

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Room C-103 7:00 pm

1. Prayer Greg Ulses for Michael Hatheway
2. Formation Sarah Kirk
3. Review Minutes Eduardo Sevilla
 - a. Motion to approve made, seconded, and passed.
4. School Update Gabriela Parks
 - a. Thanks to the PTPO for their amazing work throughout the year, including new Graduation gowns, \$500 towards the crucifix in the gym, and mat on the gym wall.
 - b. The 8th grade provided the St Mark sign over the rock wall
 - c. Enrollment is at 331 which is down 20 from last year. Slots are available in PreK, 1st, 2nd, and 5th grade.
 - d. Students are doing well in the Battle of the Books and in Viva Vienna.
 - e. There were several moves in the faculty: Ms. Gurzo is moving to Middle School Literature, Ms. Wyzcoff is moving to Spanish, Ms. Platero is moving to O'Connell High School, and Ms Diamaria is now the director of administration. Part time openings are still available for middle school math and grades 4 and 5
5. PTPO Update Malia Collins/Rebecca Bordener
 - a. The event list was exhaustive but extremely successful. Lion Laps netted \$64,000, with \$50,000 heading for the playground project. The International Night was supported by the PTPO. It also helped with the Middle School Dance. The PTPO was instrumental in Teacher Appreciation week, School Nurse Day, and the Amazon wish list for teachers.

- b. Upcoming events include the School Field Day, a Kona Ice day, the Goodbye lunch, and yearbooks being given as a parting gift.
- c. The board has four returning members and three spaces are open. Two candidates have been found, with others being sought.
- d. Plans for the Pilgrimage on the Green on June 22 include coordinating the cookie dessert. Children from the school and the parish will help distribute the 2,400 cookies.

6. Finance Sandy Gollogly

- a. The Finance Ministry will come in for a direct report next month.
- b. The overall picture is that a lot of materials need to be fixed or replaced due to age and usage. The boilers will cost \$75,000 each. The roofs of the building, the parking lot, the piano, and other items need to be prioritized after a cost analysis. The playground replacement has been greenlit, with a cost of \$290,000. The diocese is providing \$75,000 upfront and loaning \$75,000, the PTPO providing \$50,000, and the school \$90,000.

7. Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion): Written reports received Tuesday of week of meeting

- a. Community Service: Theresa Croson
 - i. Nothing to add, no questions.
- b. Religious Education: Andrea Kramer
 - i. Nothing to add, no questions.
- c. Community Growth: Betsy Zolper
 - i. Should we continue the newcomer's luncheon? It is recommended that it should be continued, especially if connections with the new school families are emphasized.
- d. Worship: Pam Burke
 - i. Nothing to add, no questions.
- e. Youth: Sarah Kirk

- i. Father Peter wants to hire a youth minister.

8. Old Business:

a. How to distribute meeting minutes following monthly meeting:

- i. This is tabled until the next meeting as they are supposed to be on the website, so the status must be verified.

b. List of initiatives for Father Peter?

- i. The Pastoral Council should prepare a list of initiatives and activities that we would recommend to continue or end. It could be either a formal document or a read-ahead. It could include notes from the two synods. Alternatively, the PC could hold and wait for Father Peter to ask, as the minutes and stewardship brochure are out there for him to read. No one is in favor of the list, so wait for any request before preparing anything new.

c. Pilgrimage on the Green

- i. The coordinator has been found.
- ii. The clean up crew might involve the teen work campers. Or they could be used for cookie delivery.

9. New Business:

a. Fall Festival Planning

- i. It is scheduled for September 22. A coordinator is needed. Could it be run by committee, so it will be less scary? Ask the previous coordinator, who has left a lot of material turnover. We do have to worry about vendors being booked already and worry about the rest later

10. Eyes and Ears

- a. Donut Sunday: This is a great opportunity to make contact with parishioners outside of the pew buddies. Sit with people whom you have never met before.

- b. 50th Anniversary Ordination Mass: A lot of positive responses. It was great with the choirs from other parishes joining.
- c. Altar servers: Why are they so few? There is no easy solution. There still is a need for a ministry coordinator.

11. Closing Comments Father Pat

- a. The Council is at the Pastor's request, so Father Peter could dissolve the council.
- b. Prioritization on vocalization (amen, singing), evangelization (living the life), stewardship (time, talent, and treasure), protecting the Eucharist, taking care of the staff, three c's (community, consensus, communication), trust in the Lord.
- c. Priority: fix the rectory! Money has been set aside to do this.

12. Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Meeting ends 8:40 pm

Next Meeting: June 20, 2024

Room C-103 7:00PM

A. Community Service

To: St. Mark Pastoral Council
From: Theresa Croson

St. Mark Pastoral Council providing Father Pat with knowledgeable and prudent consultation by investigating thoroughly, reflecting deeply, and formulating practical conclusions to pastoral matters.

Service Commission Representative

Date: May 18, 2024

Re: Service Ministry Report for May 23, 2024 Meeting

2024 Bishop's Lenten Appeal: The Bishop's Lenten Appeal is the way that each of us can support the various ministries of our Diocese. A percentage (3%) is committed to Diocesan Development and Communication Programs. The Communications Office utilizes a variety of mediums to promote, educate and evangelize the faithful and wider community in our Diocese.

The Office of Development, including the Bishop's Lenten Appeal and other charitable vehicles, provides strategic financial support to the Diocese, parishes, and schools.

2% of the BLA is committed to Parish/Diocesan Properties and Land Development. As the Diocese continues to grow, particularly in the western counties past us, the need to plan for future parishes, schools, and facilities finds the Bishop's Lenten Appeal designating funds for such development. Just as St. Mark received our land free from the Diocesan Development Fund (in our case from Richmond in 1965), so future parishes will be blest from our support donations.

In addition, 3% of the donations received for the BLA is committed to the San Damiano Spirituality Center. A peaceful venue that offers opportunities for a wide variety of retreats for laity, religious and clergy seeking reflection and spiritual renewal in the Chapel and grounds in the Shenandoah Valley.

4% of the Bishop's Lenten Appeal is committed to Evangelization Efforts. Events and initiatives are offered to strengthen the faith of practicing Catholics; to reach out to less active Catholics; and to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who do not know God. Our Diocese is committed to ecumenical outreach, supporting INOVA Hospital Ministry and Dominican Republic Mission Parishes.

Catholic Communications Campaign: This month we had a second collection for the annual Catholic Communications Campaign. In prayer for evangelization, the use of the media, in all its forms, can spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. This Campaign connects Catholics with Christ in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio (have you heard Bishop Burbidge and Father Jack Peterson on WTOP?) and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in our own Diocese to fund local communications efforts. Catholic Home Missions: The purpose of the annual Second Collection for the Catholic Home Missions is to provide expressed recognition and care for our Church throughout our entire country here in the US. 40% of the Diocese in our country do not have the needed resources to minister effectively. Many mission territories are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Our support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. It's only with the help from us and the help of so many others in our country, that we can make those resources available to our sisters and brothers.

House of Mercy: St. Mark Parishioners who participated in making donations to the House of Mercy through our Lenten Cross initiative this year successfully helped so many who are struggling financially and in need of the most basics.

During the Lenten Season our St Mark Community donated:

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\$1,525 (money and gift cards)

1,042 lbs of groceries

6 car seats

5 laundry detergents

220 packs of diapers

15 cans of formula

254 packs of baby wipes

144 rolls of toilet paper

175 toiletries

Matthew 25 – The St. Lucy Project: Due to the shortage of food in the Arlington Diocesan St.

Lucy Food Storage site, St. Mark Catholic Church will be collecting/restocking food until further notice. Our neighbors need our help and these difficult times are extremely tough for our homeless, and near homeless families in Fairfax County. Parishioners are asked to bring these items to the Narthex area of the Church anytime/any day.

The St Lucy warehouse is in particular need of:

Canned Meat/Fish

Canned Vegetables

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Cereals (Hot & Cold)

Canned fruit

Rice

Pasta and Pasta Sauce (no glass please)

Children's snacks

Soups

Dried & Canned Beans

Juice

****Expired items will not be accepted****

Also, the folks at St. Lucy Warehouse have created an Amazon Wish List. This is a simple way of making a donation which is delivered straight to the warehouse! We are focusing on breakfast and lunch foods for kids.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/O36HJ5Y74CBH/ref=bnav_topnav_lists_2

Tithing Allocation Committee (TAC): The TAC received applications from four (4) non profit organizations within our local community asking St Mark for financial assistance. The TAC met on May 15 to discuss the requests and determine which organizations met the requirements and need for funding. In consensus, approval was given to the requests of the following organizations:

The Culmore Clinic: \$5,000 requested and approved. The Culmore Clinic is a 501(c)(3), non profit healthcare clinic serving uninsured adults in Falls Church, VA, and surrounding areas at no cost. Supported by a diverse group of volunteer healthcare providers, professionals, and donors, the Culmore Clinic offers compassionate medical care, counseling services, health education, as well as specialty referrals to approximately 400 low-income (under 300% Federal Poverty Level), uninsured adults, two-thirds of whom are chronically ill. Our commitment to patient health and wellness is our greatest priority, and their satisfaction with the clinic's services is a source of great pride. The majority of Culmore Clinic's medical providers,

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KOVARVA.org: \$4,600 requested and approved. This organization is a Virginia Knights of Columbus 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity established in 1971 to provide financial assistance

through grants and home loans to tax-exempt organizations providing training and opportunities to persons with intellectual disabilities (ID). KOVAR has provided over \$18 million in grants and \$6 million in no-interest home loans to non-profit organizations who support persons with ID within the Commonwealth of Virginia and are the largest non governmental provider in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Associates of St. John Bosco: \$3,500 requested and approved. The purpose of this organization is to help young adults, especially high school seniors, better connect with their Catholic faith by introducing them to other young adults who model successful faith-based lives and providing a support system of other young adults and mentors. The funds received go specifically for refreshments, and speaker honorarium. In additions, each participant receives a Bosco Bundle which includes a Crucifix, Rosary, Bible, journal, and spiritual books.

Centreville Immigration Forum: \$10,000 requested and approved. The CIF's overall purpose is to build abilities, competencies, and opportunities for employment that ultimately invest in the members ability to provide for themselves and their families. Its work empowers members for self-sufficiency, while learning how to better advocate for their needs that will ultimately include civic engagement and systemic change. Programs focus on immigrant and labor rights – wage and economic justice, financial stability and racial equity – while continuing to identify and respond to immediate needs.

B. Religious Education

Devotional Painting: A unique adult formation opportunity is being offered by our parish's emerging Parents Ministry, under the leadership of Katie Gruters. A Painting Party for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will take place on Friday, June 7 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm

in the Cassidy Activities Center. Participants will learn how to paint an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. No painting experience is necessary, and kids are welcome to tag along with their parents. There will be a \$15 supply fee to be paid in cash or check (made out to ST. MARK

Catholic Church) that is paid the day of the event; the fee covers the canvas, acrylic paint, paintbrushes, and a tabletop easel. Interested individuals should contact Katie Gruters at parentsministry@gmail.com for more information or to register for the event. Running Devotional: Bare Your Souls is a new faith, fitness, and fellowship activity being offered

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over the summer. Runners, joggers, and walkers of all ages and abilities are welcome; children

must be accompanied by their guardian. Celebrate your mind, body, and spirit by lacing up your shoes, getting out in nature, praying, and running in fellowship with Christ! The group will

meet on Sundays from 8:00-8:45 am, with start date TBD. The course will start at ST. MARK by the outdoor basketball hoops and continue to the Ashlawn Park trail across the street (Nadine Dr. trailhead), with the distance and route varying to accommodate all levels of participants. In

case of inclement weather, running may take place in the gym.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Registration is now open for this summer's VBS, which will be held

July 22-26 mornings. The theme is Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God. As a new offering this year, rather than rotating through stations like the younger grades, rising 4th and 5th graders will comprise a Missions Team. Adults will work with them on acts of service for the parish and the community. To register a participant of preschool age 4 through rising 5th grade

(preschoolers must be potty trained and have completed a year of school), visit this link: <https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=8642a067-6f44-468f-9ab1-590fb7f17f80>.

The cost is \$65 per child. There are 60 spots available.

In order to run VBS, many volunteers are needed, both adults and youth 6th grade and older. Volunteers must commit to all days, including setup and training on Sunday, July 21 afternoon;

those 18 and older must be (or become) compliant with diocesan child protection requirements. To volunteer, fill out the form at this link:

<https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=86cf05d7-4c72-4770-84e4-66300a3868da>

Email Sarah Lundquist at slundquist@stmark.org for more information and job descriptions. 2024-25 RE Program: Volunteers are needed to make RE happen for the coming 2024-25 school year, especially catechists, assistant catechists, and high school assistants. Training will

be provided. For more information or position descriptions, please contact Joe Flaherty at jflaherty@stmark.org or 703-938-1948 x1. Volunteers are asked to complete this online form to indicate interest:

<https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=587de69c-f9de-4098-ac3fb24cfbd9235e>

Condensed Catechist Certification: All ST. MARK Catechists are encouraged to take the diocesan Catechist Certification course. Catechist Certification recognizes committed catechists

who have completed 50 hours of systematic faith formation ministry training. Participants learn the faith AND how to teach it! It is an excellent formation for any catechist or catechetical

leader, and can also be a good course for those on the Pastoral Council. This summer, there is

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an opportunity to take the entire certification through a condensed course. Delores Nelson will offer all 50 hours of Catechist Certification training at ST. THOMAS A BECKET parish in Reston;

missed classes may be made-up online. All expenses are paid for by the Diocese; participants are simply asked to bring their own lunch. Registration link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/xMCafk0M8E>

SACRAMENTS

First Eucharists: The First Eucharist Masses were completed over the first two weekends of May.

RE COMMISSION

The RE Commission held its last meeting earlier in May before beginning its summer hiatus. Andrea Kramer, the current Commission Chair and Representative to the Pastoral Council, will be completing her term this June. Joe Flaherty will be recruiting new/additional members for the Commission and appointing a new chair/representative by Fall.

C. Community Growth

Always Our Children (AOC): Always Our Children had our last meeting for this ministry year last week. We will pick up again on the second Monday in September. As a ministry to the LGBTQ folks, their families' and friends, we agree to continue on, providing a listening, empathetic, accepting presence within the St. Mark community. Our group consists of current parishioners as well as those who have moved away and have not yet found this type of ministry in their new parishes, or community at large. We feel blessed to be able to provide this loving presence here at St. Mark. **Bakers for Funerals:** We haven't baked for funerals this month. We did have 31 bakers for Fr. Pat's wonderful anniversary reception. The bakers were eager to be a part of this celebration. **Bereavement Program: Spring Bereavement Program** - held at OLG, Sundays from 1:30 to 3, 8 week series, began April 21, and ends June 9. Contact Brad at frison@verizon.net for more information. **Summer Grief Gathering** - Sunday, June 9, 3:30 to 5 pm at Turner Farmhouse Foundation, 10609 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Va 22066. Catching up with folks who are grieving for a potluck snack sharing session at the Retreat House. For more information, email sarah.blfound@gmail.com. **Fall Bereavement Program - Bereavement Program for adults who have lost a loved one.** • When - August 25, 3:30 to 5 pm, every Sunday for 9 weeks

• Where - St Mark Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Rd. Vienna, Va 22181

• Class materials - [The New Day Journal](#) by Mauryeen O'Brien, available online. • For more information, and to register, email Sarah Kirk, sarah.blfound@gmail.com **Book Club: Discussion postponed due to facilitator schedule conflict: May 9, 2024 "The Shroud: Face to Face" by Robert Orlando (145 pages) June 13, 2024 "Silent Angel" by Antonia Arsian (136 pages)**

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH): Earth Day – May Crowning in the Mary Garden – May 12th after 11 am mass was attended by a few parishioners. In the last few weeks, our Mary Garden has not been respected. Last week, Iris Gil saw that Mary's crown was thrown on the ground and the flowers from vases were as well. After mass on Sunday a small boy was picking apart the stepping-stones.

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CCH will place a notice in the bulletin informing parishioners about what has taken place and inviting parishioners to respect this sacred space.

Christians in Commerce (CIC): No May update.

Cursillo: No May update.

Coffee and Community (CAC): Emily will continue doing Coffee and Community every Tuesday and

Thursday this summer, except one week in late June when we will be on vacation. She has been getting good turn-outs after mass—it is her happy time!

Donut Sunday: Care for Our Common Home and Hypothermia Shelter co-hosted Coffee and Donuts last Sunday.

Evangelization Ministry ALPHA: No May update.

50th Pilgrimage Group: Upcoming committee meetings: May 8, June 5, 12, 19. 7 pm room C103. Mass to be held in sanctuary. Bring your own lunch on the green. Pastoral council has been asked to serve lunch to the Bishop and pastors after mass.

Funeral Receptions: Just one funeral reception since our last report, no other news except to say that our committee members have also been hugely helpful with other recent special events, like the reception for the 50th Anniversary of Ordination Reception on 5/5.

Knights of Columbus (Santa Maria Council): No May report.

Le Cercle Francais: Conversational French group.

Lenten Soup Suppers: Paused until Lent 2025.

Men's Prayer Group: No May update.

MOMs Ministry: Inactive.

Movie Night Ministry: The monthly movie for May was a periodic one for adults only with a wine and cheese social beforehand. Turnout was light but all enjoyed the fellowship and the film, Instant Family, a comedy about the ups and downs of parenting for a couple who adopts three siblings. Movie Nights are on hiatus now for the summer; they resume in September. will be held on May 17 and will be an evening for adults only with a wine and cheese social.

Newcomers' Committee: Spring Newcomers' Lunch date April 21.

Pastoral and Care Team (PACT): No May update.

Prayer Requests: We continue to receive many prayer requests that are sent out to our 150+ prayer volunteers.

Peace and Justice Committee (PJC): Not meeting.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Our group had Barbara, a volunteer at Inova Fairfax Hospital, speak with us regarding the shawls and lapghan we are making. She gave us feedback about the size and style. It was very helpful to our group and we will look for new patterns.

Praying College Moms (PCM): On May 7th, Frances Chamberlin led the group in saying the Rosary for all PCM young adults. This will be our last meeting for this academic year. We will restart meetings in September.

Pro-Life Committee (PLC): Seeking new chair.

Remembrance Ministry (RM): The Remembrance Ministry is in our quiet time, that is, once a month we send out cards and notes to those who have lost someone.

Senior Ministry (M&M's): It was good to see some new faces at both our May 1st Coffee and our May 15th Pot Luck lunch. We plan to have our first Wednesday of the month After Mass Coffee as usual on June 5th; and for our end of year gathering on June 19th, we are planning a Bus trip to St Mary's Basilica in Alexandria where we will attend the 12:10 daily Mass, with lunch afterwards at Gadsby's Tavern.

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Small Communities of Faith now Small Group (SG): No May report.

Welcome and Information Desk: The Information booth continues to be "unmanned" but Bill keeps it neat and organized throughout the week and up to date with information prior to each weekend.

D. Worship

This was our first meeting since Holy Week. We did not meet in April.

Liturgical Arts Committee (LAC) – Donna Mrozek – we feel Holy Week went well on our end for our responsibilities. The last weekend for fresh flower arrangements will be Pentecost weekend. After that our summer, 'Walk in the Garden' arras will be going up along with plants in front of the altar. We haven't heard otherwise, so that will be on the altar for the Deanery Mass on June 22. We have our committee chairs in place for next years' liturgical season. We did help the youth group with their Mother's Day flower arrangement sale.

Lectors – Marjorie Brown – all is well and some new members have been recruited.

No reports from other Worship committees. All is going well. Committee chairs are in place for next liturgical year except Altar Servers.

Upcoming Events:

- Pentecost Weekend – Shirley Nuhn has arranged for the first reading to be read simultaneously in several different languages.
- The Healing Mass will be held May 28 at 7:30 pm. Ushers and EM's are needed.
- 40 Hours Devotion will be May 29 – June 1. Signup for hours of devotion will be in the narthex. ● The Knights of Columbus Special Needs mass will be June 11 at 7:00 pm. We need to set up for a coordinator and EM's.
- Pilgrimage on the Green, Deanery Mass will be Saturday, June 11 and 11:00 am with all invited to picnic after mass, bring your own food, on the grass area in front of the rectory. The CAC will be set up for overflow. Cabling is being run so there will be a reliable feed to see and hear the mass being said in the church. We will need ushers for both church and CAC. No collection will be taken.
- Weekend of 6/22, Father Pat will say all masses for his final time as pastor of St. Mark church.
- Matthew Brown will be coordinating a summer youth choir at 5:30 Saturday evening masses.

Holy Week Evaluations:

- Palm Sunday 11:00 procession went very well. Next year, as parishioners are sent to the CAC for the procession into church, ushers, please encourage them to move into the CAC and leave room for more people to enter. ● Holy Thursday worked well for clearing the altar. The altar candles had some problems with burning and dripped very badly on the altar. This was not noticeable to the congregation. Maybe next year, ask for volunteers from the congregation for foot washing? Up to our new pastor, though.

Additional updates:

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- Bathroom renovation on the lower level will begin after the Deanery mass, June 22. This is expected to take a couple months.
- Denise and Laura are working to clean out a large storage area downstairs. The creche really should be kept

inside during the off-season to avoid additional insect damage.

- There is a November wedding planned.

We will next meet again in September. Please check emails for any summer updates and needs.

E. Youth

CYO - Volleyball in session

Track and Field: Just finished up the season last weekend at Bishop O'Connell with a lot of great successes from the 3rd through 8th grade teams. Most of the athletes are at SMCS, but a few are RE. We had some individual and relay champions.

Scouts - Shed rebuilt, and contents moved back from Prop room.

- Boy troop is celebrating 50th anniversary with a Court of Honor, inviting all alumni scouts to attend and share memories.

- The Boy Troop also had a successful canoe trip this weekend down the James River

Middle School - record attendance for BASH, Diocesan event for Middle School, with 91 teens and 17 Adult Volunteers. Highest number in the Diocese, teens with blue St. Mark T shirts filled the center balcony in the O'Connell auditorium! Weekly emails will be sent through June, monthly in July and August.

High School - CYC continues to meet on Wednesday evenings, with special celebration for Kevin Flores. Meetings will continue for the school year, and into the summer, when teens are available. Weekly emails will be sent through June, monthly in July and August.

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