

April 28, 2025

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH



St. Ann Catholic Church Pastoral Council
April 28, 2025
7:00 – 9:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Members: Father Peter Grace, Richard Boyd, Laci Conrad, Francisco Cucue-Campos, Charles Frank, Tom Hartley, Hatciri Lopez, Anne Miller, Lori Power, Stephanie Satkowiak, DJ Venne, Marina Guerrero, Nick Petro, Chris Vozdik, Sandy Vargas

Members

Excused: Francisco Cucue-Campos, Charles Frank, Nick Petro, Stephanie Satkowiak

Members

Absent: Chris Vozdik

Guests: Dean Penny, Jeff Plate, Sandra Orsega, Brad Shepard, Ruth Silva, Lisette Uriostegui

Recording

Secretary: Laci Conrad

Opening

Prayer: Laci Conrad

Review

and

Approval

of

March

Minutes: Tom Hartley made a motion to approve the March 2025 meeting minutes; Richard Boyd seconded the motion; all approved.

Staff Reports:

Jeff Plate, Development & Stewardship Manager

Jeff is the new Development and Stewardship Manager for our parish. He discussed the work he started over the past month to support our parish development goals.

Growing with Grace

Jeff's focus during the first month has been on the Growing With Grace campaign to reach out to parishioners who have not yet pledged or donated. Thus far, 114 potential donors have been identified and 40 have been contacted. The remaining 74 are primarily Spanish-speaking, so he is seeking volunteers to help with those outreach efforts. He has identified just under \$10K that was miscoded in the database and other donors that needed reminders. Some pledges will be retired due to no response as well as those who have moved away, or whose circumstances have changed. Thus far, ~\$7K fall into this category. Lapsed donors, or those who have made payments, but fallen behind, will be approached next. New donors, or those who never received initial packets, will be approached in the Aug-Sep 2025 timeframe.

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BAA

BAA donations have been improving over the past month. Gifts are up from last year, but we are still far short of the expected goal, so a blitz in June is being planned, primarily for those with whom we have no contact as those in the pews are likely already to have given. To date, 506 gifts totaling \$84,000 (up \$25K from last month) have been received and this is better than last year at this time. Ideally, we will complete this year's BAA campaign at the end of June 2025 in order to focus on other development priorities and goals.

Plans are underway to engage various ministries via video and social media to promote parish news in the bulletin and on the website.

Jeff introduced Sandra Orsega as the Fundraising Development Committee Chair. She is enthusiastic about the move forward and working together as a team. Dean noted that Sandra brings a new energy to the committee.

Feedback from the council: Discussion about when the BAA typically ends each year and the answer to this question depends on the parish. Parishioners have also asked to be provided with the average donation amount per family needed to meet our BAA goal. The actual number of registered families is likely closer to 2,000 vs. the 4,000 previously reported.

Brad Shepard, Business Manager

Recruitment efforts continue for the Youth Minister Coordinator and Faith Formation Assistant positions.

Current staff are assisting Lupe with faith formation events such as the first communion retreat. The council recommended asking for volunteers when parents sign their children up for Faith Formation beginning in June for the 2025-2026 faith formation year.

Lisette Uriostegui, Columbarium

We have two new members on the Columbarium committee: Phyllis Palmer and Charlie Frank. Sandi Vargas continues as an important member of this team. 114 total niches have been sold (3 niches sold year to date). The committee is considering additional payment plan options for those interested in purchasing a niche who cannot pay in full at one time. As a reminder, if we sell all the niches, it will help fund the Growing with Grace campaign. Parishioners may want to consider purchasing a Memorial plaque if a niche is not within their reach and/or part of their end-of-life plans.

The fountain in the Columbarium area is broken and the building committee has picked up this job to complete maintenance. The fountain needs to be cleaned once per month as well as regular landscape maintenance. There is a collection to provide for columbarium flowers and we continue to have fresh flowers in the columbarium for Easter, Christmas, All Saints & All Souls Day and possibly Memorial Day.

There was a \$10,000 donation made for a statue to the Columbarium area; however, the committee is hoping for additional donations to be able to purchase a good quality statue. Lisette is working on setting a date for another end-of-life planning event and the council agrees that having this event during the spring will draw more interest.



There was no Report from the Finance Committee this month.

Special Guest Reports:

Seasonal Farm Workers Ministry – Ruth Silva

Ruth has supported the seasonal farm workers in our area since 1997. Ruth shared information about the farm workers that come to our area each year. They typically arrive beginning in February and remain until mid-November; many are young, some are older. Ruth and other volunteers provide each worker with a toiletry kit when they arrive (value of \$10-12 per kit). She has fallen short this year on the availability of her kits due to lack of donations and does not have enough kits for each worker. The Ladies Guild and By Our Hands Ministry have each donated \$1,000 to assist with the kit; however, more are needed as there are approximately 1600 workers. Ruth shared the living conditions and the health of many of these workers, which includes 12-15 people living in one trailer with no AC or working toilets. Working the tobacco fields has toxic effects on the workers, some who are already in poor health. There is little to no healthcare for these workers and they face harsh working conditions in the fields that cause injury and even death. Two workers lost their lives last year, one to suicide. It costs workers as much as \$4,000 to get their work permits to come to the USA, plus the costs of transportation, food, laundry, etc., usually putting them in debt for a considerable portion of their time here. Some identified needs are Head and Shoulders shampoo (washes away the toxic effects of the tobacco), gloves, bandanas, and other toiletries. A list of items may be found on the Parish website. Please keep Ruth, her volunteers, and the farm workers in your prayers.

Church Expansion Update – Dean Penny

Dean shared the following updates on our church expansion plans.

Community Outreach Building

Remaining tasks:

- Duke Energy to install electrical power to the building and install a meter
- Installation of waterline/fire hydrant along Hwy 70 to north driveway entry
 - Permit has been approved
 - Scheduling installation with the Contractor

Adjacent land Parcel Purchase

- Parcel #1: Grantham, 16 acres
- Appraised Value: \$830,000; owner has indicated she will sell to St. Ann for considerably less.
- Due Diligence has been completed and the contract to purchase has been drafted.
- Target date to complete the purchase is by June 2025

As part of the expansion process, the Diocese requires two lengthy reports to be submitted as part of the process. The reports are as follows:

1. Self-Study Report

- Need Finance Council, Pastoral Council, and Pastor Endorsement
- Plan to submit to Diocese by June 2025



Self-Study Report Content Includes:

- Parish Mission, History, Demographics and Growth Projections
- Current Programs and Facilities
- Future Facility Needs
- Recommendations
- Projected Costs/Budget/Financial Plan/Schedule

2. Campus Masterplan (MP) Update

- Engaged Kimley-Horn and Associates to lead a campus masterplan update.
- Latest approved Masterplan was in 2020
- With the addition of the Grantham Land – need to update the MP
- MP update should include all anticipated facilities for the next 25+ or more years

Campus Masterplan Next Steps:

- Refine preferred bubble diagram
- Develop more detailed building layouts within the bubble diagram areas
- Mesh layout with church expansion concepts
- Obtain Parish approvals
- Obtain Diocese Building and Real Estate (BRE) Approval
- Goal is to complete these by August 2025

Finally, Dean shared with the council additional church expansion considerations (to date) which include both objectives and concepts.

Expansion Objectives:

- Add seating capacity
- Enhance the architecture
- Improve ingress/egress
- Improve ancillary use spaces
- Add additional ancillary spaces to meet current needs
- Improve entry plaza/tie to Parish Center

Expansion Concepts:

- What are the possibilities?
- Don't limit the possibilities
- Will need to address costs/budget as we move forward
- Concepts will change/evolve as we move forward in design and construction

Discussion among the council included a consensus to share updates with parishioners. Dean will work with Father Peter on keeping all parishioners informed as movement is made on the expansion project.

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Old Business:

2025 Pastoral Council Election, Anne Miller

- Elections will take place the weekend of May 3rd/4th
- We need two members of the council at each mass to help distribute ballots before each Mass and collect completed ballots after each Mass. We will not be interrupting Mass for completion of ballots this year. Volunteers secured.
- Council member volunteers needed to count ballots on May 5th at 9:00 a.m. in room 208 (volunteers secured)

Closing Remarks and Closing Prayer: Father Peter

- Father noted the need to update the parishioners on the status of the GWG campaign
- Father is meeting with the Bishop this week as part of a regular check-in among all priests in the area.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is May 19, 2025, at 7 PM in Learning Center Room 208

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laci Conrad