

Cathedral of Saint Michael the Archangel
Pastoral Council Meeting
RECTORY
Monday, October 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

[ACCEPTED]
Minutes of the Meeting

Present: Marion Johnson; Mary Ann Arnold; Mary Somers; Nachaly Moreira;
Timothy Pepler; Carlos Marrero
Ex-Officio: Very Reverend Gary M. Dailey; Deacon Angel Pérez; Deacon Jose Rivera;
Dolly Garzon; Lynn Dubreuil; Wanda Castellano
Absent: Natalia Calderon; Kenneth Welch; Virginia Padilla; Fr. Yerick Mendez; Fr. Sinh Trinh

Call to Order / Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. with a prayer led by Fr. Dailey.

Acceptance of Minutes of September 8, 2025

Timothy moved to accept the minutes with amendments, seconded by Mary Ann Arnold.

[Amendments to the Minutes]

- Remove Founders' Day from the minutes.
- There are thirteen (13) students enrolled in the Confirmation class six (6) of whom are preparing to receive the sacrament on Pentecost Sunday 2026.

All in favor.

Nominations for President/Vice President

Marion Johnson will remain as President and Mary Somers will be Vice President. All in favor.

Review/Upcoming of Cathedral Activities/Liturgies

- a. Saturday, October 18th at 4:00 p.m. Mass – White Mass to honor healthcare professionals, including mental health professionals. Bishop Byrne will celebrate the Mass.
- b. Saturday, October 25th at 11:00 a.m. – Polish Day Mass with Bishop Byrne.
- c. Saturday, November 1st at 9:00 a.m. – All Saints Day Mass.
- d. Saturday, November 1st at 7:30 p.m. – Handel's Messiah Concert - There will be many instrument and vocal performances. It has been advertise it beyond the Cathedral parish.
- e. Sunday, November 2nd at 10:00 a.m. Mass – All Souls' Day– Annual Mass of Remembrance.

Grand Annual Gift

Fr. Dailey presented the letter that will be mailed out to homes. They reviewed it and offered some minor changes.

Religious Education

The program is still accepting new registrations.

Latino Ministry

There is two (2) more persons preparing for baptism in Dolly's RCIA class. John Korona's OCIA class has two (2) persons preparing to receive the sacraments. There are two (2) families coming into the Church during the Easter Vigil Mass. Our Lady of Providence will be celebrated on Saturday, November 15th in the Bishop Marshall Center. The Mass will be held on the following Sunday.

Black Catholic Apostolate

The Black Catholic Apostolate is working with the ladies of Saint Peter Claver to prepare for a bake sale at the end of the month.

The annual Purple Mass for all suffering from Alzheimer's and their caretakers will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 22nd.

Take & Eat Ministry

The program remains steady with the same number of meal recipients.

Safety & Security Committee

The next meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 20 with a training.

Old Business

a. Parish Census/Third Request

A third mailing will be sent out to those who have not responded. We received a total of 176 responses. First mailing was sent to 414 households and the second mailing there were 309. Some parishioners are interested in electronic giving. Looking at 'WeShare' for the program.

b. Sacristy Floor

The work will take 2 full days to complete. There will be a savings of \$2,000.00, if we can arrange to have volunteers remove the rug. There is a donation towards this expense.

New Business

Interruptions

Marion Johnson reported that towards the end of the 8:30 a.m. Mass on October 5th there were interruptions. During the communion, various persons came into the Cathedral sanctuary and into the sacristy, were looking around and speaking loudly.

Landscaping

The landscaping around the church and Rectory needs attention; bushes that are half dead or overgrown and trees in dire need of trimming. Fr. Dailey has contacted Greg Omasta, a landscaper for his evaluation and cost.

Pastoral Council Minutes – Website

This is a public meeting. Members of our parish may visit the meetings of the Pastoral Council. They may address issues with the council with prior notice, although they may not vote. Once minutes are accepted, they will be published on the website.

St. Augustine Chapel / Crypt

The crypt may be used with stipulations set forth by the Chancellor's Office. It is not a cafeteria. There will be no eating or drinking as in the past. It is a sacred burial ground and needs to be kept sacred. It may be used for choir practice and celebration of Mass. The diocese spent \$8,000.00 to clean the rugs in the entire Cathedral, hallway and Bishop Marshall Center.

Future Programs / Projects

Being Catholic is more than simply coming to Mass. Fr. Mendez had a training which had a good group in attendance from the Latino congregation. Timothy's St. Augustine Confessions class has

between 2 and 5 persons in attendance. Our numbers have dwindled. We had an older population to begin with and many have passed on.

The type of topics or the timing may not be right. We should ask parishioners about their interests. The movie, *The Chosen* was offered as an option. The attendees would watch an episode then have a discussion about it. Also, once a month, we could have a documentary on the history of the church. This would be an opportunity to learn, listen, and grow in faith.

Fr. Dailey is not referring to social events. We need to develop a sense of community among the parishioners here at the Cathedral. We need to be intentional about building community.

Fr. Dailey spoke about the importance of Confession. Confession should be offered more often than Saturday for 30 minutes. Offer more official confession times.

We could offer classes on faith formation. Some people who attend the Mass do not even know the Creed. Deacon Angel inquired about a Men's Retreat with a breakfast and various teaching throughout the retreat. The last time there was a Men's Retreat there were 197 men in attendance. They may have attended for the breakfast, but they receive teaching and testimony. Make events free of charge event or ask for a free will donation. Have a retreat for married couples of the parish with breakfast, and have a priest or the bishop provide a teaching.

[Action Item]

All members of the pastoral council should bring an idea for the next meeting.

Baptisms

Baptisms will now be on the 1st Saturday of the month with exceptions for urgent situations.

Deacon Joe and Deacon Angel will be called upon to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism, as needed.

The Cathedral

The Cathedral is everyone's church. All communicants in the Diocese of Springfield may receive their sacraments at the Cathedral.

Women's Conference

The Cathedral parish may pay a portion of the total expense if there is financial hardship, but there should be some commitment to pay something. The parish will pay the difference.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Dates of Meetings of the Pastoral Council

- Monday, December 8th
- Monday, January 12th
- Monday, February 16th
- Monday, March 9th
- Monday, April 13th
- Monday, May 11th

Adjournment / Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. with a closing prayer.