

Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2026

In Attendance: Fr Manasseh, Luis Acosta, Carolina Venot, Mike Low, Jamie Bescak, Jerry Biegler, Lisa Majchrzak, Deacon JC Gonzalez, Maryola Sanchez-Fabilena, Chris Smith

Excused: Fr Emmanuel, Deacon Ed Winkelbauer, Pam Boggs, Marilyn Johnston, Lani Gore

Guests: Alyssa Bolger, Hunter Wilkinson

6:30 PM Jerry called the meeting to order

Opening Prayer: Lisa

Roll call verified a quorum

Carolina motioned to accept the May minutes, Mike seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Service Project Presentation

- SJB Cub Scout Pack 77, represented by Hunter and Alyssa, presented a proposal for a project on St Benedict grounds. The Pack was newly restarted in October, no Pack since 2021. They would like to do a group service project to restore the Father Dennis O'Rourke Desert Garden on the SW side of the church. The pack would do their own fundraising to pay for the project. They would like to install lasting signage (plant labels), remove dead plants and replace with new ones, realign the path, and move the existing bench to be more accessible. The boys (with parental help) would provide the labor and materials, and would also maintain the garden in the future. A re-opening event was also proposed. Cubmaster would hand water until proper irrigation is installed.
- Mike asked about the location and possible other areas or eventual expansion. Location would stay the same with expansion or other garden areas considered in the future.
- The work would tentatively be done in mid-September, weather permitting, to allow for best success for plants.
- Hunter and Alyssa were thanked for the presentation and excused while council went into closed session. Father Manasseh spoke in favor of the project, especially the continued maintenance. Following discussion, Mike motioned to approve the Cub Scout project, Luis seconded. Vote taken-unanimous approval. Pam will contact them to inform them that they can proceed, we look forward to the improvements.

St John Bosco Report-Jamie

- Some enrollment changes, currently expecting 470ish for new school year. There are a few openings in 4th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Older students may be accepted if they meet SJB standards. There are waitlists for Pre-K, 1st, and 2nd grades with 10 each waiting for Pre-K and 2nd.
- Staffing changes- new hire for Pre-K due to staff movement, Sister Emily arrives end of July. No teachers left at end of school year, but one is pregnant and due in September. A full time campus security monitor is still needed. New Administrative Assistant started on Monday 6/1, along with a new Development Coordinator. A new nurse will be starting in the fall.
- Jamie shared updates on the school Strategic Plan. It is online and the highlighted areas are complete. As part of accreditation, she will present this report to the Pastoral Council every Spring.
- Luis asked about the status of an alumni list. Jamie is working on it, currently it is mostly parents of alumni students, she is asking parents to provide their children's contact info as well. The first graduating class was in 2001, she would like to invite adult alumni to visit the school and perhaps enroll their own children.

Ministry Reports

Knights of Columbus-Mike

- May events included an Adopt a Street cleanup; CPR class with 38 attendees (will likely have more classes due to high interest); Blood drive-49 donors checked in, 64 lives saved, next drive 9/20; Parish Rosary
- Council will achieve Double Star membership award for 2025-26
- State Raffle: raised \$8000 for local charity, St Benedict SVdP will receive \$4000. Thank you! No one from St Benedict won, winners are listed online.
- June 7-Feast of Corpus Christi Mass and Procession, 4th Degree Knights to provide color guard
- June 11-next Council meeting
- July 1- Luis will become the new St Benedict Grand Knight!

Building and Events-no reports

Pastor's Report- Fr Manasseh

- Fr. Emmanuel, Carolina, Sr. Liza, and Greg completed the training for the new Nullity Ministry. Carolina spoke about the four Fridays of training: learned about Canon Law in regards to annulments, marriage prep, and OCIA as it exists to assist with the salvation of souls. Nullity helps to heal families. Father and Carolina are working to get the word out about the process.
- No new office manager yet, Maryola is doing much of the work for the parish and Kelly for the school. We want to ensure we find a good fit.
- Father encouraged us all to attend the Corpus Christi procession.
- The Sisters will be gone most of June and July for retreats, general chapter elections, and vacations.

Additional Discussions

- Signups needed for the opening and closing prayers for the 8/5 meeting. Lisa offered to do opening and Mike will do closing. No meeting in July.
- Maryola presented a request from the FOCUS organization, a ministry evangelizing to college students founded by Curtis Martin. They would like to come to St Benedict's one weekend to celebrate Masses, and perform confessions. They would be promoting their mission. Bishop Dolan has authorized their outreach to our diocese. After discussion it was agreed that Father Manasseh and/or Maryola will invite them to come.

Closing Prayer-Luis

Meeting adjourned at 7:48PM

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Smith