

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 28, 2026 @ 7:00 PM**

In attendance: *Ex officio* Fr.Vargas, M. McGee (Chair, SMCC Finance Council)
Fr.Obinyan, M. Nasse (Chair), M. Tapuska (Secretary), B. d’Souza, C. du Toit, M. Fitzsimmons,
K. Gibson, D. Helton, S. Kelly, K. McKinnon, O. Uwagboe

Regrets: G. Puhl

Conversation in the Spirit

Call to Order and Welcome

Items from March Meeting

1. Approval of Minutes – M. Nasse

Moved that the minutes of the March 10, 2026, meeting of PC be approved. **Seconded.** The motion was approved.

2. Financial Update – M. McGee (Report presented based on notes in italics)

It is noted that March revenues were \$169k, an increase of \$33k over February and with YTD revenues of \$429k. This is \$43k below budget but still \$93k ahead of 2025 YTD revenues. We had a loss of \$11.9k in March, which was largely attributed to higher month-over-month expenses for Maintenance (\$15k), Admin/Office (\$12k) and Programs (\$42k), the latter of which is almost entirely a timing issue from payment of an invoice for Michael Chiasson which should have been submitted in the fall. YTD net income of \$65k, is \$81.6k below budget but virtually equivalent to YTD 2025 results. Total Other Income (Building Fund, PAP, MTH Campaign) was \$98k, a modest \$1.5k below budget, with MTH collections representing \$69k of the total.

Total expenses YTD at \$438k are \$13k above budget, with Salaries & Benefits \$27k and Maintenance \$10k below budget, while Admin & Office \$3k and Programs now \$46k higher than budget.

Despite the one time \$540k February reduction of liabilities, working capital remains a healthy \$925k with total cash & equivalents of \$302k, and with \$304k in Central Fund Savings. Our Central Fund Loan and Perpetual Care obligations have now been reduced to \$2.8M in March with total equity of \$20.5M.

3. Parish Renewal Update – M. Tapuska

The Parish Renewal Team’s (“PRT”) last meeting was on March 21. The PRT meets monthly to prioritize key action items in the Parish Renewal Plan and to develop practical steps for their implementation.

As part of this journey, two consecutive Stewardship Weekends have been scheduled for September 12/13 and 19/20. Planning is in progress to advertise the Stewardship weekends through a series of beautiful slides that have been created by PRT member, Sarah Ibrahim. With Fr. Edmund's permission, we hope to start showing these before Masses very soon to give our parishioners a chance to discern what area they may feel called to serve in. In addition, a volunteer information booklet is being finalized that will further support this discernment.

The second annual ministry coordinators' gathering is planned for Saturday, September 26. We would like to include Mass at 9 am as part of this morning.

Finally, PRT member Julie Sisenda has prepared a beautiful summary of the PRT's work to date for the bulletin and Flocknote. This will be published after the PRT signs off at our next meeting on May 9.

4. Parish Pictorial Update – M. Tapuska

Things are progressing well. Fr. Edmund and the office staff have been extremely helpful with allowing after-Mass announcements and a space in the Narthex for advertising and to help parishioners sign up if needed. Advertising has been by way of bulletin announcement, the website, Flocknote announcements, posters and after-Mass announcements.

As of April 27, 233 individual families have scheduled an appointment for a photo. This is still less than the approximately 600 that signed up for the 2019 directory. We hope to get more sign-ups, please do so if you haven't already, and encourage others to sign up.

Almost all ministries will be included in the directory.

After the photo sessions end on May 16, there will be work to do in the editorial process, but we are confident that the directory will be finished and ready by the end of the year, even sooner.

A reminder that Pastoral Council's photo appointment is scheduled for this Saturday, May 2 at 10:00 am.

5. World Youth Day 2027 – M. Fitzsimmons

The recent Renewal Conference ("RC") was very inspiring toward the initiative of sending youth from SMCC to World Youth Day ("WYD") in Korea in August 2027. Mike had the opportunity to speak to Bishop McGrattan at the Renewal Conference, and the Bishop is enthusiastic about the various groups from the Diocese who would like to attend. He asked that the question of potential liabilities be addressed; however, as the trip is geared toward those 18 and over, there may be no issue with respect to liability.

There are currently 16 youth from SMCC who are interested in attending WYD, and it has not yet been opened up to the parish. Pricing for the trip will depend on the number of participants. There are available funds of approximately \$50,000. Travelling to Korea a few days before

WYD begins has been discussed to allow participants to get to know the country. This would be a less expensive than a trip to Japan after WYD, as some of the other groups from the Diocese are planning (St. FX Chaplaincy, St. Peter's).

Mike spoke to a number of people at the RC who are enthusiastic to attend, including Luke Wolney, one of the presenters at the RC who is also a Catholic social media influencer, as well as a parishioner who is available to chaperone.

Various ministries have been approached to consider hosting fundraising events.

A small group has been formed to further work on the initiative including parishioners and some members from the PRT. PC members B. d'Souza and O. Uwagboe have also offered to join the group.

Pastor Items – Fr. Vargas

1. Pentecost Sunday is May 24. There will be a Novena of Masses starting on May 14 and running until May 22.
2. Fr. Vargas raised a concern about people bringing pets to Mass, specifically, emotional support animals. Service dogs are permitted. He will check with the Diocese for clarification. There was general agreement that bringing pets is a potential distraction to the sanctity of the Mass.
3. As in past years, there will be a procession on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

New Items

1. Alpha – M. Fitzsimmons, S. Kelly, M. Nasse, M. Tapuska

Two members of PC met with Ed Zadeiks, National Director, Alpha Catholic Context, prior to the RC. Ed noted the many benefits of Alpha, including that it is an excellent tool to build community and to evangelize. It does not have a catechetical focus. Ed delivered an inspiring talk at the RC which included a video where 4 individual's stories of reconnecting with the Catholic Church were featured. After discussion of the pros and cons of Alpha among members of PC, Fr. Vargas gave permission to further explore the re-introduction of Alpha at SMCC.

There was also discussion about RCIA, and how to integrate the newly-baptized into the parish community. Fr. Vargas suggested that RCIA be held on Sundays instead of on Tuesdays as it would give members of SMCC a chance to meet the candidates and it would introduce candidates to the practice of attending Mass on Sundays. A question was raised about the possibility of introducing candidates to the parish community before the RCIA sessions start. K. Gibson noted that as an RCIA candidate, he met many parishioners and has since become involved at SMCC.

2. Posture after Communion (standing, kneeling, sitting) – S. Kelly

Inquiry of the Chancery was made regarding posture after Communion. In 2011, the Bishops of Alberta were trying to seek uniformity across all dioceses in the province, which met with limited success. Today, the postures seen are standing – honoring the resurrected Jesus in the community, kneeling – adoration, and sitting - contemplation.

It was noted during subsequent discussion that while not mandated, it is a sign of respect and reverence to remain standing until all have received Communion, and the vessels have been removed from the altar.

3. Availability of Both Species – S. Kelly

As per the Diocesan Chancellor, the Precious Blood can be offered at Masses. It was noted that at SMCC, there are still not enough volunteers to accommodate this. Concerns include hygiene, risk of spillage, and allergies.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next Meeting – May 26, 2026