

# Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting, Our Lady of Lourdes, Milwaukee, WI

June 18, 2025

In Person

6:00 pm

**Pastoral Council in Attendance:** Mary Alston, Denise Haussy, Terry Malloy, Jackie Dombrowski, Pat McKay, Emerson Porter, Deb Steppe (parish director), Rebecca Porter, Judeen Schulte, Lorie Skeff, Jim Stamatakos, Donna Van Wynsberghe (chair), Barb Webber **Excused:** Cory Anshus, Cathy Markwiese **Excused Early:** Terry Malloy, Judeen Schulte

**Opening Prayer:** Denise Haussy, Focus on Gratitude

## Archdiocesan Conference:

- July 22, 2025 at Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center
- Register by July 15
- Open to: pastoral directors, parish staff, parishioners
- Contents: Opening Prayer by Archbishop, 3-4 workshops, closing with Mass by Archbishop Grob at noon, breakfast included

## Parish Director Report:

### New Families

- There are 54 new families since June 2024 consisting of individuals, couples, and families.

### Parish Ministry Fair

- July 17, 2025 3:00-7:00 pm, held with a potluck of appetizers.

### Addition to Parish Announcements

- Starting in fall, 2025 there will be a "Did You Know?" component as part of announcements in church
- The purpose is to share various aspects of the parish with another avenue to share the abundance of information to reach parishioners

### New Priest Presiding

- Fr. Art Heinze presided on Saturday, June 14 for the first time and he will return at 8:00 am Sunday, June 22

### Parking Plantings

- There are more plantings coming for the parking lot area since the City of Milwaukee is requiring that the dumpsters be shielded from sight of Forest Home Ave.
- The new plantings will need to be watered through the hard frost and Patricia Fabian is seeking volunteers for watering

## Council Discussion Regarding Parish Director Report

- The slides at Mass are helpful for visual learners, and increase focus to oral presentation. Great idea to use slides while giving after Mass announcements.
- Suggestion to increase amount of slide presentation time before Mass. Slides presently conclude 5 minutes before Mass starts.

## Old Business

### New Council Member Recruitment Subcommittee

- Considered plan for discernment and commissioning
- Suggestion for goal of holding discernment as soon as possible in September, and commissioning full council together in October
- Subcommittee is considering timing of bulletin publications and church screen announcements to extend invitation to apply for council calling.
- Timing of discernment and commissioning process will depend upon the number of applicants

### **May Meeting Topics for Parish Director input**

- **Is OLOL able to increase support for All Saint's Ministry?**
  - Parish Director needs more information regarding reasons for support, and consultation with parish staff. Would like to know more about what a sister parish would look like.
  - Council Discussion:
    - Deb said OLOL St. Vincent DePaul is struggling financially, but a large donation was received.
    - Putting All Saints on Stewardship slip once or twice a year is a consideration
    - Pat said Rodney from All Saints is presenting in the GIFT program in the fall
    - OLOL serves St. Ben's on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 times per year, third summer in a row. Need to make sure OLOL has enough volunteers to extend ourselves further
    - The Council suggested All Saints be placed in the donation letter twice per year
    - Donna Van Wynsberghe, chair, addressed the need to prioritize All Saints as Catholic presence in poverty stricken central city of Milwaukee
- **Is there a possibility of creating a sustainable college scholarship to encourage youth engagement in the parish?**
  - Deb sees this idea in its infancy with many parts. Deb quoted a comment from a parishioner; "We have been trying to get youth here our whole life."
  - Jim suggests an endowment scholarship format when/if we choose to implement
  - Council Discussion:
    - Deb suggested focusing on the very young and methods to retain them
    - Parish data shows participation declines between First Communion and Confirmation
    - Council members emphasized the importance of personal connection and relationship building in retaining youth
    - Council is implementing a subcommittee to attract and retain youth in our parish. Donna determined that the definition of scope of age group would be left to discussion of the subcommittee.
    - Deb recommends the subcommittee communicate with Maggie Russell, Director of Formation
    - Youth Outreach Subcommittee: Chair, Christine; Members, Denise, Terry, Emerson; Consulting Member, Jim
- **Can Our Lady of Lourdes participate in Pridefest?**
  - Deb will discern and get back to the council at a later time.

## **New Business**

### **Ministry Fair**

- Parish Council will have a table with 3 volunteers
- Rebecca Porter is donating materials to attract visitors to the table: candy, balloons, decorations, etc

- Denise and Emerson volunteered to staff the table
- Deb suggests to have mystery bags as prizes for visitors to the table who can name at least two members of the council
- Barb suggested that new members get a personal invitation to the Ministry Fair. Various options for communication were discussed: phone call, email, US mail. Deb prefers email as most reliable
- Communications to new members will emphasize the snack/hors d'oeuvres potluck to share fellowship
- Deb informed Council that there would be passports for visitors to have stamped at each table they visit. Passports with a fully stamped card will function as a raffle ticket.

## **Committee Reports:**

- **Social Justice**

- All Saints Choir may sing in the fall at a 4:00 pm Mass
- There will be a prayer service on August 6<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima
- All Saints Meal Program: 115 people were served at the meal program on 6/19/2025

- **Octoberfest**

- That's Amore lasagna will be featured and we are grateful for the parish members who coordinated a generous price for the parish.
- Stephanie London, volunteer coordinator, is stepping down. A new volunteer coordinator is needed for next year.
- Looking for 10 people to assemble 10 donation baskets from businesses or organizations. Three people are already committed.
- Take Down: Planning to increase efficiency of take down, as people who put it up are usually the same people who are quite exhausted by Sunday. The team will define take down tasks to focus valuable volunteer time.

- **Discipleship Institute**

- Lorie Skeff reported they are working on podcasts, and increasing quality of streaming
- Deb commented that OLOL has volunteers and limited equipment with expectations for professional productions. The staff is doing a great job and is growing in use of technology for streaming Mass.
- "The Chosen" starts again on August 14
- Discipleship minutes will be posted on the website

- **Human Concerns**

- Minutes will be posted on website

- **Liturgy**

- Jim Wielgosz, Director of Worship Ministries is into his second week and acclimating well as there is a lot to learn.

- **Youth Representative**, Emerson Porter

- The online videos are done well. Elder family members enjoy them.

- **Formation**

- Maggie Russell, Director of Formation has all dates for GIFT set up for the upcoming year
- Jackie suggested that all Council members sign up and attend GIFT
- Donna estimated that half of present Council members are registered for GIFT, but there needs to be 99%.

**DreamTime:**

- Council members new ideas were embedded within the discussions at this meeting, instead of being held separately

Next Meeting: September 17, 2025

Closing Prayer: Deb

Respectfully submitted, Christine Yatchek