

## MAY 25, 2025 PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

PC members in attendance: Chairman Alan Wesenberg, Co-Chair Molly Shipp, Secretary Linda Popolano, Antonio Garcia, Isaac Valencia, Rafael Perez and Zoraida Perez.

PC members absent: Fr. Kirk Slattery, Darlene Espinoza, and Regina Applegate.

1. Alan opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Alan discussed the pastor change effective July 1, with Fr. Kirk moving to St. Patrick parish and Fr. Francisco Quezada moving to St. Gabriel.
3. Alan also discussed how the PC can meet without the pastor but cannot make decisions but can make suggestions when the pastor is not present. Before we were aware of Fr. Sean's transfer to Washington, DC to continue his studies in person, we thought he would be attending today's meeting and know the determination as to whether decisions can be made by the PC when the parochial vicar, but not the pastor, is present. That determination is still an open question.
4. Alan also discussed that two St. Gabriel staff members are moving to St. Patrick along with Fr. Kirk, effective July 1, and these additional staff changes may possibly cause disruptions in normal operations that might affect parishioners.
5. Linda discussed the annual parish picnic, to be held on Sunday, July 20. Although the date was originally chosen around Fr. Kirk's availability, Linda has confirmed with Fr. Francisco that he is planning to attend. She has also sent an email invitation to Deacon Christian Vaca, who will be ordained to the priesthood in June and will become our parochial vicar on July 1.
6. Linda briefly discussed the Diocesan Mental Health Conference that was held last Saturday in order to inform the other PC members that there are plans for a Diocesan Mental Health Ministry that will, in time, trickle down to mental health initiatives at the parish level.
7. Antonio and Isaac discussed the Hispanic Ministry, including their helping with the July 20 picnic, especially in the hour prior to the 1pm Spanish Mass that Sunday and questions about Wednesday evening Spanish-language confessions during this interim period while we are waiting for Fr. Francisco.
8. Antonio and Molly discussed conchas after Spanish Mass, which will continue until we know Fr. Francisco's preferences on this. Antonio said there are new possible coordinators for the conchas, and he will keep Molly informed and send her their contact information.

9. In keeping with the what we've discussed at our last four meetings, today we discussed the fifth of the 5 items on the list of parish priorities for the next five years (The Parish Vision for 2025-2030, as put together by the current and previous – post-COVID – Pastoral Council members). Outreach to the larger community within our parish boundaries is this fifth priority. It includes many services already performed by our Outreach Committee – including the Christmas Giving Tree, the Thanksgiving Food Drive, the Back-to-School school supply drive, and many other charitable and service projects. It also includes the Panama mission trip, which is planned to happen again in 2026, and the regular high school mission trip. Briarfest is also part of this community outreach, and suggestions have been made to include more religious events, perhaps an outdoor Mass or more Christian music groups. Other new potential projects the Outreach Committee has been considering are a school clothing drive for Crossfire Ministries and an event to support Kids on Bikes. Another possible area to grow missionary discipleship is to have more projects to include the participation of children and families. Two existing annual parish projects where this would be possible are Christmas Cards for Offenders and the Walk to End Hunger (during Briarfest).

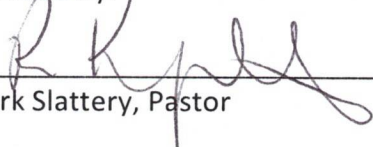
10. Antonio mentioned that, during Briarfest this year, on Friday night, they are hoping to have a Latino Night, with the Ballet Folklorico dancers and a mariachi band.

11. We also discussed how our experience in Hispanic Ministry and Spanish-language ministries (Grief Support, for example) can help other parishes in the Diocese who are expanding into offering Spanish-language ministries with training or materials, as needed.

12. Our next meeting (scheduled for Sunday, July 27) was supposed to be a dinner meeting at the Rectory. However, Alan has also reserved our regular meeting room at the church so that we can accommodate whatever works for Fr. Francisco. We discussed possibly having a more social (less business agenda) meeting with a potluck to welcome him. Alan will try to meet with Fr. Francisco during Father's first 10 days at the parish so we can determine what he prefers. Alan will also prepare a semi-final version of the current Pastoral Council's Parish Vision for Fr. Francisco to consider and revise.

13. Alan gave the closing prayer. Linda will lead prayers at the July meeting.

Approved by:

  
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Fr Kirk Slattery, Pastor

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Date

Alan J. Wesenberg  
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Alan J. Wesenberg, PC Chair

5/26/2025  
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Date