



Sarnia Bluewater
Roman Catholic
Family of Parishes

*Serving the Parishes of Our Lady of Mercy,
Queen of Peace, Sacred Heart, St. Benedict,
St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. Thomas d'Aquin*

Welcoming Communities, Encountering Christ, Sharing Faith, Caring for All

**SARNIA BLUEWATER ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILY of PARISHES
PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**April 8, 2025
7:30pm
St. Benedict**

Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes Pastoral Council Mandate:

The Pastoral Parish Council of the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes helps to ensure that the Mission and Vision of the Family of Parishes and the mission (Pastoral Plan) of the Diocese of London are ardently pursued. It is also imperative that the Parish Pastoral Council act in an advisory capacity to the Pastor and the Cor Leadership Team and as a source of communication for the Family of Parishes.

To do so, it will be important for the Pastoral Council to focus on the mission of the Diocese of London and its Pastoral Plan with the key role of gathering information from parishioners and sharing information with the family of parishes for the common good of the family.

Meeting called by: Marc Hammond

Chaired: Marc Hammond

Note taker: Annie Ferrera

Attendees:

Fr. Brian Jane (FoP), Marc Hammond (SM), Helen Ross (SM), Regina Croskery (SB), Leo Mayer (SB), Doris Leblanc (STA-Fr.), Frank Vautour (STA- Eng.), Raymundo Mendez (STA-Sp.), Linda Iacovella (SH), John Roman (SH), Diane Rose (QP-Eng.), Deacon David Kraemer (FoP), Leonia Downie (FoP), Jenn Stewart (FoP), Alyssa Minten (FoP), Annie Ferrera (FoP), Louis Guimond(FoP), Fr. Edward Okorie (FoP),

Regrets: Rev. Joseph Oghenejabor, Rev. Michael Woods (FoP), Fr. Jan Burczyk (FoP), John Spinozzi (SJ), Joanna Kazanecki (QP-Pol.)

Guests:

MINUTES

1. Call to Order & Welcome:

2. Opening Prayer: Fr. Brian opened the meeting with Our Father and the Sunday Gospel. Members shared their thoughts of this Gospel.

3. Review of Agenda: PPC formation added to agenda

4. Acceptance of Minutes: March 11, 2025, minutes: motion to accept by Frank V. seconded by Dcn Dave K; minutes accepted.

5. Pastor's Report: Fr. Brian Jane

- All day confessions on April 9th
- The Lenten Mission was well attended. The 3 talks were recorded and are available on the Family of Parishes YouTube channel
- The Alpha retreat was successful; 3 more sessions left for this Alpha

- Men and Women's New Life Retreats are scheduled in May. Registrations are open.
- 15 people are participating in Charisms workshops. Next workshops are scheduled for September
- The recent Core Leadership Team formation was very informative. The day included short videos based on Fr. James Mallon's book, Divine Renovations, on which our family of parishes model is based.
- Blessed Carlos Acutis Family Day is on Sunday, April 27th. All are encouraged to attend.
- The Chrism Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in London is on Monday, April 14th. Everyone is invited to attend.

6. Updates:

Lay Ecclesial Ministry: Leonia Downie/Jenn Stewart

- We have many catechumens and candidates being received at the Easter Vigil at Our Lady of Mercy Church
- Over 100 children celebrated their First Reconciliation
- First Holy Communion preparation has started; First Communions will take place over 3 weeks in late May
- Confirmation preparation begins in a few weeks
- Muskoka Woods Youth Experience is sold out. A Pasta Fest fundraiser is planned for April 24th. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's Leagues and the Dames de Ste Anne for their sponsorship of this youth experience

Liturgy: Fr. Joseph

- Formation of lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and altar servers continues in our parishes
- Our family of parishes is planning a Cultural Marian Feast at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, May 30th. The event is overseen by Ana Maria Moniz and includes many of our cultural communities and their Marian traditions
- Divine Mercy Sunday is at Our Lady of Mercy Church on Sunday, April 27th
- Each parish has formed a liturgy committee to work within their parish and 1 representative attends the quarterly family of parishes liturgy team meetings
- Each parish is encouraged to celebrate their patron saint feast day
- Palm Sunday will include processions at Sacred Heart and St. Benedict Churches. There were concerns about all parishioners being invited to gather in the meeting room prior to the Mass for the procession into the church after the blessing of palms. We have to respect the maximum number of people allowed to gather in the meeting rooms to ensure the safety of parishioners.
- ACTION ITEM: find alternative ways to hold procession and respect meeting room allowances

Business Administration: Louis Guimond

- Parishioners are encouraged to connect with their parish Finance council representatives when they have questions about parish finances
- An electronic sign was recommended by the building and grounds committee. The cost is approximately \$10,000 and the sign will be managed by the Communications team
- Exploring the relationship between the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Council: what does PPC expect from the Finance Council, what is our relationship, how they can work together to grow the Family of Parishes.
- ACTION ITEM: PPC members are asked to think about the above questions and bring feedback to next PPC meeting

Deacon Report: Deacon Dave Kraemer

- The Deacons are preparing for the Holy Week Masses and services in our parishes

Evangelization: Fr. Brian

- Points covered in Pastor's report

Social Justice: Annie Ferrera

- Development & Peace. pleased with the promotion of the Share Lent Campaign (weekly bulletins & Prayers of the Faithful). Solidarity Soup Lunch @ St. Michael's Sunday, April 6 successful with \$765 raised.
- Next Reel Justice Film. The Grab, April 24th on Food Security, Economics & Development; a remarkable story of greed and fear.
- Migrant Workers Ministry is in the process of working out details for 1st Spanish mass on Palm Sunday. Fr. Jason has offered to come early for Confessions. Collaboration with NLHC MW Project for the 2nd Women's Wellness Event March 30th. Very successful and much appreciated by the 13 women workers & 8

volunteers. The team is currently doing farm visits to welcome the workers back, bringing pizza & Mass calendar for 2025.

- Homelessness & Affordable Housing Ministry – A public event April 15th @ 4 Points Sheraton (6 pm). Indwell film SAFE & presentation by Indwell folks to help public understand the work of Indwell and dispel fears of Indwell housing development coming to town.
- Theresa van Koeverden will be visiting Pikangikum in early June. The Quilting Group and individuals are purchasing “wish list” donations/gifts for Missionaries Colleen & Nick, which Theresa will take with her.
- Truth & Reconciliation. Red Dress Day – May 5th.
- Social Justice /Missions meeting – Monday, March 10th (4-6 pm) @ St. Michael church.

Communication Team: Annie Ferrera/Alyssa Minten

- Social media: The Rosary is now available in English, Spanish and Portuguese on YouTube channel
- Posting twice a day is creating increased traffic and interaction
- A contest has been introduced during April to increase readership
- Plans to re-introduce News from the Family Pews – include testimonials, updates, events, did you know component

Social Team: Annie Ferrera

- Team will actively seek a convener and team to organize the annual Family of Parishes BBQ

7. Old Business:

- Review of Pastoral Goals: Feedback was received on the 3 objectives of the Diocesan Pastoral Goal 1
- Goals 2 and 3 to be reviewed at following meetings
- Details of the full review will be shared when all 3 goals have been discussed

8. New Business:

- Formation retreat day for PPC members: Cathy Smith volunteered to lead a formation day using the format she presented to the Core Leadership Team. The day would revolve around the videos and discussion around Divine Renovation by Fr. James Mallon.
- A date will be suggested at next meeting

9. Open Forum:

10. Closing Prayer: Deacon Kraemer closed the meeting with prayer.

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 – Our Lady of Mercy