

PARISH OF SAINT ANN/OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting: Monday, October 4, 2026, at 5:00 PM

Attendees/Pastoral Council Members:

Rev. John Klevence, Pastor

Rev Joseph Dovari, Associate Pastor

Cathy Rossi, Betty Wisgirda, Jared Browne, Tom Hill, Lola Lopez, Eileen McGarry, Jose Pena, Mary Regan, Willy Rojas, Joe Willcox, Georgia Bresch, Tina Gordon (remote)

1. OPENING PRAYER

- Fr. Klevence led the Campaign Prayer

2. WELCOME

- Cathy Rossi welcomed everyone present.

3. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- Cathy R. provided an update on the transition to the public phase of the campaign schedule for the weekend of October 18th. A bulletin insert and a tri-fold brochure will be available and Fr. Klevence will speak at all Masses.
- Cathy R. noted that Capital Campaign briefings for parishioners will take place at several neighborhood clubhouses, hosted by resident parishioners, as well as at Delaney Hall. Dates and times will be announced.
- Joe W. shared challenges regarding phone outreach with people not returning calls. The suggestion was made to utilize text messaging and Flock Notes to alert parishioners.
- Jose P. suggested exploring business policies of matching employee's personal charitable contributions.

4. FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT

- Georgia Bresch presented a detailed financial statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. This report will be posted on the parish website and included as an insert in this week's bulletin.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe will be added to the Parish of St. Ann heading to encourage a shared view of all resources.
- "Annual Catholic Appeal" listing will be changed to "Faith and Charity" to reflect diocesan designation of these funds.

5. PASTOR'S REPORT

- Fr. Klevence stated that the current focus is the campaign and expressed concern that many are unaware of the campaign despite numerous bulletin articles and other communications.
- Fr. Klevence spoke about the Hispanic food sales taking place. He stated that in addition to raising funds for the campaign, outreach is fostering better relations between both communities.

- Fr. Klevence mentioned that both the Marian Pilgrimage and the first Catholic Men of Delmarva Retreat held recently were successful.

6. UPDATE ON NEW INITIATIVES

a. Parish Council/Parish Goals

- Willie R., Jose P., Betty W. and Mary R. will review these drafts to ensure they align with current campaign momentum and other parish considerations.

b. Parishioner Feedback/Questions

- Betty Wisgirda provided a summary of feedback collected via parish council and suggestion boxes.
- Concerns raised by parishioners included desire for evening Confession, temperature control in the church, noise level prior to and after Mass, and unauthorized verbal outbursts occurring during Mass.

c. Damascus Program

- Jared B. provided an update on the status of the program for the summer of 2027. Collaboration with St. Jude's with St. Ann/OLG is being explored regarding transportation to the camp in Emmitsburg, MD.
- The challenge is convincing the youth/parents to commit this soon.
- Since diocesan financial support is limited to pre-registration commitments, it was suggested that we secure places now and create an "Adopt a Teen" program in the parish to offer financial support.
- Jared will confirm with Damascus reps about certain requirements before moving forward.

7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Liturgy Committee-Jose Pena

- No report this month. Liturgy Committee is set to meet on 10/6/26.

b. Christian Formation – Tina Gordon

- Religious Education enrollment up to approximately 100 children.
- Opening Mass was well attended and successful.

c. Social Concerns – Tina Gordon

- Southern Delaware Education Foundation will be conducting fundraisers to provide scholarships for the approved 10 applicants.
- Adult Formation -Walking with Purpose meets on Wednesday and has 105 women registered for morning and evening sessions.

d. Hispanic Community- Maria Collelo

- Maria echoed the report on food sales of \$1,800 from last event and noted the upcoming sale on October 25th in Delaney Hall after 10:30 Mass. Flyers have been printed in both English and Spanish.
- Preparations continue for festivities planned for December 12th to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- Fr. Emanuel Ritchie who has served the Spanish community at OLG is returning to Haiti. The priest replacing him will reside at St. Francis in Salisbury and continue to assist at OLG on weekends.

e. Youth Ministry- Jared Browne

- Jared's report on Damascus Program appears under New Initiatives
- Next youth event is a Movie Day scheduled for October 24th in Delaney Hall sponsored by the Respect Life Committee of St. Ann's/OLG.

f. Building Grounds and Maintenance – Lola Lopez

- No report provided.

g. Hospitality Committee -Eileen McGarry

- No report provided.

h. St. Vincent de Paul Society/Men's Club/Knight of Columbus-Tom Hill

- Tom reported that Teri Roche was elected as president of St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.
- BINGO is a huge success and will continue.

i. Summer Bazaar-Alexis Sclama

- No report provided.

8. CLOSING PRAYER

- Fr. Klevence led the Campaign Prayer to close the meeting.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.
- Next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Regan