PASTORAL COUNCIL OF HOLY REDEEMER PARISH
MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2026

APPROVED

Nourished by the Sacraments, Sacred Scripture and Holy Traditions, we are called to love, forgive, & be merciful

Members in Attendance: Francisco Henriquez, Lisa O'Connell, Mary Lou Hall, Bernie Bowhuis, Tom Healy, Elaine VanderBaan, Dorothy Raburn, David Byrne (recording).
Absent: Jim Hulst, John Pitsch, Fr. Victor / delegate.

Documents reviewed: 1. Handbook ; Guidelines For Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils (2020?)
2. Pastoral Council March 18th Meeting Minutes

I. OPENING PRAYER: Synodal prayer – full council

II. CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME

III. INTRODUCTIONS

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION –

A. Comments, questions and suggestions – bring concerns from people from the parish.
B. Bernie suggested using "parking lot" issues, as the finance council had for items that cannot be addressed in the meeting. Mary Lou confirmed that, in general, items stay on the agenda until they are resolved.
C. This section is for the council members' questions, comments, complaints etc. from parishioners. For instance, Dorothy mentioned Mass goers would like mass at Holy Redeemer when Fr. Victor is gone.
D. Question - Should council members be wearing badges at every Mass? The current badges are not readable or have council names. The only time the Pastoral Council nametags were known to be used was at Mass. The new Pastoral Council website should improve visibility of the members. The members could get nametags if they want them, but they should be better than the current. Make parishioners aware that we expect them to let members know.
E. Dorothy raised a question about parishioners that have do not resuscitate (DNR) wishes. People don't want to be resuscitated in church. Do they need a document, an advocate who is present, or a bracelet? The consensus was to ask primary care provider.

V. APPROVE JUNE 10, 2026, MEETING MINTUES – No corrections. Lisa motioned, Tom seconded. MINUTES APPROVED

VI. PASTORAL COUNCIL WEBSITE & FLOCKNOTE COMMUNICATION

A. Decide on format for Flocknote communication – Minutes or Summary (Consensus)?

B. Date of submission for Flocknote
    1. One ***week*** after meeting in Friday Flocknote
    2. One ***month*** after meeting after the minutes have been approved (There will be a one-month delay from actual date of meeting)
    3. If minutes are published before approval, they must be declared unapproved.
C. Bernie suggested publishing summary with a link. Flocknote will have a link to the pastoral council website with minutes. There was concern that people don't read the Flocknote, so an email link can also be used.
D. Tom, based on his Georgetown Township planning council experience, suggested publishing the minutes in full, as well as posting the agenda. The Township is required to post the full minutes, as it is bound by the Open Meetings Act. Eventually, the council can provide a public input option, as the meetings should be public. Mary Lou suggested public input would be further out. The Council will make the decision in September and think about it and pray about it in the meantime.
E. Another idea is to use TV monitors around the church after Mass, as they are rarely used. Information and announcements could be added to a Firestick. The Knights of Columbus have been doing it for some of their events. Bernie to talk to Mike Zomerlei about setting it up. Council members can approach staff members about loading information on the TVs. Suggestion to add a TV to the Narthex to better get information out. Bernie to investigate.

VII. REVIEW SWOT ANALYSIS – POSTPONE UNTIL AUGUST MEETING

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS - Consideration of something like television closed captioning for real-time, on-screen display of pastor's homilies

A. Tom suggested consideration of something like television closed-captioning for real-time, on-screen display of Fr. Victor's homilies. Tom noted Fr. Victor is incredibly spiritual, educated, & cultured. Tom wants to facilitate the parish's ability to understand Fr. Victor better. How do we set Fr. Victor up for success?
B. The voice-to-text option on most smart phones can provide closed-captioning for Fr.'s homilies, but Bluetooth has to be off.
C. Fr's mic can be connected to the live audio close caption. The parish could invest in a screen. Francisco mentioned Microsoft Teams on phone.
D. There have been some conversations about a projector, possibly for the activity center? Can the software help with captioning? Suggestions include Zocks, Microsoft Teams, etc. Bernie offered to do some research with others and develop solutions (Zocks, MS Teams, etc.), which can be used to foster improved communication and understanding of homilies.
E. Mary Lou and Tom both noted that the intent is to assume responsibility for facilitating this and not bringing this to Fr. as a problem for him to address. The council agreed. The intent is for the council to support the pastor in resolving this issue.

IX. PREVIOUS BUSINESS –

A. Safety and Security Update from Monday, May 25th meeting (Jim Hulst and John Pitsch reporting please) John meeting with Safety council – charter & handbook. Working with St. Pius. Next meeting July 13th @ 7pm.

B. Review Calendar

1. Livestreaming of Mass in Shepherd's Hall
    a) Date to begin
    b) Which Mass to be livestreamed
    c) How does this work?
        i. Is there a person hired to do this?
        ii. Will we send Eucharist Ministers to Shepherd's Hallz/
        iii. Can it be close-captioned?
        iv. Fr. Victor told Mary Lou the cost is $10,000 and must have diocesan approval. Mary Lou expressed concern that this never came back to the council for discussion since March. She noted It is the council's responsibility to consult the pastor. She expressed the need to bring the council on board. Francisco noted that it is ultimately Father's decision. Mary Lou agreed but noted this is an example of how the council needs to interact with Father. She expressed concerns about college students being encouraged to watch mass online and people being separated from community mass celebration.
        v. Bernie noted that the councils are working in a vacuum in this regard. The council is in the process of understanding and identifying the council's role.
        vi. The council agreed to request a meeting with Father to discuss the livestream discussion for further clarification on livestream meeting.
2. Pastoral and Finance Councils, Commissioning Mass - Saturday, July 11 at 4:30 pm. The council may need to amend the charter for future if incorporating the handbook by reference at the commissioning.
3. Leadership Get Together – Sunday, Oct. 4 at 6:00 pm. – confirmed by Fr. Victor. This is a chance for the leadership team and Father to get to know each other and thank outgoing members.

NOTE: ITEMS BELOW NEED CONFIRMATION WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, AS DAVID HAD TO LEAVE BEFORE THE MEETING ENDED.

X. CHARTER –

A. Regarding the commissioning of new members, the council may need to amend the charter for future if incorporating the handbook by reference at the commissioning.

B. Lisa asked a question about whether the charter should allow for a formal opt out. Being chairperson requires board membership for two years, then commit to two years

as chairperson. Those 4 years would force the chairperson to commit for a second 3-year term, making a six year commitment. Could the chairperson role be one year? Since the charter was just signed, Mary Lou didn't want to make changes and would offer it for the next charter revision. There could be value in a three year term, but after the first term, the person should state interest to renew or exit at the proper time annually so the board has the necessary team.

XI. NEXT MEETING – Aug 12, 2026
TOPICS – Flocknote data mining, SWOT analysis, pictures, Lectio Divina, Safety & Security, Livestreaming,

XII. CLOSING PRAYER: Prayer to St. Michael (not completed) – full council. Meeting adjourned 9:20pm