

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 - 6:30 PM

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish Hall

Attendees: Gabrielle Andrea, Father James Belogi, Terri Bouchard, Christine Cioffi, Justine Crevetas, Bob Dicostanzo, Joan Duda, Deborah Fontes, Arthur Foo, Betsy Glasser, Teshia Gutchell, Richard Leet, Fran Mitchell, Nancy Moscheo, Rev Anthony Onu, Julius Pasquariello, Thomas Pozanski, Kathleen Riordan, Joanne Russell, Alyssa Sarrosa, Donna Simone, Kelly Sloan, Joanne Tuchovsky, Christopher Wertman, Alessio Fusullo, Shirley Belouen

Excused: Anna Hartz, Gloria Towle-Hilt

Unexcused:

Fran Mitchell presided over the meeting which began at 6:32 pm.

Welcome - Fran Mitchell

Opening Prayer- Joanne Russell and all.

1.) Review of March 4, 2025 meeting minutes

- Revisions to March Minutes: “SGA and SMS are two of 14 churches that make up The Twin Rivers Vicariate. There are 7 Vicariates which make up the Diocese.”
- Motion to approve minutes by Joanne Russell second by Betsy Glasser.
- Father Jim to review minutes closely prior to posting.

2.) Pastor’s Comments- Father Jim

- Tom Cronin came to speak with us from a strategic planning perspective and the information provided is based off of the 5 year plan for the diocese.
- Father Jim met with Father Longobucco within the past few weeks and noted:
 - SGA would be the largest parish in question.
 - SGA, while financially challenged, is an active parish with a large membership.
- There will be a meeting within the pastors of Schenectady in the near future. The meeting will provide a clearer understanding on how to move forward.
- Recommendation on how to proceed will need to be made by the parishioners of SGA and SMS will contribute to discussion. It is not up to the Pastoral Council.
- SGA parishioners must be informed and ultimately make a decision together.

- Recommendations to put the debt of SGA to the Diocese in the Bulletin to make the public aware of the financial burdens.
- SGA's long term debt struggle dates back prior to 2003 made up of the School Assessment, and Diocesan Assessment. SGA currently there are no reserves.
- Father Jim expressed that Tom Cronin was aggressive with his approach but does not see closure as a near future possibility so long as there are no unforeseen massive expenses that are incurred (mainly structural or facility issues).
- Father Jim stated that the “Parish is in the best place that it has been in years, but still not good”.
- Discussion will continue after Easter on Monday, May 5th at 6:30 with a small group meeting and early discussion of how to proceed with SGA and to work on fundraising ideas.

3.) Ministry Updates

- Music Ministry - (Justine SMS)
 - Tabled until May meeting.
- Christian Service SGA (Teshia)- **Attached Report 1**
 - Food Pantry Ministry
 - In February the Food Pantry was at 25% capacity, due to generous donations from Faith and Spiritual Study Group, the Women's Club and Parishioners, the Food Pantry is now 75% Filled.
 - Faith and Spiritual Study Group Ministry
 - The group adopted a family consisting of a single father and two daughters providing them with a memorable Christmas.
 - They are now preparing a beautiful Easter holiday for them.
 - The group also donated summer clothing for Fr. Anthony to take to Nigeria to help the poorest families in the community.
 - Hospitality Ministry
 - Improvements on parishioner attendance resulting in new volunteers for the promoted Ministries.
 - Women's Club Ministry
 - The Women's Club is sponsoring a baby shower for Birth Rite on April 9th.
 - The Women's Club final meeting of the season will occur May 12th and will resume September 10th with their regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.
- Christian Service SMS (Cookie)- **Attached Report 2**
 - Saint Johns/ Saint Anns Welcome Table

- 10-12 parishioners continue to volunteer to serve lunch every fourth Saturday of the month.
 - The next service date is April 26th.
- Twinning Ministry
 - 5-7 SMS parishioners meet monthly to prepare meals to serve to 100 people on the fourth Saturday of each month.
- SMS Food Pantry
 - The pantry is currently in need of hams and juice.
- Family Promise
 - SMS and SGA will be hosting three families from May 18-24. Currently looking for gift card donations for supermarkets and WalMart.
- Red Cross Blood Drive
 - The next blood drive will be held in the SMS parish center on April 14 from 1-7 pm.
 - 53 units of blood were collected at the last drive in February despite bad weather, helping 159 people in need.
- Additional reports:
 - N/A

4.) Old Business

- Diocesan Appeal Funding update (Fr. Jim)
 - Be on the lookout for more information going into the pews.
- Fundraising work group ideas (Bob)
 - Tabled until meeting after Easter.
- Updates on 2025 Parish Picnic (Fran on behalf of Anna)
 - Looking for someone to volunteer as chair of the picnic in order for the picnic to continue.
 - Any volunteers please get in touch with Anna.
- Updates on 2025 Easter Carnival
 - 40 children are signed up.
 - An email went out 4/1 for volunteers to help out with the event.
- Updates on Schenectady Inner City Mission (SICM) Crop Walk (Richard)
 - The Crop Walk will be held on May 4th.
 - Walking from Saint Kateri and through Central Park.
 - 9 people signed up to participate thus far.
 - A majority of the money raised stays within Schenectady.

5.) New Business

- Pastoral council Discernment (Gaby Andrea)
 - Father Jim says that Discernment should not be postponed and should continue as normal.

6.) Community Events

- Easter Sunday Mass
 - looking forward to the celebration of Easter.
 - Sign ups are doing well.

7.) Reminders for next meeting- Fran Mitchell

- Next meeting May 6th at 6:30
- Ministry reports will be provided by Justine
- Prayer and Worship reports will be provided by Joanne T
- Opening Prayer will be Anna and closing prayer will be Teshia

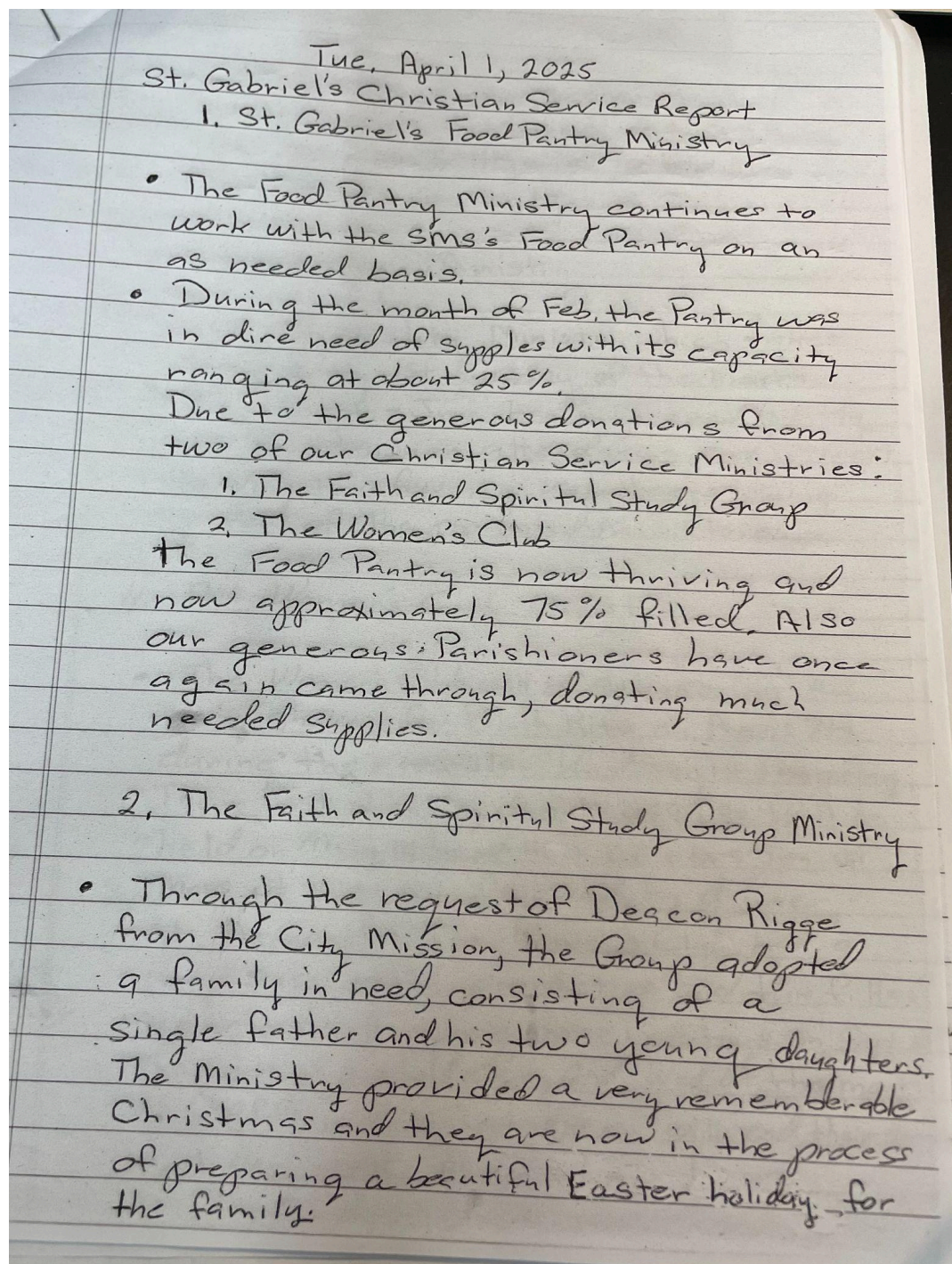
8.) Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Debbie Fontes , second by Richard Leet .

9.) Closing Prayer was read by Joanne Russell and everyone.

Meeting conclude 7:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Wertman

ATTACHMENT 1:



- Also the Group donated an assortment of summer clothes which were given to Fr. Anthony for him to take to Nigeria to help the poorest in his community.

3. Hospitality Ministry

- The Hospitality Ministry which takes place every 1st Sunday of the month from Sept. - June has improved greatly on Parishioner attendance and interest leading to a few new volunteers joining a few of the promoted ministries.

4. The Women's Club Ministry

- The Women's Club will be sponsoring a baby shower for Birth Rite on April 9th, during their regular Wed. night meeting. Their last meeting of this season will be held on May 12th, with a celebration of Mass at 5:30 P.M., followed by dinner at Armondos. The Women's Club had a very successful, productive and fun filled year and will resume their meetings on Sept. 10th. The meetings are held every 2nd. Wed. of the month at 6:30 P.M. in the school gym and will end their season next May, 2026. All are welcome!

ATTACHMENT 2:

St. Madeleine Sophie Pastoral Council

Christian Service Report – Submitted by Gloria Towle-Hilt

April 1, 2025

St. John/St. Ann Welcome Table: 10-12 parishioners continue to volunteer to serve lunch every fourth Saturday of the month. They serve the meals prepared by the SMS Twinning Ministry. The next service date is April 26.

Twinning Ministry: About 5-7 SMS parishioners meet every other month in the Parish Center kitchen to prepare a meal that will serve around 100 people on the fourth Saturday of each month. The next cooking date will be toward the end of April.

SMS Food Pantry: In preparation for Easter food distribution, the pantry is currently in need of hams and juice.

Family Promise: SMS and SGA will be hosting three families who are part of the Family Promise Ministry of the Capital District from May 18-24. Gift cards for supermarkets and Walmart are much appreciated.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next blood drive will be held in the SMS Parish Center on April 14 from 1-7pm. See bulletin for details on how to register. Our last drive in February did well despite the bad weather. We collected 53 units of blood! The means 159 people were helped!

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for your presence with us throughout the remainder of the day and guide us in our prayers and conversations of this gathering. We, too, intend to stay awake and alert in our ministries throughout the year, and so, that we may be able to share the power of the Holy Spirit.

