



Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

Date: February 10, 2026

Pastors: Fr. Jean Philippe Lokpo, Fr. Jose Manuel Ortiz, Fr Dawit Wubishet Teklewold

PPC Members: Shelly Benson, Cat Wolfe, Rob Sullivan, Pat Trafton, Krista Gilva, Tom Lenz, Jim Burke, Charles Loiseau, Tim Schmitt, Alex Lule-Rivera, Elia Vergil

Absent: Carolina Perez Renteria, Matt Brands, Sara Delva

Topic	Notes/Summary
Welcome, Opening Prayer	Meeting started at 7:08pm and Jim led us in a prayer
Review of Agenda/ Approve minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The January meeting minutes were approved. Tom gave a reflection and reviewed the agenda
Pastor's Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is running a big deficit so the Arch and school advisory board will be meeting to explore options for reduction of costs. They will be looking at options such as moving everything into the main building as well as other measures. They are adopting an aggressive campaign to attract new students Karrie Ferrell, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation is retiring at the end of the fiscal year. A team has been assembled to conduct a search for the new Director with the hope that we can have someone in place in July. Angela Stramaglia, St Nick's liturgy chair, is stepping down at the end of February. Fr. JP will be meeting with the ministry coordinators discuss potential candidates to take on the role. Gabriel will be stepping down as the Spanish liturgy Chair. Fr. Jose will take on the role temporarily while a replacement is being considered and to transition to a new chair. There will be a ministry retreat on 3/7 where they will review the new approach for the Spanish liturgies and bringing them together. Fr JP's annual state of the parish meeting with the bishop will be on 3/11. Tom & Shelley are working to gather updates for the report. Building & Grounds met about the architect's proposals for St Mary. The work on the façade and towers will move forward. Fr Jose will have to leave before 6/18 to renew his visa but will be able to come back as soon as it is renewed. The requirement to stay away for a year has been lifted.
Capital Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will start in July and will be a 5-year campaign with a goal of \$1.52M

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fr and some of the SJXXIII team met with the Arch team to discuss next steps ○ We have two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Go with the Arch's standard campaign and stay with the \$1.52M goal. We will get a percentage of the goal and a \$30k fee will come out of the total to cover fees for the consultants ▪ Increase the goal which would incur a \$45k monthly consultant fee for 6 months. ○ The PFC is leaning towards the standard options as they feel like the goal will have to be too high to make the fee structure worth it if we go with the increased goal option ● The PFC is moving forward with the study phase where the consultants review the parish to determine the capacity of potential funds to raise (this would happen regardless of which of choice of goal options) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shelley will be on the team representing the PPC and Fr. is asking the Latino Advisory board for a rep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If we reach goal, we get about 80%. If we go over, we get the overage – the exact benefit structure will be shared soon ▪ Comms to the parish will come after the study is finished and a plan is determined for the funds raised
PPP Quarterly Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The January meeting was cancelled due to low RSVPs/attendance ● Alpha is going well; they have been meeting weekly ● Stewardship is hosting a series of thank you dinners for major donors in the parish ● The search for the Youth Engagement Coordinator will be paused until the hiring of the new Director of Lifelong Formation.
Discipleship Maker Index (DMI)/Parish Measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March Parish Count will take place over 4 weeks ● DMI Begins at SJXXIII and across the Arch on Ash Wednesday and will be open through Lent. Request for the PPC to spread the word through the groups we participate in and make a goal for participation. Last time we got about 1/3 of the Parish, so we are hoping to at least match that rate.
Leadership Retreat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scheduled for Saturday, March 21 with Fr Dan Hartnett as leader ● Invitation list will be the chairs for key committees and some other Parish Leaders in addition to the PPC, PFC and Latino Leadership Council ● Shelley, Tom, Fr JP & Fr Dan met to discuss theme which will be shared when finalized
Invitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Muslim Education Center/Mosque in Morton Grove has a leadership development program and one of their participants has been meeting with Tom. The goal is to build and foster cross faith relationships. ● He has invited a group of reps from SJXXIII to visit the Mosque during Ramadan.
Other Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OktoberFiesta (9/26) the PPC discussed their thoughts (pros and cons) about moving the 5pm mass to St Nick's one week earlier than planned. Fr will discuss with the Liturgy Commission

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U of W @ Milwaukee, Report of Level 2 building assessments (clean energy assessment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Green team met on Jan 22nd with UWM team. ○ They spent the day reviewing the site and the application (which included all our utilities costs), meeting with maintenance staff and Buildings & Grounds. ○ The UWM team came up with some ideas on how we can save some costs on energy consumption. ○ In about 8 weeks they will present some options organized in to 3 levels of actions, grouped by investment level (financial and time/effort). ○ Example options could be things like replacing the boilers with heat pumps, which regulate heat better, or using solar panels in place of natural gas. They also talked about municipal, state and federal grants available to help with project costs for energy efficiencies. • There is a proposal for the parish leaders to sign a letter to IL General Assembly regarding the Fossil Fuel Divestment Act. The act would require the state to divest the pension funds from oil, natural gas and coal companies and reinvest them into solar, wind and other eco-friendly energy sources. The request is for the PPC to review the information and consider individually supporting but doing so using the Parish's name as the authors would like to see more participation from the Catholic community. NYC did this and their returns are higher than their previous energy investments. • After communion announcements – the issue of inconsistency in scheduling someone to read them as some masses, this will be brought to the Liturgy Coordinators.
Adjourn	Fr. Dawit led us in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:49p