PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 - 6:30 PM

St. Gabriel the Archangel- School Room 8

Attendees: Stephen Adiletta, Gabrielle Andrea, Fr. Jim Belogi, Christine Cioffi, Justine Crevatas, Bob DiCostanzo, Jim Dillon, Deborah Fontes, Arthur Foo, Betsy Glasser, Anna Hartz, Fr. Walter Ihejirika, Nancy Moscheo, Ann Pawlik, Kayron Poulin (Youth Rep), Deacon Thomas Poznanski, Kathleen Riordan, Joanne Russell, Donna Simone, Kelly Sloan, Bruce Smith, Colleen Stevens, Jason Thompson, Gloria Towle-Hilt, Joanne Tuchovsky, Christopher Wertman

Excused: Joan Duda, Teshia Gutchell, Richard Leet, Killian Thompson

The meeting was called to order by Gaby Andrea at 6:32 PM.

Opening Prayer- Gaby Andrea

1) Present Mission Statement-Joanne Russell

2) Approval of Minutes

- The September Council meeting minutes were approved with revisions by Anna Hartz and seconded by Gloria Towle-Hilts. Motion carried.

3) Ministry Updates

- **SMS School Update- Kelly Sloan**
  - New staff: Mrs. Stodolka (First Grade), Ms. Brogan (Fourth Grade), Mrs. Conboy (Spanish, Pre-K to 5).
  - Color Run: raised $30,200 against a $30,000 goal, with over 80% participation.
  - Trunk or Treat: Friday, October 23.
  - Grant: Fr. Doyle Catholic Education Fund grant will pay for monthly *A Year* with Tomie faith sessions with the Dominican Retreat House, starting October 7.
  - Enrollment: 191 students (84 in Pre-K/UPK, 107 in K-5).
  - Worship: Rosary with the parish on September 11, Opening Liturgy and Fifth Grade Leader commissioning held, Mass on Tuesdays, choir up to about 30 students.
  - Staffing: fully staffed, 33 teachers, staff, and volunteers.

    - Professional development: the principal and Danie Easton begin a five-session Fordham series on Laudato Si', ending in a schoolwide action plan.
    - Accreditation: School Improvement Plan updated; Cognia team visits October 26-27.
- **Women's Club- Joanne Russell**
    - First meeting was held in September
        - 65 members
    - Next meeting will be held on October 14th, 2026

4) Old Business

- **Parish Picnic-Anna Hartz**
    - Despite the rainy weather, the event was well attended, with 55 to 60 people.
    - Attendees enjoyed themselves and the food was well received.
        - Parishioners from SMS, SGA, OLQP
- **SMS Diocean Appeal Assessment-Kathleen Riodian**
    - 2026-27 Diocesan Appeal Assessment $91,801
    - Collected as of 10/4/26: $17,290 (18.9% of goal)
- **SGA Diocean Appeal Assessment-Kathleen Riodian**
    - 2026-27 Diocesan Appeal Assessment $41,406
    - Collected as of 10/4/26: $2,185 (5% of goal)
- **Diocese update-Fr. Belogi**
    - Bankruptcy payment: Our payment to the diocese toward the bankruptcy is due October 15.
    - Funding: SMS/SGA will not contribute to the fund until the money is absolutely needed because the funds will be borrowed.
    - Sustainability plan: We need to develop a plan that shows we are viable and sustainable.
        - The Bishop does not want to close churches.
        - The Bishop is willing to come and work with us on the plan.

5) New Business

- **70th year celebration- Joanne Russell**
    - Celebration: Saturday, November 7, 5:30 to 9:00 pm in the school gym ◦ Planning meeting: Tuesday, October 13, in the church basement
- **Bishop's Sustainability and Growth Document- Fr. Jim**
    - We need to create a balanced budget for both SMS and SGA.
    - We need to know the people in our community and respond to their needs,

including:
        - Awareness of the ethnic groups in our area
        - Awareness of food insecurity
    - Community Engagement:
        - SMS currently works with the Red Cross, the Christ Child Society, and Family Promise.
        - We need to assess how well we are engaging people.
        - We need a plan for inviting people outside the parish into the church community and to Mass.
    - We need to create a framework for future growth that builds on itself, with all of our efforts pulling in the same direction.

6) Community Events (5 minutes)

- **Christ Child Society Panera Bread Fundraiser Update-Anna Hartz**
    - Raised $125.00 dollars

• Open sewing event: Saturday, November 7, 10:00 am, SMS parish hall • Holiday Shopping Extravaganza: Saturday, November 14, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm • Bake sale: November 21st & 22nd

7) Pastor's Comments (Fr. Jim)

- **Recovery**
    - Fr. Jim is having a procedure for AFib on Tuesday, October 13, and is hopeful it will help him return to celebrating Mass at the beginning of November.

8) Adjournment (5 minutes)-Gaby Andrea

- Motion to adjourn by Joanne Russell seconded by Gaby Andrea. Motion carried.

- Closing Prayer-Anna Hartz

Pastoral Council Meeting will be on November 3, 2026 with the meeting location to be determined as SGA is a polling place. Keep an eye on your emails. The ministry update for November will be from the Music Ministry and the opening Prayer will be Joanne Russell and the Closing Prayer will be Betsy Glasser.

Meeting adjourned: 7:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Wertman