

St Ann Pastoral Council / Bethany Beach

MINUTES – (FINAL VERSION)

Respectfully submitted by Lorraine Jordin, Secretary

Meeting September 8, 2025

Call to order 4:00 PM by President, **Cathy Rossi**

In attendance: Pastor Rev. Klevence, Associate Pastor Rev. Dovari, Cathy Rossi, Jared Browne, Maria Colello, Tina Gordon, Lorraine Jordin, Dominic Paccapaniccia, Alexis Sclama, Betty Wisgirda. Absent: Vince Catania.

Also attending: Georgia Bresch, Business Manager

Also attending: Parishioners Tom Hill and CJ DiBiaso

Opening Prayer

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

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

- **Proposed Disaster Relief Support Team.** Tom Hill and CJ DiBiaso proposed a committee to coalesce internal parish ministries to gather resources and outreach to victims/official groups in other states during a disaster/state of emergency. **Council approved** the establishment of the committee, which would consist of a member(s) from each ministry, i.e.; the Knights, Men's Club and Sodality.
- **Proposed Insert to Parish Bulletin.** Council approved following message to be placed in the weekly bulletin:



Members of St. Ann Pastoral Council welcome your questions or suggestions at any time. The council meets September through June, except during the months of Christmas and Easter. You may reach out to any of the Pastoral Council Members, whose names and emails can be found by QR scan or on the parish website at stannbb.org

- **Approved:** Rosaries and Rosary booklets to be placed in a basket/bowl in the Adoration Chapel for parishioners to use. Submitted request by Betty Wisgirda.
- **Pastoral Council By-Laws/Revisions.** Council decided to form a committee of four parish council members (Cathy Rossi, Betty Wisgirda, Jared Browne, Tina Gordon) to review, revise and update current Council By-Laws and present at the next Council meeting for review and approval.

- **Parish Financial Report – Georgia Bresch, Parish Business Manager**
- The parish is doing well overall and is in good financial condition because of the generosity of St. Ann parishioners. **Business Manager Georgia Bresch** reviewed with Council receipts/expenses statement for the year ending June 30, 2025. Georgia has prepared the annual report that will be inserted in the bulletin in the next month reporting the overall financial conditions of the parish as well as listing diocesan collections, special collections and breakdown of major expenses. Car Raffle this year was over \$50,000. Thank you!
- **Pastor's Update**
 - ✓ In light of the Annunciation Church tragedy, Father discussed possible preventative safety measures that the parish should discuss. Parish staff will be looking at security considerations and following up discussions as well as conversations with other churches in the Deanery and Bethany Beach Police.
 - ✓ A/C units at St. Ann's and OLG are being evaluated for replacement.
 - ✓ Father reported that there will be Maintenance Person positions available which will be posted in the bulletin.
 - ✓ Father is reviewing the older windows in Delaney Hall and obtaining proposal bids for replacements.
 - ✓ Father updated Council on the state of the proposed new Parish Center. Review is being made of the existing septic system that may prove to be sufficient for approval for taking the next step for the future Parish Center.

COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATES

Dominic Paccapaniccia - Finance Committee & Social Concerns Committees

Finance Committee

Received from Georgia/Roberta/Christie (Business Managers):

Two months into FY2026 total income is \$542k and total expenses are \$368k for a new surplus of \$174k. Total income is \$4k more than last year; total expenses are \$68k less than last year mainly due to \$98k less in capital expenditures. As a result, the new surplus is \$72k more than in the same period last year. Total income is 6% over budgeted projections and total expenses are 1% over budgeted projections.

Social Concerns

Always Hope – no update as of September 5.

Children's Book Project – A book is given to each child at Clayton and Showell Elementary Schools twice a year, at Christmas and the end of the year. Each book is wrapped with a bow and the child's name. Each time we give approximately 800 books, 1600 per year. In the past, St. Ann's ministries have assisted in the purchase of the books. We will be starting our 23rd year this Christmas.

Grief and Bereavement Group (Dan Cowell) – No update available as of September 3.

Respect Life - Committee meeting 9-8-25. Activities posted: 9-12 Public Rosary at the Gate of Heave Cemetery at 10 a.m., September 18 at 1 p.m. Meeting of Deanery of Respect Life, October 4-5 St. Jude's Ministry Fair, October 5 Life Chain 2-4 p.m. South Bethany (Carolyn Marcello cdm24@verizon.net) to be posted in Dialog, October 11, 6th Apparition of Fatima, public rosary in the Bethany Beach Central Park, October 25 from 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. The movie "Heaven is for Real" PG rating, with help from Tina Gordon (dre@stannsbethany.org) and Jared Browne (jared.k.browne@gmail.com), October 26 & 27 – Knights of Columbus Silver Rose celebration for the unborn, prayer

service at OLG. November 2025 Documentary Movie EWTN on Euthanasia, date/time TBD. **Next meeting Monday, October 6, 2025 @ 9:30a.m. in Delaney Hall.**

Salt and Light Committee –

- We have approved 30 applications thus far for 2025.
 - Medical Billing and Coding HVAC
 - Dental Assistant
 - CDL (commercial driver's license)
 - CNA (certified nursing assistant)
 - Welding apprenticeship
 - Payroll/accounting
 - LPN (licensed practical nurse)
 - CMA (certified medical assistant)
- We held two 50/50 raffles
- We have recruited about 15 new "Friends" to add to our volunteers
- Our Fall fundraiser in October will include altar talks at St. Ann's and OLG, collection baskets, raffle baskets and Dine-Around-Town raffle.

School Mentoring – No mentoring program at this time.

TinyTots – We meet the 4th Tuesday at St. Ann's Parish Delaney Hall, 9a.m.-1p.m. We do not meet in December, July and August. Mary Martinez 302-682-1990. Lunch with a Purpose on November 5, 2025, doors open at 10:30. Collecting items for the Coffee Gift Basket. Call Anne Mastropolo at 516-941-5553 with your donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Voice of the Faithful – Coastal Delmarva Voice of the Faithful members continue to support our Mission to provide a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit, through which the Faithful can actively participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church.

In my May update, I provided information on the results of National VOTF's 2024 Diocesan Financial and Governance Transparency Reports. This time I would like to highlight their efforts concerning Child Protection.

In addition to financial transparency reviews, VOTF has completed two diocesan website reviews assessing the accessibility and clarity of information on diocesan websites concerning the protection of children. These reviews employed a similar method to the financial transparency reviews and have had similar results. Diocesan safe environment coordinators have reached out to VOTF and begun a dialogue on the best way to safeguard children and others in our communities who are vulnerable.

The 2023 Report: Measuring Abuse Prevention and Safe Environment Programs as Reported Online in Diocesan Policies and Practices is available online and can be accessed here:

<https://www.votf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04NOTF-Child-Protect-Report-2023web.pdf>

Please see Appendix B: Child Protection-Safe Environment Scores 2023 for the rating of the Diocese of Wilmington. Their score of 62.0 out of 100 indicates there is improvement needed in 6 of the 10 categories assessed. Complete information is lacking in areas of Background Checks, Education and Training, Members of the Diocesan Review Board, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Audited Reports, and Diocesan Contact Information,

The financial transparency and protection of children reviews have the same objective -to prevent future clerical abuse to the extent possible, and to ensure that any future abuse is acknowledged, reported to authorities and dealt with promptly and justly. Empowering the laity to speak up, take action, and assume their proper role in the life of the church is key to this effort. It is also central to a synodal vision of the church, a vision that Pope Leo XIV shares with Pope Francis.

Voice of the Faithful, designated as a Lay Apostolate, continues to serve with 30,000 members across 200 affiliates. Respectfully submitted: Virginia Sullivan

Tina Gordon - Christian Formation

- We are looking forward to our year which will open on 9/21, Catechetical Sunday for K-12.
- We have filled all catechist and aide positions and currently have 60 children from grades K-8,
- 10 students in our HS OCIA, and 11 adults signed up for our OCIA program. The numbers in the K-12 will increase.
- Our opening Mass will be on 10/5 at 9:00. That is also the day of the CROP walk. All families are invited to attend. Children in grades 5-12 are invited to attend as part of our YM program.
- We have switched our safe environment program to Growing with God from Loyola Press. It is what Saint Luke's has been using successfully and integrates with the Finding God series that we use.
- One of our families will be going to family catechesis at Saint Luke's.
- I will share a copy of our calendar with you shortly, but please note that all dates are subject to change.
- A big thank you to the Knights of Columbus for purchasing Bibles for our program and for their donation to our Summer Camp.
- A big thank you to our Hall Monitors, also Knights, who keep watch over us on Sundays throughout the year.
- Lots of exciting things are happening with YM. Jared will share those with you.
- Opening Mass 9 a.m. at St. Ann Church October 5, Crop Walk 2:30 at OLG October 5.
- **October 7th, First Holy Communion Parent Meeting 6:00 p.m. in the Masterson Center. All paperwork is due that night.**
- October 19 – No class
- October 26 – Class Living Rosary.

Jared Browne - Youth Ministry

Summer Bible Camp was a success, with 9 children from 4th to 9th grade. They all showed a willingness to learn, an ability to ask insightful questions, and an enthusiasm that grew throughout the week. Many thanks to the St. Ann's Council of Knights of Columbus for their funding, and to our volunteers.

Bible Camp was followed with a movie night showing a recording of the Sight & Sound production of Noah, which was also a success with 12 attendees.

A recruitment meeting with parents is scheduled for September 28th during Religious Education class time. This will be a time to encourage parents to involve their children in future YM activities and gather thoughts on what they would like to see from Youth Ministry.

The next Youth Ministry activity will be attendance with families at the CROP Walk on October 5th. Religious Education will be creating a signup group for interested families and encourage them to donate.

The first official Youth Ministry meeting is scheduled for November 14th. The agenda for said meeting is to be determined.

In addition to interest from families who attended Bible Camp, there is interest in Youth Ministry from several high school students in local families.

I am currently in the process of reading Rebuilding Youth Ministry by Christopher Wesley, a Maryland Catholic youth minister who has done multiple workshops and lectures on youth ministry with the Diocese of Wilmington, and we are exploring options to integrate Mr. Wesley's insights in a way that will work with our existing ministerial structures at St. Ann's. Insights of particular note where work is underway include: crafting an official mission/vision statement for the St. Ann's Youth Ministry; exploring options of small-group breakdowns within Youth Ministry (i.e. based on age group), depending on interest/attendance; recruiting additional volunteers to help lead Youth Ministry, on which there are multiple promising leads.

Betty Wisgirda – Liturgy Committee, no report.

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

Building and Grounds

- Facilities Manager Doug Schultz reported no additional updates at this time.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

- SVDP Meeting Dates: 9-8-25 @ 9:00 a.m. in Delaney Hall and 9-23-25 @ 3:30 p.m. in Delaney Hall
- Crab Feast Fundraiser on October 11, 2025 at Higgins Crab House, 12801 Ocean Highway, Ocean City, MD, starting at 12:30, \$65 pp
- Trivia Night Fundraiser on November 11 @ 6:00 p.m. at Delaney Hall, \$40pp. Teams of 8 per table.
- Crop Walk, October 5, 2025 @ 2:30 p.m. @ OLG
- Food Bank Truck with cold foods on 9-22-25 @ Mariner's Hope Center. SVDP has formally sent all paperwork to Food Bank to start having them come to OLG food pantry once a month. More details next month.
- SVDP garden is in process of obtaining water and electric to garden.
- 3rd Pampered Chef fundraiser was a success with earnings \$3,194. Thank you!

Maria Colello - Hispanic Community

- PreCana starts in October with 2 couples signed up.
- 25 baptisms are scheduled so far
- ESL classes start this September
- Thank you, Knights of Columbus, for laminated prayer sheets to be handed out during Spanish masses.
- Request for purchase of Misslet vs Hymnal books for the Spanish Masses. Cost to order is approximately \$10,000. Council approved.

Alexis Sclama - Parish Bazaar

- Bazaar was a success with over \$170,000 donated, which was over \$5000 from last year. **Thank you!**
- Safety concerns with the crowdedness of Masterson center during bazaar, which Alexis will review to determine best use of areas.
- Signage for Delaney Hall during bazaar will be addressed.
- A new marketing person has been assigned for the 2026 bazaar.

Cathy Rossi – Hospitality

- September 14, Hospitality Sunday (donuts) resumes.
- October 4 Heritage Sunday - We were expecting to help with a Pot Luck but after emailing Sr. Loretta on Wednesday, she does not think this will materialize.
- Oct. 5 -Religious Education opening Mass, 9:00. We will host donuts, coffee and juice after Mass. Set up- 9:00.
- October 7- next meeting
- October 8- We will host the reception for the funeral Mass of Debbie Evans, long time organist/pianist for our parish. The Mass is at 11 with refreshments following in Delaney Hall. We will have cocktail meatballs (Theresa), a veggie tray, cheese/crackers, mixed fruit, cookies (Pat H.) and brownies (Nikki), coffee and drinks. 10:30 set up
- October 12 -Hospitality Sunday
- The November 2 Pot Luck originally on our schedule will be cancelled due to the All-Souls Service being held at OLG. Theresa will contact Lourdes to cancel this on the DH schedule.
- Prayers for Mary Lou and her husband, Joe, who has suffered a stroke. Also, Nancy has an upcoming heart procedure (will keep you posted on date) and George Meringolo's continued health as he marches on with his ministry of building little houses for the needy. Respectfully submitted, Theresa Orhelein

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

Next Meeting: Monday, November 3, 2025 @ 4:00pm.