

Pastoral Council  
Summary Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2025

**In Attendance:** Fr. Manasseh, Fr. Emmanuel, Luis Acosta, Jamie Bescak (remote), Jerry Biegler, Keith Call, Deacon JC Gonzales, Lani Gore, Marilyn Johnston, Lisa Majchrzak, Chris Smith, Carolina Venot, Deacon Ed Winklebauer

**Excused:** Pam Boggs, Mike Low

**Guests:** Julie Hoffman, Cynthia Whorley

6:30pm Jerry called the meeting to order

Opening Prayer for the Synod of Young Adults read by Marilyn

Roll call verified a quorum

Carolina noted that Lani should be included in last month's minutes in approaching Fr. Manasseh and the Finance Council in accepting a resort stay from parishioners as a prize at the Fiesta. Luis made a motion to accept the October minutes with this correction; Chris seconded this. All were in favor.

**SANCTITY OF LIFE PRESENTATION– Julie and Cynthia**

- Julie introduced herself and her involvement in the ProLife Ministry. Julie has been encouraged to begin this ministry at St. Benedict.
- As a ministry, this includes private and public prayer, sometimes in front of Planned Parenthood clinics.
- How can the Pastoral Council help:
  1. Formally announce the ministry from the pulpit and overheads, have an information table in the Narthex
  2. Talk about the ministry and ask others to join
  3. Prayers to be said at the end of Mass
- Fr. Manasseh feels the Holy Spirit is really speaking to us to begin this ministry in our parish.

Julie and Cynthia were thanked for their presentation and left; the Council went into a closed session for discussion.

Council members would like to have some formal guidelines on any new ministry.

**Action Item:** Lisa and Carolina will work on a form for all our ministries to fill out.

Luis made a motion to accept the Sanctity of Life as a ministry at St. Benedict. All present were in favor; no opposing votes and the motion carried.

**WELCOME FR. EMMANUEL-** Council members introduced themselves briefly. We all welcomed Fr.

**ST. JOHN BOSCO REPORT –** Jamie met with us remotely. She shared that her daughter's surgery went well.

- Principal observation of all the teachers is underway.
- Enrollment is 459 students.
- November 11<sup>th</sup>, we'll have our Flag Raising and Open House (9-11am). Girl Scouts and the Cub Scouts will assist with the Flag Raising.
- Running with Rosco will be held on November 26<sup>th</sup>. We have raised \$16,715 through T-shirt sponsors and online donations. Our goal is to raise \$50,000.
- Jamie, Fr. Manasseh and 2 teachers have been invited to a luncheon on April 7<sup>th</sup>, to be publicly recognized by the National Catholic Association's Blue Ribbon meeting. SJB is the first private Arizona Blue Ribbon recipient.
- Please register for the Night of Hope to help families to attend Catholic schools.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

Knights of Columbus – Luis noted donations and events as follows:

- \$1000 to the Chapel of Our Lady of the Epiphany
- A bus was secured for transportation to Rosary Sunday
- Assisted with St Vincent de Paul food drive
- Cooked hamburgers at Fall Festival
- Soccer contest for children
- Coats 4 Kids Drive
- \$500 to SJB Gala
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace- bed building
- \$500 to Hands of Christ Uganda Center
- Adopt-a-street cleanup
- Lance was named Knight of the Month
- Deacon Ed – we were short 2 Christmas trees which the Knights donated
- 8 new members joined during the last membership drive
- The Knights have been asked to put up the lights at the rectory for the staff Christmas Party.

## Events – Lani

- Dine Out event at Flower Child brought in almost \$400
- Harvest Festival-joint event SJB and St. Benedict Parish. Events Ministry partnered with Women's Spirituality and SVdP for the Bake Walk. Marilyn noted that Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Sanctity for Life, Youth Ministry, Children's Liturgy and Refugee Re-settlement also sponsored booths.
- Beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup>, there will be an English-speaking New Parishioner welcome after the 9 am Mass and a Spanish speaking one after the 1pm Mass. Chris noted that with the Narthex doors open after Communion, the sound from the Narthex carries throughout the Church. Perhaps the doors could be kept closed until after the final blessing.
- Please stop by the Narthex and view the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Volunteer Appreciation slide show.
- November 6<sup>th</sup> – Chris Brunelle will be here for a concert celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Benedict and Corpus Christi. Congressman Stanton will be in attendance to present a Congressional Record to the Priests of both Churches.
- November 15<sup>th</sup> – Fall Fiesta-tickets now on sale. Everything for the Fiesta has been sponsored or underwritten; we have \$12K in Silent Auction and Raffle items.
- November 16<sup>th</sup> = Marian Procession after the 1pm Mass
- December 5<sup>th</sup> – Annual Choir Concert and cookie exchange
- December 7<sup>th</sup> – next Welcome Sunday

## Building Update – Deacon Ed

- Plan for the assisted living facility has changed to a 2-3 story building. This required re-surveying and new city permits. The Rectory will be on site.
- In the meeting with DeCampus, \$2 M was donated for the building to house classrooms and social room. Hope to break ground the first quarter of 2026.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT** – Fr. Manasseh

- Welcome to Fr. Emmanuel -he is settling in quite well
- Mass attendance has increased; over 300 people attending the 9 and 11 am Masses
- There is little challenge with the Spanish Ministry but we are handling it appropriately.
- We have increased the number of parishioners participating in ministries.

**OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT** – Keith shared the Ministry Binder from St. Stephen Parish. He would like to have one for our parish.

- Keith has spoken with Finance Council and he is putting together time and place for our joint Christmas Party.

**COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Parish Mission Statement Review -Action Item – Lani will send out a slide with the timeline and changes of the mission statement. Council will vote on the statement at the next meeting.
- Chris informed us that more sponsors are needed for Adopt-a-Family at Christmas. We have 30 families and only 23 sponsors. There has been an increase in calls from people needing food and financial assistance.
- The Angel Giving Trees will be going up November 18th

7:58 pm Carolina closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Johnston, Secretary