

St Ann Pastoral Council / Bethany Beach

MINUTES (FINAL VERSION)

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Rossi, Secretary

Meeting May 12, 2025

Call to order 4:00 PM by Pilar Alvarez

In attendance: Father Klevence, Pilar Alvarez, Maria Colello, Lorraine Jordin, Dominic Paccapaniccia, Alexis Sclama, Tina Gordon, Vince Catania, Cathy Rossi and new Member Jared Browne. Absent: Betty Wisgirda

Opening/Gospel Reflection - Pilar led the Opening Prayers, said together, and Dominic led the Gospel Reading. Reflections were offered by Council members.

Minutes - Minutes of the previous (March) Council Meeting, approved as previously distributed, were posted on the Parish website.

Council Members welcomed new Member Jared Browne, who is also starting in his role leading Youth Ministry at St. Ann.

New Reports

Dominic Paccapaniccia -- Finance Committee & Social Concerns Committees

Finance Committee

- Ten months into FY2025, total income is \$2,032K and total expenses are \$2,035K for a net deficit of \$2,687.
- Total income is \$67k more than the same period last year; total expenses are \$550K more than the same period last year, mainly due to \$416K more in capital expenditures (*HVAC replacements, second exit at OLG, Delaney Hall kitchen and painting and carpet in St. Ann Church and Masterson Center*), As a result, the net surplus is \$483K less than in the same period last year.
- Total income is 6% over budgeted projections; total expenses are 10% over budgeted projections.
- Total current assets are \$2,381K; \$48K higher than in the same period last year.

Social Concerns

Always Hope – no update

Children's Book Project – no update

Grief and Bereavement Group (Dan Cowell) –No activity in March or April

Respect Life - see Bulletin for weekly updates

Salt and Light Educational Foundation (replaces Salt & Light Committee) – The Foundation provides funding for people returning to work and recently gave out 40 scholarships

School Mentoring – no activity during March or April

Tiny Tots in March and April, Angels gave gloves, scarves, sweaters, hats, blankets, baby quilts, exercise mats, Easter quilts, bears, sweater sets, crocheted afghans, and quilts to St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to the needy. The Quilters Club donated a queen-size beach-themed quilt to the Bazaar and has offered to sell raffle tickets during the Parish Summer Bazaar.

Voice of the Faithful – now called *Coastal Delmarva Voice of the Faithful* Report to St. Ann Council

- A summary of the 2024 Diocesan Financial and Governance Transparency Report indicates the national VOTF organization ranks the Diocese of Wilmington with a transparency score of 81 out of 100, characterized as admirable with improvement needed in reporting on parish assessments and posting of mandatory parish collection and counting procedures. A score of 25 out of 100 in the Lay Involvement in Church Governance through the Diocesan Financial Council Report reflects a lack of transparency about the working of the Diocesan Financial Council in area of membership, agendas, budget preparation, year-end reviews and Acts of Extraordinary Administration.

Tina Gordon - Christian Formation

- At Easter Vigil, four new people have come into the Church, one from adult OCIA and three from Religious Ed. On April 29, Bishop Koenig confirmed 25 St. Ann parishioners and for some, it was also First Holy Communion. 23 children from St. Ann received First Holy Communion on May 3. Nine parishioners in Adult OCIA will make their Confirmation on Pentecost.
- Religious Ed is continually looking for ways to improve. Among several changes underway: consolidating repetitive forms, starting a program to catechize parents during child class time and recruiting Spanish-speaking catechists and aides. Jared Browne has just joined the team as our new Youth Minister and will lead Vacation Bible Camp in August.

Maria Colello - Hispanic Community

- *English as Second Language* classes – 25 people successfully completed the class.
- Spanish 1pm Sunday Mass attendance at OLG is strong. On May 24th, the Parish will help celebrate Quince for young Hispanic girls turning 15.
- Baptismal classes now begin in prep for June 2 Baptisms.

Alexios Sclama - Parish Bazaar

- Started today setting up for the event; 30-people/crews working on set-ups. Donations begin next week. The Quilters Club donated a queen-size beach-themed quilt for Bazaar raffle and has offered to sell raffle tickets. Bazaar now has 240 volunteers to help with the event, up from last year. The Bazaar begins July 30 and runs through August 2, 2025.

Cathy Rossi – Hospitality

- Hospitality Committee supported donuts, coffee, juice for Confirmation and First Communion. Committee will support popcorn sales at the Parish Summer Bazaar and now looking ahead at needs for remaining 2025 and 2026 calendar year.

Lorraine Jordin –St. Vincent de Paul Society & Building and Grounds

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

- Seeking a new parish SVDP President. Carol Curran's term ends September 30, 2025.
- *Breaking Bread Fiesta* at OLG is scheduled for June 8 from 5-8pm and is open to all.
- Garden is prospering and vegetables are already being given to neighbors.
- Results pending for Dine & Donate at Millville Boardwalk.
- Vincentians are meeting with local principals of schools to determine school supply needs for the fall.
- Housing Meeting with state representatives in Dover May 22.
- Next SVdP meeting, June 10, 2025 at 9:30am.

Building and Grounds *(to Lorraine from Facilities Manager Doug Schultz)*

- New Parish Adoration Chapel is complete. The Bishop blessed the Chapel April 29 and Adoration began Monday, May 12. Scheduling for adorers being handled by Barbara Keyser, Gail Mundy and Violeta Chung.
- Delaney Hall new kitchen now open. Bill Evans is the contact for use and training.
- Exit at OLG now complete and signs are up. Final DelDOT inspection still pending.
- No major projects scheduled otherwise.

Betty Wisgirda – Liturgy *(no report - Betty absent)*

New Business

- Discussion regarding a request by a parishioner asking for consideration re/ adding a special kneeler for those who kneel for Communion. The best accommodation, as per Father Klevence, would be to add a Communion rail. Further consideration to be given.
- Parishioner inquired about some items/painting in church absent since St. Ann renovation. To be determined if items were put aside/stored during work and not returned to area of placement.
- Statue – inquiry as to identify of Saint statue @ OLG. TBD.
- Parishioner inquired about altar candles and a way to better reach to “light” a candle. Any possible accommodation. No immediate options are readily apparent.
- Current Council President Pilar Alvarez announced she will be stepping down as President of Council (after three years) and departing Council because of family obligations. We will need a new Council President after summer break, starting Fall 2025. Current Council members were asked to consider volunteering.

Pastor’s Update

- Pending - brief discussion about perc re-test at OLG related to proposed new Parish Center and permeable ground on the property for additional septic system. Soil scientist Lief Erickson indicated that the initial perk test was done when the water table was extremely high, thus a re-test is planned in June. There are no sewer plans in the area for the next five to ten years.
- Father Klevence offered continued support for those who need the Church when they feel threatened by deportation aggression. Especially for J-1 overstays. He understands anxiety exists around the issue and wants the Parish to be a source of support to the affected population and families. The Church stands ready to help so people are not left alone.

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Closing Prayer and Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 PM.

Next Pastoral Council Meeting before Summer Break:

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 @ 4:00pm.