

Pastoral Council
Summary Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2025

In Attendance: Fr. James, Jamie Bescak, Jerry Biegler, Pam Boggs, Deacon JC Gonzales, Lani Gore, Marilyn Johnston, Mike Low, Lisa Majchrzak, Chris Smith, Carolina Venot, Agustin Vizcarra, Deacon Ed Winklebauer

Absent: Fr. Augustine, Luis Acosta

6:34 pm Meeting called to order
Roll call verified a quorum.

Pam reminded members that all agendas and minutes will now be accessed through Google. Lani motioned to approve July minutes; Mike seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Opening Reflection: Pam posed 3 questions for reflection:

What is my hope for the Parish this year; what gift do I bring to the Pastoral Council; and where do I sense God calling me to grow as a leader? Pam concluded with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Events Report– Lani

- July 27th-Panera Dine Out Event brought in a little less than \$200
- August 1st Bingo-about 70 people attended and made \$1313
- August 23rd is the Farewell Potluck for Fr. James and Fr. Augustine. Please sign up for this event.
- Sept. 7th will be the first Welcome Sunday and Welcome Back to Fr. Manasseh. Please plan to attend
- Nov. 15th (tentative date) A Fall Fiesta is being planned in place of the Boot Scoot and BBQ. This is subject to Fr. Manasseh's approval. Lani will get together with Maria and Lisa and work together for final details. Alcohol, liquor license and signature cocktail were also discussed.

Knights of Columbus Report - Mike

- June 6th-Knights coordinated the evening Parish Rosary, 22 attendees
- July 4th-Knights coordinated monthly first Friday Adoration
- July 10th -Our Council, #12246, achieved the Star Council Award for excellent performance in 2024-25
- July 19th -Adopt-a-Street clean-up day in Ahwatukee
- July 30th- Knights coordinated evening Parish Rosary
- August 1st – Knights coordinated first Friday Adoration

Other news-

- Several members of our local council are active leaders on a regional level
 - A new slate of officers was elected in June and will be installed August 25th or 28th.

- Next monthly Parish Rosary-August 27th
- Open sign-up for next Blood Drive Sept. 21st
- Rosary Sunday will be celebrating 50 years. Ken Garcia is working on this event.

Building/Facilities Report – Deacon Ed -We've met with St. Thomas Aquinas concerning their interest in the modulars; no decision at this time.

ST. JOHN BOSCO -Jamie

- Enrollment for this school year is 454 students; we have a waiting list for the lower grades. All faculty positions were filled over the summer.
- Many physical updates throughout campus were completed over the summer. A big thank you to the Boy Scouts who cleaned up outside tables and refreshed the tire chips.
- Hogan has developed a new sign-in program at the front desk for volunteers and visitors.
- The virtual tour is up on the website
- SJB Gala will be Sept.27th, please attend in person or participate in the Silent Auction from home.

PASTOR'S REPORT

PARISH ADMINISTRATION – Augustine

- The Staff has noted that the St. Benedict Mission statement in the bulletin is different from the one on the website. A Council committee will work on this. The goal is to make a prayer of the mission statement for the Congregation.
- We are looking into a new phone system for the Church
- The A/C units in annexes #1 and #3 are not working.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Fr. James

- This past weekend was the first time the Nigerian Embassy used our annexes and things went well.
- This is Fr's last meeting with the Council. Father thanked everyone for this wonderful journey. He has seen growth in SJB enrollment and in Church registrations and added ministries. It was a difficult time when he first came to St. Benedict. Fr. is very optimistic for further growth and continued existence of St. Benedict Parish especially with the future building of the Assisted Living Facility.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Pam asked about the Commissioning of Council Members. Commissioning Sunday is usually in October
- Jamie brought up the question of having a liquor license to cover the serving of alcohol at the Beer Garden at the Harvest Festival which is a joint event of the school and church.

Discussion points:

1. This is a community builder, not a fundraiser.
2. Augustine noted that 2 applications need to be signed. The signee is personally liable for any resultant problems.
3. Children participate at this event.
4. The reputation of St. John Bosco School
5. Perhaps a 3rd party vendor with their own license could come in.

After a lengthy discussion a motion was made to NOT have a Beer Garden at the Harvest Festival. All Council members voted in favor of this motion. There were no dissenting votes.

- All Ministry Leaders are being asked to host a booth/game at the Harvest Festival. This year there will be a Jump House only for the younger children
- Pam proposed that as a Council we interact more with all the Church ministries. She is proposing monthly or quarterly reports or spreadsheets which ministries would fill out and then Council members would review. Fr. James did note that it was always wonderful to hear from the ministry leader in person when they attended our meeting.
- Marilyn was approached by some parishioners asking if we would be able to have the Angel Giving Tree this year with actual gifts going to the participating charities. Fr. James was in favor of this.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm

Closing prayer - Marilyn

Next meeting is September 3, 2025

Respectfully submitted:

Marilyn Johnston, Secretary