

**St Francis de Sales  
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)  
Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2026, 7pm  
SFdS School Cafeteria**

**Attendance** – John Bruening, John Mitchell, Fr Mike Nartker, Bro Paul Hoffman, Lee Burroughs, Woody Widman, Joe Nurre, Mary Kishman, Christine Martich (guest)

1. **Welcome & Opening Prayer** – Brother Paul led the group in an opening prayer. John Bruening distributed the agenda.
2. **Finance** - John Mitchell reported as of December 31 (1/2 of the budgetary year) we have a deficit of \$163,000. This is due in part to the slow process of EdChoice funding. EdChoice accounts for \$115,000 of the \$163,000 deficit. We had approved this deficit funding previously. Mass collections are up 13% representing a \$17,000 improvement. At this point we are about \$2,000 behind our target. A few years ago, we invested \$100,000 from the Bokenkotter funds etc. with a return of \$43,000 on the \$100,000 investment. Finance committee is discussing making another investment to increase our reserves. All applicants for the Bokenkotter grants have received some funding. 1) *Mary Magdalen House* - \$20,000 for Mobile Unit, 2) *Center for Respite Care* - \$18,000, 3) *Mercy Neighborhood Ministries* - \$18,000, 4) *Purcell Marian High School* - \$18,000 for the Inclusive Education Program, and 5) *St Francis deSales School* - \$11,000 for Snack and Enrichment Programs. This year we also awarded smaller grants to 1) *Ignite Peace* - \$5,000, 2) *Queen City Kitchen* - \$5,000, 3) *Unity Center* - \$5,000. The council noted that SfdS school had a smaller grant and were concerned that perhaps they needed assistance with grant writing. John M. stated Debbie Young helped coach them. Finance is beginning the 26/27 budget planning process.
3. **Synod Survey Update** – The committee meets this coming Monday at 7pm. They are developing a 3-Year Strategic Plan. When completed, they will report to PPC then the Parish community.
4. **HVAC and Roof** – John B. and other key individuals have met with both contractors to develop the schedule for installation etc. Most measurements are completed with the exception of a few which were not possible due to the snow. Still waiting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal for VRF from *Energize*.
5. **School Windows** – 29 windows are already installed. There are 134 windows in total. The lift is going away tomorrow. A revised schedule is coming.
6. **Parish Picnic** – The picnic is definitely scheduled for July 12. There will be one Mass at 10am. John B stated the large tent will be \$2,999.00. Suggested Food Trucks were LaRosa's, Graeter's, and the Korean from last year. Christine Martich will take care of Children's activities. We need to reach out to Peg Smyth to see if she wants to do her flowers and fruit; No pressure however to do this. We also need to check with Joann about the possibility of the Hartman scholarship students and families attending. Water, soda, iced and coolers will be handled as in previous years.

7. **Church Doors** – John B. has stated it has been difficult getting a mtg. scheduled with door craftsman. He hopes it will be next week.
8. **Facilities Support** – The position is still in progress. It has been posted on the Archdiocese site but there have been no applicants. Will place notice in the bulletin. John B will see if Joann knows of other sites to post the position. We may need to increase hours or salary a bit.
9. **Church History** – Mary stated pictures need to be added otherwise it is about complete. She stated they met with Archdiocese publishing who can do the printing for us.
10. **Green Team** – Mary stated the Team is thrilled to announce that they have assisted the school in reducing landfill materials. The cafeteria no longer uses disposable Styrofoam trays and plastic utensils. They now use reusable trays and flatware. Susan Vogt donated flatware that was in short supply to the school.
11. **Beacons of Light** – The Archbishop has announced a SYNOD for the Archdiocese beginning 2027. It will develop a plan for the next 3-5 years following the Beacons of Light project. The SYNOD will have both clergy and laity. Holy Name and St Francis Seraph Churches are closing. St Monica/St George will be a chapel and Newman Center only. St Francis de Sales will be in a Family with Annunciation in Clifton temporarily.
12. **Parish Update** – Due to inclement weather, attendance was down in January. Lenten Season begins tomorrow with a school mass at 10:30 and evening Mass at 5:30. Shirley Dukes visitation is at 10am with Mass is at 11:am this Saturday. Beginning Feb 25, we will have Mass at 5:30 followed by a community potluck dinner then Eucharistic Adoration till 7:15pm. Father Mike will begin his series on Prayer after the 11am Mass this Sunday. Thanks to Brother Bob Dzubinski for operating the snow blower to clean our campus. Thanks also to Townscapes for cleaning the parking lot.
13. **Faith Formation** – Christine spoke about the urgent need to formalize the faith formation activities for families in particular. She stated the Children’s liturgy is a start, but a staff member dedicated to faith formation is needed. PPC agreed Faith Formation is critical, but no decision was made about hiring a new person. This will be discussed further.
14. **Next meeting** – Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 7pm in the school cafeteria.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Kishman*

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