary Mother. Please pick up a prayer card at the Respect Life table after Masses the weekend of 9/27-9/28 at the Stewardship Event. Come check out the table to see flyers for many upcoming events.

Archdiocesan Parish Coordinators Meeting - Monday, Aug. 18 at 6:30 pm at the Cardinal Rigali Center - Contact me if you'd like to come along. All are welcome.

South County Respect Life Meeting - Monday, Aug. 25 at 7:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Rectory Meeting Room - Contact me if you'd like to come along. All are welcome.

First Saturday Rosary for Life - Saturday, Sept. 6 at 9:30 am outside the abortion facility at 4251 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108 - additional prayer and hospitality at Our Lady of Guadalupe Convent afterwards.

Missouri Right to Life Banquet & Program - Monday, Sept. 8 - Cocktails 6 pm, Dinner & Program 7 pm - St. Charles Convention Center - \$100/ticket - cocktail attire - featured speaker - Lara Trump - register at 222.MRLbanquet.com by Aug. 29 - request to be seated with Leslie Najjar - Contact me to carpool to the event.

A Night of Love & Laughter - Saturday, Sept. 13 - 6-9 pm - Wild Sun Winery in Hillsboro - dinner and show by Catholic speaker Katie McGrady - early bird \$50/person before 8/24 - regular registration \$60/person - deadline 9/2 - benefits Gabriels Retreat Ministries

Next Meeting is September 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Christian Formation Core Team Updates

August meeting – 8/21/2025

Present: Tom Angus, Jean Angus, Aimee Barrett, Leslie Najjar, Mary Wavada , Mark Benmuvhar, Becky McDonnell, Cindy Yamnitz ,Carol Winkler

Guest: Marian McCord

Report on Alpha and Divine Renovation Conference in July

- Alpha /Youth Alpha- conference – 2 days in TN (also 1 day on Divine Renovation)
- Kathy Newbold / Randy and Mary Anne Howe/ Marian McCord/ Becky McDonnell/ Kathleen Balassi attended from MMOC
- Becky and Marian – Updates from Conference
 - Goal of Divine Renovation to Inspire, Equip, and Connect
 - Theme of the Alpha Conference was “Extend the Table “
 - Change of an era – A new call to evangelization since we no longer live in a Christian era.
 - Provide renewal - ignite the world on fire
 - Alpha – preaching the Gospel where individuals encounter love. Love them where they are, as they are
 - Empower lay leaders
 - All of this will require much prayer and deep reliance on Holy Spirit
 - Alpha is one of the first steps toward Divine Renovation.

Plans for Alpha programs starting this Fall

- Young Adult – Ed and Kay Lewandowski are leading
- High School – Becky McDonnell and Katilyn Kennedy are leading

- 7th & 8th Grade – Youth Alpha – during PSR
- 2nd, 7th, 8th grade – Parent Alpha – during PSR
- Will need lots of help – please plan to volunteer – Time is short!!!
- Alpha coordinating team may be needed and follow up with Ellie and Randy
- Parish-wide Alpha – TBD

Divine Renovation

- Becky met with Fr. Steve to discuss Alpha and Divine Renovation.
- Becky asked Fr. Steve to participate in 3 1-hour sessions on The Three Keys to Unlocking Your Parish.
- Jen Meehan from the South Vicariate will be promoting Divine Renovation to parishes in the vicariate

Stewardship Give away Item from Christian Formation – completed

- Request by Stewardship group to come up with an item representing the Christian Formation Committee to be placed in the Welcome bags for new parishioners.
- Becky showed the item going in the welcome bags. Dove (symbolizing Holy Spirit) Chocolate Bar with Christian Formation info and color-coded QR codes specific for adults, teens, and kids.
- Thank you Becky for your creativity and work on this.

Staff changes and progress

- New DRE Ellie Roche
 - Will be introduced at masses the weekend of 8/23-24
 - Returned to work at MMOC this week
 - Will be invited to our next meeting.
- Part Time Youth Minister has been hired - Kaitlyn Kennedy

Update on Archdiocesan Programs

- Our Sacred Table
 - Training date 6/19/2025 – Ellie, Randy, and Cindy attended
 - Offering 2 years of support for implementation
 - Not impressed with initial training
 - There may be some online resources that are worthwhile
 - Will follow up with Ellie to see if she is participating. Randy is not.
- Missionaries of Joy
 - June 2025 – July 2026
 - Parishioner fee of \$150 – waved.
 - Can still sign up until 8/31/202
 - May pair well with Divine Renovation?

MMOC Programs and Offerings

Christmas Book Give Away

- Cost has gone from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per book
- Tom and Jean Angus reported on the 3 Dynamic Catholic books we had samples of:
 - The Forgotten Way: The Saint James Master Plan
 - The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality
 - Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy
- Feedback on Books
 - The Forgotten Way –recommended by Tom and Jean. Book highlights: Learn to control speech, encourage prayer, excellent support for Alpha. Easiest read to complete.

- The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality – very long read. Maybe better suited for someone needing reinforcement of basics.
- Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy – very repetitive and difficult to get to better second half. Others who read this were unable to get to better portion.
- Cindy will touch base with Ellie and Randy.

Stewardship event – Mary, Mary – Oh Sweet Mother! Help Our Garden Grow

- After masses Sept 27-28
- Becky and Rose are coordinating this for the Christian Formation Commission
- Table displays for ministries
- Multiple tables for Christian Formation
 - One table for various Christian Formation offerings
 - Three table or Peace & Justice,
 - One Table for Respect Life
 - One table for Alpha
 - Ellie – PSR?
- Life size poster of Pope Leo – for taking pictures with Pope Leo.
- Will need volunteers after each mass to assist at the Christian Formation table(s)
- Will there be a table for prayer groups? Cindy will ask Mary Ann.

OCIA

- Ed Lewandowski has 3 possible new inquiries for OCIA

Legacy Project – Anchored in Faith: Preserving and Sharing Stories of God's love – Rose Wiethop

- We will have 10 documents/frames for the legacy project. They are so beautiful!! I think the parish will be touched by the results.
- The order for paper and frames is going in on Monday, 8/25.
- Rose will coordinate with the office/Ann about displaying the projects in the back of church for the weekend before and after BI Mary's birthday. (9/8)
- Rose will write announcements in the bulletin and the altar inviting people to see the results. No one has objected to displaying them.
- Rose will find someone to put up the 10 documents.
- Will this be offered again? Cindy will follow up with Rose.

Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Basic Catholic Catechism Course – Leslie Najjar

- We have 19 doing the course and coming to discussion group meetings and two who plan to do the course but not come to the discussion group meetings.
- Group discussions will be offered on Wednesday evenings and Monday mornings.

Lent 2026

- The Peace and Justice committee is planning to offer 3 movies on social justice issues during Lent.
 - Tuesday, 2/17/2026 at 6:00 pm - Entertaining Angels
 - Saturday, 3//2026 at 5:30 pm – Selma
 - Sunday, 3/22/2026 at 12:00 – Just Mercy

Contemplative Prayer Group Update

- The videos of the two sessions Deacon Bob did this spring on "Living Trinitarian Life" are available for viewing on the contemplative web page.
- Deacon Bob will present "Partaking in the Trinitarian Roles" on Tuesday September 16, 6:30-7:30 in church.

Cornerstone

- This year's study will be The Acts of The Apostles
- Visitor's Day is 9/24/2025
- Sessions will be on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 -11:30 am
- Will run from late September to March
- Contact is Ed Lewandowski

Faith Formation Newsletter/Flocknote – Living Our Faith

- Continue as is through November which was our first month.
 - Discuss with DRE
 - Send survey?
 - Look at options to grow in other areas?

Question arose on who gets Youth flocknotes/emails.

- Clarification needed on who receives youth group specific Flocknotes.
- Becky will follow up with Kaitlyn on this.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Yamnitz, Christian Formation Chair

Mary Mother of the Church Liturgy Commission Meeting

August 6, 2025

Attendance: Ann Madden, Angela Hapgood, Nate Jackson, Susan Fuchs, Carol Drury, Deacon Randy Howe, Anne Duncan, Nancy Muehl, Father Steve Robeson.

The evening opened at 6:30 with prayer led by Randy Howe, which included shared reflections on the reading from Hebrews.

The June minutes previously sent by Flocknote were approved as presented.

Old Business

- Review of VBS. The consensus was it was a hit. There were about 60 children in attendance, ranging in age from 3 to 2nd grade. It was great to have so many teens come back to help. The presentation at 11 am mass on that Sunday was loved by many.
- Anita Anton is moving forward with Liturgical Dance and has met with 5-6 young people. The first one is planned for October.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ministry workshops will be Wednesday, August 20. Hospitality Ministers & Lectors will meet at 6:15 and Eucharistic Ministers will meet at 7:15. Nancy Muehl will make an appeal for servers September 8 at the PSR Opening mass. She is hoping with both the students and parents hearing her, it might generate some interest. After that date, she will schedule a refresher for all current servers.
- There has been a request for a John Michael Talbot concert. Nate has contacted John Michael Talbot's office, but has had no response to-date.
- Reminder-Family Weekend is August 22-24. Friday night will be an outdoor movie, Saturday BBQ and Sunday chicken dinner. There will be fun and games for all. Tell your friends and encourage everyone to attend.
- Nate asked if we had ever considered an outdoor mass. A suggestion was made that we might be able to try this on Saturday, October 18, in coordination with the Trunk or Treat event. We could have it in the back on the south parking lot. Everyone could bring lawn chairs.
- Ann read a few notes from the Comments box. One was for a request of a Mary statue to be more prominent in our church. There was also a comment about the dress code for Eucharistic Ministers. This will be addressed at the next workshop. It is noted, that although there is no "specific dress code" we highly encourage all to dress modestly/respectfully when serving in any ministry at mass. It is a privilege to serve our parish in any ministry.
- Growing Our Faith Weekend will be September 27 & 28. Ann asked for help/ideas for the Liturgy Commission. Plan is to have a board to advertise all our ministries. Nancy Muehl & Sue Fuchs volunteered to help.
- Blessing of the pets will be October 5 after the 11 am mass — at 1pm.
- Regarding finding leaders for Children's Liturgy of the Word for 9/7/25 and future dates — Randy will be talking with Ellie about leaders.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Directory of Liturgy— Nate Jackson

- Has 2 new choir members, 1 plays guitar.
- Tomorrow Nate is meeting with the teens about doing music. They are scheduled for the Ilam mass on August 17. With school starting soon, he is hopeful their schedules will allow them to continue in this music ministry.
- Contemporary choirs begins practicing again this week. Traditional choir begins in September.

Art & Environment — Carol Drury

- Carol will need to get a few plants replaced that are looking bad. Ann Madden offered to try and help with taking some home and "nursing" them back to health, if possible.
- Carol reminded us she would like to recruit help in the future when setting up for October, Christmas, Easter, etc. Just a few more bodies would make the task so much easier.

Hospitality — Sue Fuchs

- Still recruiting — need more people. • Workshop will be in two weeks.

Adoration — Anne Duncan

- Currently have several Adorers out for medical issues & had a couple others quit.
- Need more Adorers.

Servers — Nancy Muehl

- Nancy will recruit 9/8/25 at PSR Opening Mass at 6:30.
- Will schedule refresher for all current servers.
- Has sent a tentative list to Randy for the next schedule. Hoping to have a few new young people after she talks w/PSR.

Pastor's Comments — Father Steve Robeson

- Beginning to develop a Leadership for Vocations. He has spoken with 3-4 people to help with this ministry. This will involve a lot of praying. The focus will be on grades 5 and up to learn/understand the need for people in ALL vocations. This will be a more personal approach.
- Praying for vocations will be an affirmation approach from our community. Randy suggested to have a petition for vocations and then, at the end of petitions (instead of at the end of mass), have it lead directly into a community prayer.
- The new green cards in the pews — approximately 40 have had to be replaced, but nothing has been turned in yet. Hopefully, people took them home and will return with notes/comments/interests, etc.

Closing prayer was lead by Ann Madden. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Hapgood

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION

August 2025

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE –

- Welcome Pew Cards – This project has been completed, and the finished products are in each of the hymnal holders in each pew. Mary Ann is refreshing the supply after the 11:00 Mass each weekend. She has found that at least a dozen or so are “missing” and we assume that people may be taking them home with them. To date we have not received any completed forms returned back to us, but we will continue to draw attention to these cards as often as we can. This is something new and it often takes time to take hold.
- Stewardship Weekend – We continue to work on this very large project which will encompass the entire Parish Council Commissions and many of the subcommittees as well. Letters have gone out to commission chairs, and we are gathering information regarding what their commission will be doing at the Event. The theme is Mary, Mary – Oh, Sweet Mother – Help Our Garden Grow. The Stewardship Committee will staff several tables, including one for children’s activities and another for t-shirt pick-ups. We will provide each attendee with a bag to collect treasures at all tables plus a Garden Card to get stamped at all the tables. Completed Garden Cards can be put in a bin for a chance to win a very nice prize. A card to be pulled after each of the three Masses.
- MMOC T-shirts – Thanks to Wendy Franklin, Mark Benmuvhar, John Brucher and Ann Garavaglia a new MMOC t-shirt and design has been finalized, and we will begin taking orders after all the Masses on Aug 16 & 17, Aug 23 & 24, and Aug 30 & 31. Shirts have the words Mary, Mother of the Church on the top front left panel of the shirt and a copy of the tree and wording of Growing Together, Building in Faith in full color on the back. We were able to keep the shirts to \$15 each.
- Two new Ambassadors were trained to help us deliver Welcome Bags to new parishioners.
- YTD new parishioners total is 30. At this time last year, we had 19 new parishioners so we are gratefully ahead of last year to this point. Keep up the stewardship.
- Christian Formation gave us Dove candy bars to put in the Welcome Bags to represent the Holy Spirit in our lives. There is a wrapper around the Dove Bar with a list of activities the Commission offers.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP –

- The next quarterly program is on September 16th and the final program is scheduled for December 9. These are at 6:30 pm in church.
- Margaret Poirrier is facilitating the Contemplative Prayer Group on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in one of the classrooms.

PRAYER GROUPS – All our prayer groups are going strong, and some are growing in attendance.

JONAH TEAM – Participation over the summer months is lower than normal.

E-TEAM SQUARED –

The July 25th meeting was hosted by Mary Mother. Attendance was low due to so many vacations and those at the Alpha conference. Discussion continued on the kerygma and how we experience this in our lives. Next meeting is on August 22 at will take place at Our Lady’s in Festus. I will be out of town, but Rose thought she may be able to attend.

Submitted by,

Mary Ann McWilliams
Chair, Missionary Discipleship Commission

Administration and Finance Commission June Report 06-24-2025

(submitted 8/26/2025)

- Guest: Michael Weisbrod from the Roman Catholic Foundation
 - Michael Weisbrod was present to share the upcoming event of “Legacy Sunday” (and educational effort to promote the concept of planned giving- leaving a portion of one’s estate to the (parish). He was here to answer questions and hopefully convince us that Mary Mother should hold a legacy Sunday on November 1-2
 - After he left, discussion followed, where we determined it is a good idea to educate our folks about this way of remembering the parish, and making a testamentary gift to the parish.
 - Next step Randy to share the legacy Sunday information with the Stewardship committed and ask them for suggestions on who the Ambassador(s) that would speak at the Masses on Nov 1-2 should be.
- Major Projects –
 - Paving /repair of lot. complete – in process of being paid.
- Financials
 - As the end of July, we have a \$23,074.51 operating loss. (June Fiscal year end was minus \$20,584.04).
 - Cash position is still strong \$658,571.72. in unrestricted funds, and \$413,070.14 in restricted funds.
- Budget
 - Our numbers are still significantly below budget. The weekly offertory contributions, RMD/Stock are below expected.
 - Don was not present; he provided the income analysis with the following commentary.
 - Examining the three main drivers of income (Envelopes, Online, and Stock/RMD), you will notice there is a considerable shift in percentage away from / stock/RMD and towards envelopes and online. You would have to go back to the 2020-2022 to find a monthly average for Stock/RMD as low as \$7,000.
 - Whether this is an anomaly or a trend is yet to be determined. However, a second disturbing trend is in the monthly average. In the years FY23-25, our monthly average donation was \$82,400. In July of this year, we fell \$17,000 short of that average. True, summer months are always low. Again, this will be a wait-and see situation, to determine if we are seeing a dip or a trend..
- Income is down... Why? it was asked if it was possible to determine who is not “here” any longer, and has stopped contributing. Ann believes there is a report in Servant keeper that might help us determine just that. Perhaps we can discern who is stopped giving and contact them to ask why?

What was the results of ServantKeeper report comparing FY24 and FY25 offertory.

- Randy shared that his review of the report showed \$43,000 of loss due to lost income from parishioners who had passed away, and additional \$110,00 was a result of folks who had moved or asked to be removed from our rolls. There are some new donors in FY25, but their donations only offset a portion of what was lost.

- Wendy shared that she had done a review of Census changes year to year and found that. We had 50 new families in FY 2025, but we also lost 38 individuals to death, 33 moves and 13 who asked to be removed.

Open Discussion – Fundraising options? / Pastor comments

- Claude said it was suggested we share the operating loss/gain with the parish bulletin. Ann will begin sending that info to Claude again for a one month posting.
- Randy said one of the main things we need to do is keep people in the pews. There is an effort currently to reach out to those who have left to learn why-(an exit interview if you will) and perhaps if appropriate, to invite them back.
- Father Steve shared that there are many new initiatives in formation, among them are Alpha for PSR youth and PSR parents. We have many new ministries... Our faith life and ministries need to be 360 degrees – so much good is happening!!!

Submitted By: Mark Inman