

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE/ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA
PASTORAL COUNCIL

MAT 18, 2026

Present: Father Jim Belogi, Father Anthony Onu, Kathy Barrans, Barbara Dunigan, Elizabeth Miller, Marsha Stewart, Maureen Colose, Sue Rudzinski, Ron Longo, Deb Ploetz, Jim Dominelli, Shirley Neet, JoAnn Stankavage, Carmela Vecchio.

Absent: Deacon Joe Brennan

The meeting began promptly at 6:30 pm by Kathy Barrans, Chair who welcomes us all.

An Opening Prayer was offered by Kathy Barrans.

Minutes were approved for both the March and April Meeting.

Frank Ranucci and Gloria Ferri were present to discuss once again sending volunteers from the parish to serve at the City Mission. In the past we had a group that would go and serve meals and work on the Summer Meal Program. City Mission's Director, Mike Saccocio is a great leader and coordinates a great program. The Program has been in existence since 1906 and serves people in need with food and clothing but also looks after their spiritual needs. The City Mission has provided 233,684 meals for those in need. It is a very lively organization. Volunteers are scheduled to serve meals to the community. Up

to 12 individuals can be used in the meal service. Volunteers must be 10 years old or older to participate. The group from Our Lady Queen of Peace used to go every other month to serve as you are scheduled based on the number of volunteers they have. You can put food on the plate, serve the food, speak with the community, clean up, etc., it is an opportunity for us to be Church to the Community. It generally goes from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Each individual volunteer must establish an account with City Mission and can do so by going on-line. They have other opportunities for volunteering as well, especially during Christmas. After each person establishes their individual accounts, one lead person can coordinate those serving dinner from Our Lady Queen of Peace by contacting Lori, in the volunteer's office. Once you have your individual accounts, you can volunteer at any time for any service.

A discussion was held to open up volunteering to the entire parish and to perhaps have a ministry meeting to discuss other opportunities to volunteer. Talked about perhaps touring the facility and offering it as a volunteer opportunity to the Confirmation kids.

Deb Ploetz offered to head gathering the information and coordinating the volunteers but would want some help.

Deb Ploetz gave a brief update on the Instagram account and said that it is still being worked out.

Committee Updates:

Building and Grounds- Ron Longo- landscaping bill went up with the new mulch and stone that was provided, Hedges have been pruned, questioned do they need to be trimmed more? Father Belogi will look at them and decide. Dino Viscusi worked on the outdoor lighting. Using more efficient bulbs. Sealcoating is being done May 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. The cleaning by the Altar Rosary Society continues to go well.

A couple of the stained-glass windows have been broken, maybe during mowing. Looking at estimates to restore them.

Communication and Media- Jim Dominelli- a census mailing was sent out to 915 parishioners. 59 have been returned, 3 from St. Margaret's and 56 from Our Lady Queen of Peace. 37 of those individuals gave email addresses. Jim is putting together a spread sheet with parishioner contact information which will make it easier to reach out to them.

Jim is meeting with the Festa Committee on 6/15 to discuss the plan on how to coordinate donation possibilities. Having containers where people can leave monetary donations and we can donate to City Mission. Food Banks or Food Pantries. A discussion was had to giving to the Rotterdam Community Center, a strong giving force in Rotterdam.

Community Calendar is up and working and now a discussion will be had on how to best utilize it for the community.

Education and Faith Formation- JoAnn Stankavage- they are on Chapter 13 of Matthew in Adult Study group. She also gave them each one of her books and asked that they pick a parable and share it.

The Parish Planning team, JoAnn Stankavage, Barbara Dunigan, Sue Rudzinski, Kathy Barran, and Allyn and Suzanne Holliday, has gathered the information from parishioners and put together a format that will be used at the June 1st parish wide meeting. Father Belogi will go over it for final approval. JoAnn opened it up for any suggestions from the Council as well.

Sue Rudzinski stated that the Elder Law seminar on May12th was very successful. 20 people attended. A lot of positive feedback. May do a follow up seminar later in the year.

A discussion was held on doing more events like these, Hospice, Caretaker Support, The Eddy, Alzheimer, etc, A discussion was had on where we should host these event, Safety was discussed and being aware of other people and respecting their beliefs.

The Diocesan Appeal- our assessment is \$36, 935 so far we have pledged \$32,755 from 104 donors.

Pastoral Council Discernment will take place on June 2nd Sr Eleanor will be leading the discernment. Those members whose terms are up should plan on attending.

Father Belogi said that the Finance Committee is looking for ways to save money for the parish. Recommending giving up sacrificial giving. St Madeline's established an envelope that is given to parishioners which is used for charitable donations. Once collected Father chooses a charity for the donation. Perhaps we can do this as well. There have been several other suggestions to help save money. Father asked if we had any suggestions to save money, to reach out to him before the meeting which will be held on June 24th.

Closing Prayer done by Marsha Stewart.

The Next Meeting is June 15th, 2026, at 6:30 pm. JoAnn Stankavage will do both opening and closing prayer in June.

Respectfully submitted

Carmela Vecchio