

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 08/17/26 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Council Members Present: Fr. Fred, Fr. Don, Tim, Barry, Wendy, Deb, Lynne, Joe, Ben, Leigh Anne and Dan.

Minutes: Leslie

Opening Prayer: Fr. Fred led the meeting with a prayer followed with reflection among the members.

Review and Approval of Minutes: June 16, 2026 minutes were approved by Fr. Fred.

Introduction of Fr. Don: This was Fr. Don's first parish council meeting. Fr. Don shared some aspects of his personal and vocational life. Councilors welcomed him and conveyed some key points of their personal and spiritual journeys.

Mission Statement update this Fall: Fr. Fred provided council members with some written core values and short potential mission statements to use as a guide in formulating what they consider to be essential points in developing a mission statement. Council members can email Dan or Fr. Fred with their thoughts on what St. Bernard's mission statement would comprise. Developing a mission statement will be continued during the next meeting.

Review of the Planning Calendar 2026-2027: Some events noted during the meeting were:

- Oct. 19th -20th Quest starts up again. It has been going well.
- Oct. 10th Leadership Ministry event; scheduled for morning.
- Oct. 10-11 Maria Africa update. Fr. Simon serving at all Masses.
- Oct. 17th Octoberfest
- Oct. 23rd, 24th & 25th Men's renewal weekend.
- Nov. 15th Harvest Festival

Evangelization/Discipleship-Connect-Grow-Serve:

- Hallow – prayer challenge: Primary focus will be on prayer.
- Christ in your Neighborhood: Dan will get together with leaders of CION to plan more events to foster growth in this ministry. Dan will be in contact with Terri Hofmann to explore her ministry's potential collaboration with CION.
- Partnership with Andre House: Fr. Fred spoke with David a member of the Knights (KOC) who is working with the Knights to develop a way parishioners can sign up to participate in community charities. He is working to develop a QR code that may appear in the bulletin.
- Youth Ministry: We are looking into providing more opportunities for youth to meet up. The scheduling of events will take into account what could be a good fit considering the extracurricular school activities or sports they often participate in.
- Young Adults- single and married: We are planning to provide our young adults (ages 18-35) with a candle light Mass at 7:00 PM on the third Friday of every month. The coffee shop will be open for fellowship afterwards.
- Marriage Preparation: We want to provide support for those preparing for marriage with an event perhaps two times per year.
- Dan asked Deb to share the work her committee identified as potential charitable organizations parishioners may engage in. Deb provided the initial list of charities. The list included opportunities for one time engagement associated with seasonal event/conditions; short term multiple engagement and family participation (suitable for youth). Discussion followed suggesting monthly or bi-monthly visits to Andre

House; and Maggie's Place quarterly per year. Fr. Fred will work with the Knights to start up this ministry. He mentioned St. Peter's Indian School and Sisters for Life as potential communities for our service. Deb and her committee will revise the version of this initial plan and send it to Fr. Fred or Dan.

Finance Administration Update:

- Development Guidelines: record retention for ministry leaders: This will be addressed at the next meeting.
- Security update: Fr. Fred is meeting with people who are familiar with the new guidelines.

Rectory construction update: The construction is proceeding.
Projects:

- The Shrine: It's in process.
- Playground update: Work is going on in the final plan.
- Saint Joseph-Sanctity of Life: The statue of St. Joseph the Defender of Life/Protection of the Family is in the process of production.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Don ended the meeting with a prayer.

Upcoming Council Meetings: next meeting dates:

- September 28, 2026. 4:30PM - 6:00PM
- October 19, 2026
- November 16, 2026
- December 21, 2026

Submitted by: Leslie Arnison, recording secretary