

Church of the Resurrection & St. Paul's Catholic Church
Joint Session of Pastoral Councils Meeting
Tuesday December 9, 2025
6:15pm to 8:30pm
Location: Church of the Resurrection, MP1 & MP2

P = Present E = Excused

Pastoral Council (voting members)

<u>Member</u>	<u>Status</u>
Kevin Bellamy	P
Michael Cain	P
Pat Cirasole	P
Kathy Kraft (CS)	P
Sharon Lanza	P
Tom Lauer (P)	P
David Lucero	P
Cathy Parrish	E
Paul Reif	P
Carolyn Sherman (RS)	P
Paul Venginickal	P
Brad Weiss (VP)	P
Sara Thomas: (non-voting) School Liaison	P
Fr. Andy Aaron (Pastor)	P
Fr. Paul Kongnyuy (Associate Pastor)	E
Fr. Kevin Farmer (Associate Pastor)	E

Others in attendance

<u>Standing Committees & Ministries</u> <u>(reports reviewed prior to mtg.)</u>	
<u>Ministry / Lead</u>	<u>Reporting Months</u>
Liturgy (Roy Harris)	NOV / JAN / MAR / MAY
Fellowship (Mary Reif)	NOV / JAN / MAR / MAY
Social Justice (John Wilkin)	NOV / JAN / MAR / MAY
Adult Faith Formation (Kate Kleintank)	DEC / FEB / APR / JUN
K-5 Faith Formation (Susan Yost)	DEC / FEB / APR / JUN
Youth Ministry (Shannon Turluk)	DEC / FEB / APR / JUN
CAM Summary (Kathy Kraft)	MONTHLY
<u>Pastoral Council Priority Committees</u>	All Months
Welcome, Hospitality, New Families, Young People	Sharon Lanza (Lead) , Pat Cirasole, Carolyn Sherman
Engage & Connect Parishioners	Brad Weiss (Lead) , Paul Venginickel, Mike Cain, Cathy Parrish,
Small Church Community	Kevin Bellamy (Lead) , Pat Cirasole, Kathy Kraft Tom Lauer

Call to Order: 6:15pm

Roll Call / Establish Quorum Each parish established a quorum

November 18, 2025 - Minutes were approved electronically and will be posted to CoR Website.

Councilor at Mass (CAM) (Corresponding Secretary)

- Since this was a joint meeting, the CAM report was sent to Council members earlier, with any thoughts/comments to be provided to the PC President or Corresponding Secretary.
- **Review of Standing Committee and Ministry Reports**
 - Youth Ministry – Shannon Turlik
 - Adult Faith Formation – Kate Kleintank
 - K-5 Faith Formation – Susan Yost
 - Similar to the CAM report, these reports were sent to the Council beforehand, with thoughts/comments to be provided to the PC President or Corresponding Secretary.

Joint Pastoral Council Meeting:

- All present recessed to the church for a prayer meditation led by Fr. Andy; then back to the MP rooms for food and fellowship.
- Parish Presentations on objectives and progress
 - Resurrection
 - President -- Highlighted that the focus of the Pastoral Council has shifted from maintenance to mission.
 - Welcome Hospitality New Families (Sharon Lanza) – The goal is to have a protocol for welcoming new families, building upon actions already in place (i.e., emails and phone calls to new parishioners). Starting in the new year, will have someone from this committee meet with the new parishioner at a mutually agreed upon mass and will present them with a gift bag of a Resurrection mug and information on parish organizations/groups. This will be followed up by a group Meet and Greet – for new parishioners to also get to know each other, possibly also having ministry leads in attendance. Future goals – to make opportunities for immigrant children/families to get to know each other; and further down the road, how to bring non-Catholics into the church.

- Engage & Connect (Brad Weiss) – How to bring people into a deeper faith life, more than just showing up on Sundays. Planning a ministry fair as a way for parishioners get involved. Facilities are super booked, however; may not be able to squeeze in a “big” fair until the fall. Considering doing smaller and more frequent mini fairs (i.e., a few ministries per weekend). Keeping in mind that sometimes the easiest way for people to get involved is to start small (e.g., signing up for a 2-hour slot at Fall Fest vs. running for Parish Council).
- Small Church Community (Kevin Bellamy) -- How to get small groups to continue past a “program”; want the small group to ask, “What’s next for our group?” Want to create a playbook of how to be a small group leader and also develop a resource list. Kevin has met with Rich Petras /St. Paul on this. Also planning to Interview leaders of small groups – how did you start, what keeps you going. And need to keep in mind that all groups are different, what works for one group might be different from what type of program works for another group (not one size fits all).
- St. Paul’s
 - President – Priorities for this council year: 1) small groups; 2) engage in works of mercy; 3) engage experience at mass; 4) enhance prayer experience; 5) activities for families, especially young families. Briefly explained their Pillar structure, with 3 council members assigned per Pillar.
 - Erika Rodkey reported on her Liturgical Living corner in their bulletin—easy tips for how to live out the faith at home with children; will send to Fr. Andy for the Facebook page. Also have plans for a family friendly holy hour (or half hour!) – likely will not be silent. “If church not crying, it’s dying!”
 - Rich Petras reported on parish council (possibly joint) retreat options. Looked at a pilgrimage type of retreat, such as to Emmitsburg (National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton or National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes). Or of course closer options such as the Shrine of St. Anthony. Fr. Andy happy to help/advise, as retreats are held for pastorate staff members.

Ideas/Comments from the floor:

- Where does church growth come from? Like after a retreat – are we missing opportunities to continue parishioner engagement? (Tom Lauer)

- Offer potlucks for new parishioners, have tri-folds available on parish ministries. Continue to offer brown bag topics. (Rich Petras)
- Councilor at Mass (CAM) – a good way to meet/connect with parishioners. (Brad Weiss)
- Shortage of offerings after Life Teen, for the 20s to 30s group. A Nick Higgins runs a good group at OLPH, but is looking to pass the baton, need a new leader. Caroline Resetar (Res, admin) does have some involvement with post-LifeTeen folks. (Mike Cain)
Fr. Andy is willing to give it another try to find a leader.
- FOCUS Missionaries (Fellowship Of Catholic University Students) – talented young adults. Do we know of any in the pastorate? (Rich Petras)
- A gap in evangelizing to those who are outside the church (the unsaved) to shine the light of Christ. To go make disciples of all. How do you get them to take the first step. Just come and pray with us, God will do the rest. (John Peery)
- UMBC – on fire! As witnessed by their recent pulpit talks. Perhaps reach out to UMBC grads to see what makes them so successful in keeping their faith alive and well.
- Consider Open Mic night, bring guitar, sing a song; a “coffee house” environment , could be advertised in both parishes. (contributor not noted)
- Consider “Beer and Barron” as offered at St. Andrew by the Bay. Tidbits of faith from Bishop Barron, combined with fellowship. (Tom Laurer)
- For next Fall Fest – encourage people outside the pastorate to attend as a form of outreach. Need good signage. (Larry Dussler)
- Generally speaking, Res is not visible from the street. There had been talk about putting a sign on route 40 pointing to Res. (Kathy Kraft)
- How do we get more engaged members, not just increased numbers. (Mike Mayforth)
- Greeters would love to have trifolds to hand out. (Dave Lucero)
- Fr. Andy: went to college at Virginia Tech – a campus of 30,000. You have to find a group. As a small group, can be a little community. Be in the choir. When you

realize you have a few friends, then you're likely to do more things together. Start with small groups.

- It's not only the WHAT, but the WHY of being engaged in parish life; provide reasons for getting engaged in parish life. (Tom Lauer)
- Ignite – for 6th, 7th, 8th graders don't know about Lifeteen. Need ways to make Lifeteen more visible to the younger kids. (Sharon Lanza)
- Consider inviting young people to be on Council. (Emily Rollins)
- Reminder that kids have to complete service hours; could LifeTeen receive credit for serving as greeters? (Sara Thomas, Erika Rodkey)
- How to get young people back to St. Paul, where average age is "retired." Need to find ways for grads to come back (Michael Mayforth, who works at Loyola)
- Another perspective – joining a new parish to be your own person (as in, oh you're so-and-so's son). (Dave Lucero)
- Fr. Andy: RCIA – majority are young!! (like 23)
- For the kids – JAM (Jesus and Me), religious ed. But do we have dances, a youth choir? (Sharon Lanza)

Praying for Father Andy and staff during Advent and Christmas!

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Actions Needed Resulting from This Meeting:

1. Look for leader for 20s to 30s group (Fr. Andy)
2. See about putting Liturgical Living in the Res bulletin (Fr. Andy)
3. PC Presidents to follow-up to find collaborative points of contact among similar initiatives such as K. Bellamy and R. Petras are doing with Small Groups.

Next Pastoral Council Meeting

- January 20th @ 6:15pm – St. Paul's Church, Center for the New Evangelization