

St Paul Catholic Newman Center

Pastoral Council Minutes

August 12, 2025

PRESENT: Katie Fleener, Edgar Guzman, Larry Renner, Richard Lord, Francesca Eidson, Gerry Wong, Pam Hays, Jim Grant, Hector Rodriguez, Ada Jimenez, Jim Nelson, JoAnn LoForti, Sonya, Dan Nickerson, Teresina Fagan, Chrysti Anderson

MINUTES: Minutes of 06/05/25 approved. M/S/C Larry Renner, Jim Nelson

PRESENTATION: CARING FOR THE WHOLE PERSON JoAnn LoForti – guest speaker:

Introduced working on a project in the parish for 2 years. Caring for the Whole Person. Short synopsis of what the parish's health team are doing, why they are doing it, the purpose, and how they plan to do it.

Designed to be a ministry. Put together in 2016 by Bishop ?. (ask Jim Grant ?) It is a new pastoral framework for caring for human life and addressing end of life issues. The idea is “the more you know, the better you are prepared to take that final step”. The more supportive we can be, is crucial to anyone facing end of life issues. Amy Tobin, RN, a member of the health ministry, teaches 5 Aspects of Caring for the Whole person. Teams work across the state teaching the program in hospitals, churches, schools, etc. It is very difficult to talk about end-of-life issues. Team plans to do more presentations this year at SPCNC. Did teach a series of classes at Faith, Family and Friends. Lightly attended but well received. Topics include: Spiritual and Emotional Care; will touch base with those who request prayers to let them know someone cares. Physical Care: pain management. Caregiving Resources. Catholic Moral Teaching. Understanding difference between palliative care and hospice care. When is it okay to stop care and treatment? Advanced Care Directive -Team has resources to share. Assisted suicide – what is it? Assisted suicide is when you employ others to come in and help you. They give you the medications you need to die. They are not administered but given to the patient for self-administration. Natural route via hospice care is far superior to assisted suicide. Need a knowledge base to make decisions at the end of life. Team assists families with knowledge and resources to meet their needs. Respite care is important for caregivers. Goal is to become more involved with parishioners; open presentations to other parishes; 10 modules to watch/train the trainer. Help with Advanced Directive to understand selecting a designate is crucial (health agent). MDs need to have a copy. Can always change the directive as needed.

Resources are in Spanish and Vietnamese.

Suggestion: Hospitality Committee could assist Nurse Team with sending out cards to encourage those on the prayer list. Will accomplish letting those on the prayer list know they are cared for and thought of.

What can the Pastoral Council do to support the Caring for the Whole Person effort? Team needs the support of the Council. Talk to friends, relatives, parishioners, etc., and encourage parishioners to attend presentations, contact the group when needed, get resources, etc. Need support from RNs, MSWs, MDs. Use SPNC as a model to get the program implemented for other parishes. Anything the Council can do to get this program implemented would be helpful

Is this a ministry? Not now but eventually, yes. Program is in its infancy. This may be the year to expand. Do CWPI support, distribute communion, offer grief support,

Read “Life is Always Good”– see Jim Grant. Jim will send to Council members.

THRIVING PARISH PRESENTATION: Edgar Guzman, Katie Fleener and Sonya ?, attended a conference at Marymount New Orleans How do we respond to our day as a community that believes in Jesus Christ? Goal is to create unique and individual pathways for individuals and parishes in a synodal matter. Relational, listening, humble and X? There is an assigned coach to assist; there are 3 parishes in CA already participating. Went to a Chicago conference. Aim to develop a methodology to respond to the needs of our university parish – how do we become a synodal church? Coaches don’t give the answer, but they offer suggestions. Parish team helps to implement what they are learning. Conferences to support learning. Young professionals and young adults make up the team.

Katie Fleener: synodal process – who do we have within our parish that can be pulled in to support the synodal process? Thriving parish team; way of existing as a parish. Create our own path to a vital thriving mission of faith in today’s world. Pastoral Council – where do we go to grow our faith, build our community, develop priorities and planning, involvement and exploring with parishioners, strategic planning for our parish. Examples: Central Valley IAF – used listening sessions conducted in homes to hear what parishioners experience. Let us Dream team, training on house meetings and what does listening look like. Why do we need each other? Identified targeted areas – Hospitality, Faith Formation, etc. Need to answer what does a thriving community look like for SPCNC?

Sonya ? – learned how to bring back ideas for implementation. Conversations in the spirit, assessments and reflection, how to turn it into action. Christ Community, Humility, Reach, Innovation, Sustainability, Teach. Goals sustainable and keeping information going, actionable measure and timed, Next steps: gather voices, analyze data, strategize, implement. Continuum.

Come to pastoral council see how we can mesh thriving parish goals. Next step: utilize coach for guidance.

CHRIST – see Katie's notes from conference that the team developed acronyms for each letter.

Need from Pastoral Council; where do we go from here? How do we implement Thriving Parish here?

Distributed assessments to collect data "Gather Voices". Katie said that people have discussed with her the Pastoral Council – its role and work. Are we on the right track? Guidelines say PC is the strategic planning body. Question: how do we explain to the parish that Thriving Parish is the new movement. How do they mesh? Pastoral Council and Thriving Parish should complement each other and strategic plan will address.

Questions to Thriving Parish team:

How was the Thriving Parish group established? Relational and whomever was available. Individuals approached by team members (Katie and Edgar). Selection is very intentional. Different perspectives are also a criterion for selection. Someone who is not involved in everything. Potential new leaders. Katie, Edgar, Kim and Sonya. Suggestion: Doesn't seem very synodal if certain people are picking other people they want.

Thoughts: Thriving Parish (TP) and Pastoral Council (PC) support each other. TP is the infrastructure to act. Is there a timeframe? 6 months, 1 year, and on. What is the pathway, the goal, the journey? The PC should decide what the journey looks like.

Katie will send out slides from TP conference and notes from the group conversations. Need slides by tomorrow.

Suggestion: Can we start another group to just work on Admin – SP writing? Along with hospitality, faith formation, etc.

We need more education on TP – what is it? Need background.

Needing more exploration: PC is tasked with producing a product – the Strategic Plan to help us live our mission. What is TP doing as it relates to the assignment of developing a SP? It appears to be two separate groups. Their tasks are different. Consistency.

The Thriving Parish group distributed a survey. Please return to Katie within a week. Any questions re TP, write on the assessment to be addressed by TP team.

NEW BUSINESS:

What was discussed at the last meeting was not included in the minutes. Conversations related to the frustrations some members are feeling about the direction of the pastoral council. What have we accomplished in a year? Do we have a Strategic Plan? How do we explain what we do when we don't even know. Seems there are competing missions (CEAC, Central Valley IAF, Parish Council). Who is monitoring who is doing what and

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bringing them together? Meetings are very restricted and do not allow for the free flow of discussion.

We need a process for approving minutes; should be approved by the entire group. Any omissions from discussions should be noted and requested to be included. Pastoral Council member need to take individual responsibility for mentioning

Notes from the last meeting, please send to Dan (thoughts and discussion)

Problem with seats in the chapel for persons with disabilities; attendees are not saving seats for the caretaker of the disabled parishioner.

Edgar and Alberto will re-evaluate. They will put a sign on the chair next to the place reserved for the wheelchair, walker, etc. – Reserved for caretaker.

When is Pastoral Council going to meet with different ministries? Sometime in the Fall, maybe in October.

Bulletin pieces announce what Pastoral Council is doing and invite the parishioners?

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING: September 25, 2025 6:45 PM

NEXT MEETING: October 16, 2025 6:45 PM