

Cathedral of Saint Michael the Archangel
Pastoral Council Meeting

RECTORY
Monday, January 12, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting

Members: Mary Ann Arnold; Carlos Marrero; Kenneth Welch; Marion Johnson;
Virginia Padilla

Ex-Officio: Very Reverend Gary M. Dailey; Deacon Angel Pérez; Deacon Joe Rivera;
Dolly Garzón; Wanda Castellano

Absent: Timothy Pepler; Mary Somers; Nachaly Moreira;
Fr. Yerick Méndez; Fr. Sinh Trinh; Lynn Dubreuil

Call to Order / Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. with a prayer led by Fr. Dailey.

Acceptance of Minutes of the Meeting of November 10, 2025

After a review, Mary Ann Arnold moved to accept the minutes of the meetings from the November 10th meeting as presented, seconded by Virginia Padilla. All in favor.

Upcoming Liturgies or Activities

- January 22nd – Pro-Life Mass and Walk for Life:
Bishop Byrne will celebrate a Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Jubilee Year

The Jubilee Year of Hope is done. It was a successful year. The next jubilee will be an Extraordinary Jubilee of Redemption, commemorating the 2,000 Anniversary of the Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. It will be celebrated in 2033.

Grand Annual Gift 2025

Thus far the total is \$6,435.00.

Religious Education

Mary Ann and Virginia reported that Bishop Byrne has asked all of the students from the Religious Ed programs from across the diocese to pray as many ‘Hail Mary’s for our Country’ as they can in their own homes. Lynn will tally the total number of prayers by the students and will submit a count for our parish.

Latino Ministry

Dolly reported that the Mass of Our Lady of Altagracia will be held at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 18th. There will be no reception this year.

Black Catholic Apostolate

Marion reported that there will be an event to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Day after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 18th. Ms. Willette Johnson, a former principal of the Springfield Public School System is the scheduled speaker.

Take and Eat Ministry

Virginia reported that there are two new recipients bringing the total from 65 to 67. There is one (1) new student who will be fulfilling her community service requirement for Confirmation. Some college students help out during breaks between semesters.

Safety & Security Committee

No meeting.

Old Business

Parish Census/Third Request

We will prepare to send out the 3rd request by February 1st. If they do not respond, we will follow-up with a phone call or a visit to the home. Surveys will be placed in the pews. It will be announced during Masses.

Fiscal Year Report

The Fiscal Report will be presented at the Masses either on Sunday, Jan, 25th or February 1st.

Cathedral Parish Food Pantry

A young married man from Poland with two (2) young children is interested in managing the Cathedral Parish Food Pantry. It is held on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., but we are considering expanding the hours of operation. Fr. Dailey will meet with Mateusz to organize the food pantry and to find out when he is available since he is working. We may have to come up with a policy or a procedure to address some concerns.

New Business

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults - OCIA

We are planning for eight (8) baptisms, including two (2) children from Dolly's OCIA Class (RICA in Spanish). There has been an increase in the number of persons preparing to receive the sacraments in the OCIA programs across the country.

Questions/Concerns/Topics of Discussion (Fun / Social Activities)

Marion suggested bringing back some of the activities that we used to have at our parish before the pandemic. We could have bingo night. We need to find out if we are required to apply for a state-issued license. This may be avoided by giving out prizes instead of money. Mary Ann shared that St. Michael's parish in East Longmeadow gives out designer handbags as prizes. St. Thomas in West Springfield also has a bingo night that is open to the public. It is a fundraiser. We could start after Easter. We would also have a chicken or spaghetti dinner.

Discussion on enhancing Spiritual Life in the Cathedral Parish:

Nachaly Moreira was not present at the meeting, but submitted a written recommendation for this topic of discussion:

- There should be more Adoration time with Jesus.
- We should consecrate our parish to the Holy Eucharist.
- We should plan for Advent, Lent, and Pentecost Retreats (English and Spanish).
- Finish all the Retreats with Adoration.
- Bible Study.
- 24 Hours of Adoration.

Teaching Masses during Lent

Fr. Dailey will schedule teaching Masses during the Lent season. There was an issue with one person trying to walk away with the Eucharist. The Eucharist must be consumed immediately.

Parish Picnic

Planning for the annual parish picnic should start in March.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be held on Monday, February 16 at 6pm. It will be the third Monday of the month, the Monday before Ash Wednesday.

Adjournment/Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. with a prayer led by Fr. Dailey.