

Uptown Catholic Pastoral Council Meeting Notes
8/13/2025

Members In Attendance: Margie Matthews, Martha Dorff, Anthony Cirillo, Cheryl Wood, David Fiel, Joe Gubasta, Virginia Gubasta, Marian McSwigan, Ray Faller

Members Absent: Tom Donnelly

Staff In Attendance: Thomas Herzog, Fr. Tim Fahey

Archdiocesan Liaisons in Attendance: Ted Reilly, Meg Paul

Visitors in Attendance: Angelo DiMarzio (Holy Name), Sam Fiel (Holy Name), Bob Stephan (Right-to-Life), Dean S. Weber (Right-to-Life), Mother Seraphina Marie, Fdm, Deacon Dave Shaffer (Right-to-Life)

Opening Prayer: Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Reports and Announcements

Presentation by Right-to-Life groups from Holy Name

- Dave Shaffer spoke about the [Greater Cincinnati Helpers of God's Precious Infants](#), a group of volunteers dedicated to the sanctity of human life. They gather at Holy Name Church on Saturday mornings to celebrate Mass, Adoration, pray the rosary and process to nearby Planned Parenthood, returning to the church for Benediction. They carry no signs and are there to pray for the women coming to the clinic. They have sidewalk counselors and brochures. They do not respond to negatives insults or threats.
- Sister Seraphina Marie, FDM ([Franciscan Daughters of Mary](#)) spoke about the [Holy Name Chapel Foundation](#) (501c3) which she represents. It organizes pro-life events, many centered around Holy Name church. She also mentioned, of historical note, that the street beside Holy Name is Kinsey Ave, named for [Alfred Kinsey aka the father of the sexual revolution](#). In addition Sr. Seraphina stated that Cincinnati's own [Dr. John C. Willke](#) was a key figure in the local and national Pro-Life movement. She is passionate that the Pro-Life Masses on Saturday morning continue. The location of the church is of primary importance. Bishops, Archbishops and high profile individuals have attended services at Holy Name and it is considered the epi-center of the Pro-Life movement. Even if Planned Parenthood would move to another location she would still consider Holy Name church to be a shrine to the cause. The sisters assist the church as much as possible.
- Dean Weber: substituting for John Wendln. Dean was instrumental in working with the Helpers and organizing the Saturday Masses for 12 years. There was a period in which the organization wished to move to Our Lady of Lourdes. Instead they started a new group at Holy Name with Masses on the 2nd Saturday. The Covington Catholic football team began attending. Dean hopes that the Saturday vigils will continue.
- Bob Stephan: was instrumental in restoring Old St. Mary's. He would like to assist in the care of Holy Name. He noted that former Bishop Binzer is a supporter of the vigil as well as the Knights of Columbus. There are many contacts.

Q&A Period

Question: Is there a rental agreement between Holy Name and Right-to-Life?

Answer: There is no formal agreement. However, there is a collection every week and the money is given to the church and designated as “rental income” in the 501c3 financial reports. In the past three years. Roughly the income has been 20,000 from the right to life groups and 30,000 from Sunday collections.

Question: Is it possible for the movement to thrive if it is transferred to SMSG?

Answer: The Right to Life groups don’t think so. Location is of primary importance. Public witness is important. They pray in front of the gates. They don’t think Pro-lifers would come to SMSG.

Question: Annunciation is negotiating a lease with Romero. Is there a similar possibility with Holy Name and Right-to-Life?

Answer: Mother Seraphina stated that if Uptown sells the property, we would be interested in “doing anything” to keep the location for the Saturday Mass.

Question: Would you be interested in leasing it?

Answer: Yes

Further discussion on this point. With \$20,000 from Right-to-Life and \$30,000 from Holy Name it might be a possibility to maintain it. The question becomes, how might catastrophic events be financed, ex, the boiler, the roof. Discussion focused on volunteer help which has supported them in the past. The sisters just want to help.

Following their presentations, the Right-to-Life representatives departed followed by discussion.

Father Tim reminded the group that we need to ask ourselves, how are we fulfilling the mission of Jesus Christ?

Additional comments:

- The uncertainty and instability that parishioners have been experiencing have caused many dedicated parishioners to leave or become uninvolved and reduce contributions. If we could become stable, we could work on building the congregation.
- We cannot keep doing what we are doing. It is failing. Uptown doesn’t have the financial or staff capacity to maintain a separate congregation. This is a new time, a new beginning.
- Regarding Holy Name: presence is everything. We have to keep it around. They are serving Jesus Christ. Their mission is supportive of the Church. Don’t let money drive the path we take.
- Use Right-to-Life as a mission to build community.
- Fr. Tim stated that he is looking to the Council for assistance in putting together a plan for the future
- There may be an opportunity along with a challenge here, to bring the Holy Name culture and worship style along with the right to life efforts into a larger arena and thus reach more people.

- Maybe we could buy an old bus to bring people from Uptown to Planned Parenthood on Saturday mornings.

Report on Catholic Bearcat

No report at this time

Follow-up Items and Ongoing Matters

Update on the Status of the Romero Partnership

- Fr. Tim met with Emily Gilbride
- Emily is still very interested in the partnership
- Fr. Tim will be meeting with the Archbishop on August 29 to seek approval for moving forward with the partnership
- Emily requested a facility study and documentation of the monthly operating costs. Tom Herzog has provided that information.
- Emily will float the idea with the Romero board at their September meeting
- There is a question as to whether the agreement would require a new lease or an addendum. TBD
- The rectory may or may not be part of the agreement. If it is, then arrangements may have to be made to convert the SMSG Business office to a rectory and a portion of the Catholic Center would be remodeled to house the business office.
- Timeline: Would like to have a plan by December and begin to implement for a January effective date
- Emily is open to giving Uptown keypad access to parishioners for church and Klug Center and effectively share the facilities. Certainly open to Sunday and special occasion Masses in the Church.
- There was some question regarding whether the Klug Center is currently under lease or just the school building. At this time, Romero pays 80% of utilities in the Klug Center. They are very happy to work with the parish.

Confirm council direction from meeting of 1/8/2025

No discussion at this time

Review of Finance council Notes...questions

No discussion at this time

New Business

Feedback from Finance Report in the Bulletin and Fr. Tim's presentation.

Fr. Tim noted that there was very little response to the report and presentation. The response from the committee was positive both for the documentation and presentation.

Possible reasons why there was little congregational response:

- Lack of real understanding
- Disbelief
- It is old news. Everyone knows the financial situation is bad. Waiting to hear what happens next
- Apathy; if this church closes they will go to another
- Many attendees are visitors, not committed parishioners
- Transient population
- They see the writing on the wall; why give if the church is going to close

Council Organization

Review new Constitution

Suggested modifications:

- Change “Clifton” to Uptown – council agreed (Item IIC)
- Increase number of members – council agreed to leave it at 9, ie small is better for now (Item IIIA)
- New members need not be ratified by council. Only Pastor’s approval is needed. Council agreed (Item IIIB)
- A Vice President shall be appointed to serve a year prior to assuming the duties of President. Council agreed (Item V. A.)

Martha will make the updates and present the document for approval at the next meeting.

Martha asked for nominations for the position of Council President, term beginning in January. All were asked to think and pray about it. Nominations may be accepted for individuals outside of the membership.

Divine Renovation

No discussion at this time.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Tim

Next Meeting September 10, 2025, 7:00pm