

**4th JOINT PASTORAL COUNCIL (PC) MEETING
 OUR LADY of GRACE CHURCH
 SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH
 SAINT MARY STAR of the SEA CHURCH
 SAINT PAUL CHURCH**

**Saint Paul Church Hall
 WEDNESDAY, November 28, 2018
 MEETING: 6:30 pm**

SAINT MARY STAR of the SEA MEMBERS, TRUSTEES, and EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Father Mark O'Donnell	P	Padre Henry Agudelo	P
Father Tony DiMarco	P	Deacon Mario Ramos	P
Liliam Almaraz-Brennan	E (CC)	Estuardo Mazariegos	P
Joanne Davis	E (CC)	Gladys Ramos	P
Maria Amaro	P	Tim Cowen	P
Armand Lambert	E	Chris Neilan	E
Ramon "Chito" Ramos	E	<i>Sor Xinia Rodriguez</i>	<i>E</i>
Juan Carlos Cruz	E (Note 1)	Evelyn Pedraza	E
Jocelyn Rosario	P	Miguel Pedraza	E
Kathy Desrosiers	P	Pedro Gonzales	E (TR)
Michael Tortora	P	Frank Ortega	E (FC)

Note 1: Represented by Francisco Cruz

CC: Co-Chairperson TR: Trustee

FC: Finance Committee

SAINT JOSEPH ELECTED MEMBERS, TRUSTEE MEMBERS, and EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Deacon Rod Gaynor	P	Adam Spreccace	P (CH)
Carol McKenna	P (TR)	Emilio Recine	E (TR)
Lee Adams	P	Ralph Pezzello	E
Dougenie Alexis	P	Tim Daly	P
Karen Henry	P (INT)	Al Kinsall	E
Rich Muckle	P	Sandra Rathbun	P
<i>Marianne Cote (School)</i>	<i>E</i>	Diane Enders	P
James Kelly	P	Joseph Marino	E

CH: Chairperson TR: Trustee

OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH

Elby Burr _____

SAINT PAUL CHURCH, TRUSTEE MEMBERS, and EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

John Taglianetti	P (CH)	Derek Pirruccello	E
Kevin McKinzie	P	Andrea Kanfer	P
Peter Crump	P (TK)	Mike Powell	P
Brian Majewski	E	Joan Dreger	P
Bob Price	P	Ethel Reed	P
Kathy Brunelle	P	David Balfour	P
JoHanna Polcaro	P (REC)	Roseann Ward	P (DFF)
Alan Roessler	P (TR)	Heather-Jo Purcell	E (TR)

CH: Chairperson TR: Trustee DFF: Director of Faith Formation

**P: Present E: Excused A: Absent
 INT: Intervener REC: Recorder TK: Timekeeper**

Topic: Opening Prayer With Personal Intentions
Presenter: Father Mark: Prayer of Saint Brendan the Navigator

*“Help me to journey beyond the familiar
and into the unknown.*

*Give me the faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries, I trust You
to be stronger than each storm within me.*

*I will trust in the darkness and know
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.*

*Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
and somehow, make my obedience count for You.”*

AMEN.

Time Allotment: 5 Minutes

Discussion:

Topic: Gathering

Welcome

John Taglianetti

Pilgrimage to Italy

Father Mark

Member Introductions

All

Presenter: Father Mark and All

Time Allotment: 10 Minutes

Discussion:

Welcome - John Taglianetti welcomed everyone to St Paul Church and explained he and JoHanna Polcaro would serve as recorders for the meeting. John also said that as soon as the minutes were completed they would be sent to Fr Mark and each Council Chairperson for review, comment, and approval via email.

Pilgrimage to Italy - Father Mark provided a summary of his recent pilgrimage to Italy. The following is a synopsis of the report that appeared in the November 4th bulletin.

Twenty-four pilgrims arrived in Venice Italy on September 25th. Spending 3 days in Venice, Fr. Mark celebrated Mass at the Basilica San Marco. In Florence they visited the Uffizi Gallery filled with priceless artwork by Botticelli, Caravaggio, Leonardo da Vinci, and many others. They visited the Accademia Gallery and saw Michelangelo's David. Much admired was the Duomo of Santa Maria del Fiore and its Baptistery that has a magnificent octagonal ceiling constructed between 1059 and 1128. Dante Aligheri, the Italian poet was baptized there.

The pilgrims then moved onto San Gimignano, a classic hill town in Tuscany. Some serious shopping was done along with enjoying the daily dose of Gelato! Leaving Tuscany, the pilgrims traveled to Assisi, another beautiful hill town in central Italy's Umbria region, the birthplace of St. Francis (1181-1226). The Basilica of St. Francis is a multilevel church with 13th century frescoes decorating the walls and the crypt where Saint Francis is entombed.

Finally, Rome! Having to be seated by 7AM for the Pope's Mass at 10AM, the Synod of Bishops Mass, pilgrims were amazed at the early morning sunrise beauty of the Vatican. How spectacular to see thousands of Christians flood into Vatican Square, all orderly, all in awe of the splendor of the Mass celebrated on a sunny warm autumn day. Pope Francis was within 3 feet of the pilgrims riding in his Popemobile, guarded by the colorful Swiss guards. He stopped to bless the ill, infirmed, and the children among the crowd. A true Rock Star of the Catholic Church! Topped off by a four course dinner, at a garden restaurant, with professional opera singers and pianist, the pilgrims prepared to depart Italy. Fr Mark and Fr Joe Sidera celebrated Mass daily in these historic basilicas in Italy.

Fr Mark said that he hoped to have another pilgrimage in two years.

Member Introductions - Each of the 38 attendees introduce themselves and identified their ministry involvement. Tim Cowen reported he would fill in for Joanne Davis, SMSS Council Chair, who was not able attend the meeting.

Topic: Meeting Structure
Intervener: Karen Henry
Time Keeper: Peter Crump
Recorder: JoHanna Polcaro & John Taglianetti
Presenter: John Taglianetti
Time Allotment: 2 Minutes

Discussion:
Volunteers for the Intervener, Time Keeper, Recorders were identified.

Topic: Minutes from Previous Individual Parish Council Meetings
Presenter: Tim Cowen, Adam Sprecase, John Taglianetti
Time Allotment: 5 Minutes

Discussion:
The purpose of this agenda item is for each Parish Council to approve their individual previous Parish Council meeting minutes.
St Mary Star of the Sea Church - Tim Cowen led the discussion and the Meeting Minutes were approved.
St Joseph Church - Adam Sprecase led the discussion and the Meeting Minutes were approved after motion by Lee Adams, second by Diane Enders, and unanimous vote.
St Paul Church - John Taglianetti reported that the previous Meeting Minutes had already been approved by the council members. John also said the Parish Council Meeting Minutes are now posted on the St Paul website for all parishioners to access. This was started as a part of our initiative to improve communications throughout the Parish. Both Tim and Adam expressed an interest in doing the same.

Topic: Old Business
St Mary Star of the Sea Church Joanne Davis
St Joseph Church Adam Sprecase
St Paul Church John Taglianetti
Presenters: See Above
Time Allotment: 3 Minutes for Each Parish

Discussion:
St Mary Star of the Sea - Tim Cowen reported the Parish Council had recently approved updates to their Council Bylaws and the Council was working on developing their goals for next year.
St Joseph - Adam Sprecase reported the Parish Council had also recently approved updates to their Council Bylaws. He said that the ministries are divided up among the council members and activities are reported at each meeting.
St Paul:
St Paul - John Taglianetti reported that the Parish Council is working on updating the Council Bylaws via an ad-hoc committee. In response to John's request Tim and Adam agreed to forward a copy of their recently approved Bylaws. On September 23rd a mass was held where Fr Mark was installed as the fifth pastor of St Paul Church and was followed by a brunch in the parish hall. John mentioned the history of St Paul Parish is recorded and maintained on the St Paul website (stpaulchurchwaterfordct.org). In collaboration with Crossroad Presbyterian Church, Waterford Regional Lions Club, and the Waterford Youth Services Bureau our Faith Formation students and generosity of our parishioners St Paul Church donated approximately 120 Thanksgiving Baskets to families in need.

Action/Outcome:

Tim Cowen and Adam Sprecase agreed to forward a copy of their recently approved updated Parish Council Bylaws to John Taglianetti.

Topic: St Paul Parish Council Restart
Presenter: John Taglianetti
Time Allotted: 3 minutes

Discussion:

St Paul - John Taglianetti reported the make up of St Paul Parish Council has changed in recent weeks with four new members and that he has begun serving as the Council Chairperson. The Council has begun regular meetings and are targeting a number of issues that face the Parish including Finances, Building & Ground Maintenance, and improving communications throughout the Parish. Parish Council meeting minutes are posted on the Parish Council webpage for all parishioners to read and to foster communications.

Topic: Parish Financial Reports
St Mary Star of the Sea Church Tim Cowen
St Joseph Church Adam Sprecase
St Paul Church John Taglianetti
Presenter: See Above
Time Allotment: 3 Minutes for Each Parish

Discussion:

St Mary Star of the Sea - Tim Cowen reported that he has discussed with Frank Ortega (SMSS Finance Committee) the possibility of reporting their Finances to the parishioners on a weekly basis via the use of a metric showing the required budget versus the weekly and cumulative income. The objective of this would be serve as a more frequent reminder of the Parish financial needs. He said that this would be discussed with the Parish Council in the near future.

St Joseph - Adam Sprecase reported they were on budget and the expectation was that they would break even or have a small surplus again in FY2019.

St Paul: John Taglianetti said that he presented the Financial Report to all 3 masses on November 11th. The report shows a shortfall of \$56,302 for FY2017. It was highlighted that St Paul Church can not continue to operate with a deficit. Parishioners were challenged to increase their offerings 25%. John mentioned that JoHanna Polcaro serves as the Parish’s bookkeeper and has for several years. In response to Tim’s discussion about weekly reporting against a straight-line budget, JoHanna said that for a while St Paul reported in the bulletin the weekly offertory versus a weekly budget target and stopped it because the volatility of the weekly offertory as compared to the budget target led to confusion amongst the parishioners. John said he agreed with Tim’s suggestion of more frequent financial reporting and that he also has given some thought to a more frequent financial report to the parishioners such as a Quarterly Financial Report, but wanted the Parish Council to discuss it before presenting an approach to Fr Mark.

Outcome:

The discussion of more frequent financial reporting should be discussed with each Parish Council and discussed at the next Joint Pastoral Council Meeting

Topic: **Announcements**

Pastor	Fr Mark
St Mary Star of the Sea Church	Joanne Davis
St Joseph Church	Adam Sprecase
St Paul Church	John Taglianetti

Presenter: See Above

Time Allotment: 10 Minutes

Discussion:

Fr Mark:

- A Night of Advent Reflection on December 11th at St Joseph Church (6:30pm) presented by Deacon Michael Bernstein
- Cluster Penitential Service on December 19th at St Mary Star of the Sea Church (7:00pm)
- Feast Date of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Norwich (6:30pm)
- Lessons and Carols on December 14th at St Joseph Church (7:00pm) - Deacon Rod Gaynor suggested it be video and sent to local tv station

St Joseph Church:

St Joseph: - Socks are being collected for St Vincent de Paul Place in Norwich. St Joseph School is conducting an Education Raffle for the schools and students of the winner's choice. Only 750 Tickets to be sold at a costs of \$100 with one grand prize of \$25,000 for educational expenses.

St Paul:

There are three community outreach programs underway and/or planned for in the near future. Christmas Gifts are being collected for residents of Bayview Health Care Center in Waterford. Cleaning supplies will be collected in January for the residents of Safe Futures in New London. In February we will collect needed hygiene and basic food supplies will be collected in February or March for St Vincent de Paul Place in Norwich.

Mike Powell reported the Christian Formation Committee began classes on the Epistle of James on Monday November 26th and will continue on Mondays December 3rd, 10th, and 17th in the Church Chapel This Epistle is not only a great work of morality; it is also full of practical advice for all Christians.

Andrea Kanfer is the St Paul 'Parish Champion' Dynamic Catholic program for parishes to help re-engage themselves. Every month we will receive books or CDs to pass out to read/listen then when finished, at Mass pass it along to another family. We will receive samplings of their programs for Father Mark and Roseann Ward (DFF).

Topic: **Possible Consolidation of Masses (Requested by Fr Mark)**

Presenter: Each Attendee

Time Allotment: 15 Minutes

Discussion:

Fr Mark led the discussion about the need to consolidate the Mass schedule. The primary constraint is the limited number of available priests to cover the current St Brendan The Navigator Cluster mass schedule. Fr Mark added it is difficult at best with every priest available and the inevitable illnesses and vacations make it nearly impossible to cover the current mass schedule. He explained that it is a Diocese-wide problem and offered the following statistics. There are 70 Parishes in the Norwich Diocese and only 40 Pastors and 15 parochial vicars. By 2022 there will be only 32 pastors serving in the diocese. Fr Mark emphasized it's always important to balance the needs of each Parish but parishioners must recognize they may have to go to another church within the Cluster to meet their personal schedule needs. Fr Mark said he needs to eliminate one weekend Mass at each Parish and reduce the number of weekday masses. Fr Mark said he has thought about scheduling weekday masses at St Paul Church on Wednesday and Thursday.

After considerable open discussion, Fr Mark targeted the beginning of lent to implement Mass schedule changes.

Action/Outcome:

To support that targeted time, it was agreed: Fr Mark would prepare a letter to be inserted in the mid-December bulletin to address the need to consolidate the mass schedule; Parish Councils should discuss how their Parish mass schedule could be consolidated in concert with an integrated Cluster mass schedule to ensure that their Parish needs are served; a Joint Pastoral Council Meeting should be held on February 6, 2019 @ 6:30 at St Paul Church Hall to finalize a consolidated Cluster Mass Schedule. The purpose of the letter to all parishioners is to communicate a complete and singular understanding of the need to consolidate the mass schedule and to let parishioners know that this is not only a Cluster but a Diocese need.

Topic: Round Table
Presenter: Each Attendee
Time Allotment: 10 Minutes

Discussion:

With the length of the discussion on Mass consolidation there was no Round Table discussion.

Topic: Next Individual Parish Council Meetings
Presenter: Each PC Chairperson
Time Allotment: 5 Minutes

Discussion:

St Mary Star of the Sea - January 16, 2019
St Joseph - January 16, 2019
St Paul - December 11th (6:30) @ St Paul Rectory

Topic: Personal Intentions, Closing Prayer and Adjournment
Presenter: Father Henry
Time Allotment: 5 Minutes

Discussion:

Fr Henry led the final prayer.

These meeting minutes were approved final on December 31, 2018.