

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

MARCH 16, 2026

Present: Father Jim Belogi, Father Anthony Onu, Dec. Joe Brennan, Barbara Dunigan, Elizabeth Miller, Marsha Stewart, Maureen Colose, Sue Rudzinski, Ron Longo, Deb Ploetz, Jim Dominelli, Carmela Vecchio., visiting, Katie Grogan.

Absent: Kathy Barrans, JoAnn Stankavage, Shirley Neet, Linda Beeler

The meeting began promptly at 6:30 pm by Barb Dunigan, Co-Chair who welcomes us all.

An Opening Prayer was offered by Carmela Vecchio.

Minutes from the meeting were discussed and Deb Ploetz noted that the name of one of the catechumens was wrong it should be Anthony not Earl, otherwise notes were approvable. Change will be made and notes submitted.

Katie Grogan spoke on Faith Formation. There are 126 Students in K-8th grade. 30 are preparing for First Communion. 41 are middle schoolers. The program was changed this year. They are using the book series, Spirit of Truth by Sophia Institute. The books were donated by Veritas Heating and Cooling. They provide a solid, Orthodox doctrine through games, stories, sacred art, and role playing which keeps the children entertained. The series gives a robust education and is on the USCCB Conformity List.

Besides the book changes, the Middle School Student went from meeting once a month to twice a month with the Sunday Class connecting to Mass. The Middle School students have three options: Sunday morning, Tuesday afternoon, and homeschool. The homeschool students need to check in once a month and turn in completed lessons. 10 attend Sunday morning, 7 Tuesday afternoon, and 24 are homeschooled.

Service projects offered this year are: baking for Election Day Bake Sale, blanket making for distressed children through Works of Mercy, working the Lenten Fish Frys, and working Called to Serve Sunday. Also, they can get service hours connected to being a greeters at mass and perhaps at working Festa. Fr. Belogi and Fr. Anthony visit classes in December to provide reconciliation. First reconciliation was done on February 14th.

The Youth Mass is on April 18th, if successful will be incorporated into program next year.

Katie is looking to invite the Sisters of the Resurrection and Sisters of the Presentation to visit classes and speak of vocations and to participate in an activity.

During Lent the classes and catechists will gather to pray the Stations of the Cross.

First Holy Communion is May 2nd, and 16th with a short reception to follow mass in the gym. A child was received into the Church this past weekend.

Committee Updates:

Building and Grounds- Ron Longo- parking lot to be re-paved and re-stripped. There are currently 3 bids out. There is question about part of the parking lot that has concrete and what might be under it. Discussion will be had on how to proceed in that area before finalizing a decision.

Our Landscaper has advised cutting down the burning bush by the gym's amphitheater. A discussion was had about just trimming it and seeing if it survives. We will proceed with the trimming.

Confessional has been cleaned out and looks great. Stations of Cross were cleaned before Lent and look great.

Communication and Media- Jim Dominelli- Donna Denny is currently updating our parish enrollment after a number of the Spring Drawing were returned to the Church. Once she has done that, she will print labels and we can schedule a time to do a census mailing. The objective is to get better communication with parishioners.

Deb Ploetz suggested we could call parishioners if all else fails. We will see how the mailing goes.

The Community Calendar has moved along. Barb Dunigan provided Jim with Goggle Calendar that was once used and it seems to be adaptable. Jim provided a sample of that calendar used by Immaculate Conception, St. Josephs, and Our Lady of

Grace so it seems doable. Once up and running we can place a copy each month in the bulletin as well.

Jim met with Dino Viscusi, Festa Chair, about doing a non-perishable food drive at Festa. Jim will get info from the Regional Food Bank and present it at the April Festa meeting.

Education and Faith Formation- JoAnn Stankavage was not present but sent an update for Barb to read. The Labyrinth, which was this past weekend, had 9 people participate, 5 who had previously attended and enjoyed the experience. JoAnn thanked all who helped set up and dismantled the labyrinth.

Faith Sharing Group are continuing to discuss the Gospel of Matthew and are on Chapter 9. They share other things they are reading in their personal lives and how they may have incorporated the Gospel message in their own lives. They have found themselves coming together as a community.

Parish Planning- the Bishops Call to Enliven Our Mission as a Parish- the team consists of JoAnn, Sue and Barb from Our Lady Queen of Peace and Kathy, Alan and Suzanne Holliday from St. Margaret of Cortona. After listening to the Bishop's podcast, 4 components were found to establish a healthy parish:

1. Financial Sustainability- Parish should be able to survive on weekly offering of the parish and not additional fund raiser.

2. The parish should be warm and welcoming so people want to attend mass there. The parish needs to have a visible presence of children and young people.
3. The people are fed spiritually through the homily and other parish events (Faith Formation, Stations of the Cross, Adoration).
4. The people enjoy gathering together and are actively welcoming new people.

JoAnn reached out to the Bishop for further advice. He commended the parish for being proactive, but he stated he does not yet have a plan he can share with us. She asked if there were any topics he suggested including and he shared the following:

1. We should include some environmental/social justice which might help lead to a healthier parish.
2. A vibrant Faith Formation program for both children and adults.

JoAnn also reviewed the Remade for Mission handout and thought we might consider shared resources and partnership, current and future service opportunities, evangelizing by encounters in the community, focus efforts on clergy wellness by perhaps providing more assistance, and maybe combining sacramental programs.

Sue spoke of two helpful seminars that have been scheduled. Toni Warren from Joan Nicole Prince Home, a home-based hospice care program will be at OLQP on April 6th at 6:00 pm in

meeting room of the Office Complex. Sue's son-in-law, who is an attorney, will come in to discuss Elder Law on May 12th at 6:00 pm both events will be advertised in the bulletin and perhaps the Gazette. Flyers will be put up as well at all 4 of our parish churches, with information on all the websites.

Sue purchased 2 New Testament Book of Psalms for the catechumens. Joe will ensure that they are given to Kevin and Anthony.

The Diocesan Appeal- we need to get information out to the parish. Will attempt to get in the database to access information and then share with the parish.

Father Belogi reminded that the Easter Triduum is at St. Madeline Sophie's. Holy Thursday and Good Friday are at 7:00 pm and the Easter Vigil is at 8:30 pm. Father is still looking for some ministers to serve at all the masses.

Father Anthony will do a mass on Divine Mercy Sunday from 1-3 pm on April 12th at St. Madeline Sophie's. It will consist of Adoration, Confession and Mass.

Closing Prayer done by Elizabeth Miller.

The Next Meeting is April 20, 2026, at 6:30 pm. Sue Rudzinski to do opening prayer and Barbara Dunigan to do closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Carmela Vecchio