

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

SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Present: Father Jim Belogi, Kathy Barrans, Barbara Dunigan, Deacon Joe, Marsha Stewart, Katie LaPlante, Dave Collison, Ron Longo, Jim Dominelli, Shirley Neet, JoAnn Stankavage, Deb Ploetz, Father Walter, Carmela Vecchio, and Suzanne Holiday (visitor).

Absent: Elizabeth Miller, Sue Rudzinski and Linda Vaughn.

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

An Opening Prayer was offered by Elizabeth Miller through Kathy Barrans.

Minutes were approved for the June meeting with the one change that children who participate in the City Mission Ministry must be at least 10 years old and accompanied by a parent.

Introduction was made of the new members, Katie LaPlante and Dave Collison. Existing member made introductions to the new member.

Suzanne Holiday came to speak to the Council about an idea of serving a Thanksgiving meal to those who have no where to go.

It will be held on Thanksgiving Day at St. Margarets. Community member, priests and seminarians will be invited. They will have to respond that they want to come to make sure everyone can be accommodated. Will have to check what the maximum capacity is of the room at St. Margaret's . If there are more people interested, they will check out if food delivery would be possible. It was suggested a group be chosen to work on the event and work out the details. The committee will reach out to Price Chopper, Hannaford to see if they are willing to donate turkeys and other items. Will reach out to other individuals for donations.

Committee Updates:

Building and Grounds- Ron Longo for OLQP- everything has been good. Estimates on the handicap door have been done, will share them with Father Belogi. Parking lot came out really good. A lot of compliments were received during Festa. Still waiting on the Fire Inspection. Lights have been changed around the Church Grounds to hopefully provide better lighting.

Linda Vaughn for St. Margaret's was not present but provided update to Kathy Barrans. The Arborvitaes around the Church have all been trimmed. Moss was cleaned off of the foundation

Communication and Media- Jim Dominelli- the census has run its course. There was a total of 350 received or about 30% of

the parishioners. We probably should have had a start and end date. Deb Ploetz will try and reach out to get some additional emails from parishioners. The census will be removed from the website on October 1st.

The Festa collection for the Food Pantries collected \$616.00, will round it up to \$650.00. Will distribute it as follows: \$250.00 each to St. Lukes and The Rotterdam Community Center and \$150.00 to Our Lady of Fatima. Will ask Karen V to cut a check to each organization. Jim and Barbara will deliver the checks.

Will try for another fund raiser in the Spring. Next year at Festa will look to set up a separate table for the collection.

Social Media- Barbara Dunigan- Working well with the two-tier strategy of placing events by importance and the date they are happening; Facebook has about 1300 followers and Instagram has about 198 followers. Looking to do uniformed post across all social media and website. Looking for a younger person to maintain the Instagram account. Katie knows someone at St. Margarets that might be interested. Katie will reach out to them.

Community Calendar is up and going. Jim has established a QR Code which can help people log into the calendar. This will be placed in the bulletin. Joanne reached out to all the ministry

groups for what they are planning so that it can be added to the calendar.

Parish Planning Update- JoAnn Stankavage, Short term goals were discussed. Welcoming Table at both Churches, Greeter Ministry, Bring Communion to the homebound, Children Masses, Providing Activities to children while they are at mass.

Community Building Activities- Bingo and Pizza using White Elephant items as prizes. Maybe do a Potluck Dinner in the Spring. Will try to coordinate with the Hospitality Committee. Name Tag Sunday where everyone wears a name tag so people can get to know one another. Can coordinate it with a Hospitality Weekend so more of an opportunity to get to know people. Perhaps the November Hospitality.

The Committee meets again in October.

Deb Ploetz discussed progress of the Greeter Ministry. Has not been able to get any new Greeters, youth and parent team. The Head Collectors has taken on the responsibility of being a greeter when there are none assigned. Looking at getting umbrellas to walk people in when it rains. Looking for some things for kids to keep them occupied during mass.

City Mission 16 volunteers, 1 parent child team. September 18th was the first night and they served 100 meals. They will serve every other month for now. Need at least 12 people for service.

Kathy spoke about Care Portal, a prevention service. They find needy families and match them with help. They can match us with needy families and we can try and meet their needs.

Katie spoke about things we can do to get the kids involved, coloring an offertory envelope, making greeting card for homebound or veterans.

Father Belogi spoke of limiting our focus on one or two projects in order to have a chance of success.

The Bankruptcy resolution is done and needs to be paid by each parish by October 15th and placed in a fund.

Sustainability and Growth is what the Bishop is looking for. He has no desire to close any Parish but wants each Parish to become more disciplined. A letter from the Bishop was provided to us and we will discuss at next meeting.

Marsha Stewart did closing prayer.

The Next Meeting is October 19th at 6:30 pm. Kathy Barrans will do the opening prayer and Barbara Dunigan will do the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Carmela Vecchio