

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, September 28, 2025

Present: Father Dillon, Yolande Eldridge, Jody Fay (via phone), Fran Wainer, Debra Falvey, Noreen Wolleben, George Goulet, Maggie Bruno, Regina Beausejour, Ed Pellegrino, Nancy Talalas, Emily O'Sullivan, Mikayla Scalici, Lorelei Huben, Val Campanelli

Guests: Donna Yatkco & Tony Siginano

Absent: Maria Hacker & Bob Keiser

The meeting began at 11:42 am with an opening prayer from Father Dillon.

Minutes were approved.

Father Dillon: Vacation Bible Camp went very well and included many ESCA participants. Everyone is very excited about holding it again next year with the parents and several guest speakers.

The carnival was well attended and we had great weather. The Knights give one half of what they make on the carnival to St. George.

The Italian Festival was also well attended, and the proceeds were donated to Meals on Wheels.

The pilgrimage group (48 people) returned safely home. In Rome, the group saw the Holy Father in his popemobile. They were very close to him although there were massive crowds. The group also visited Assisi. More pictures to follow in the bulletin, per Fran. The next pilgrimage will be led by Father Federico on October 2, 2025, to Medjugorje.

Fran: There is new flooring in the big room in the Sullivan Center.

Donna: Registration is still going on for faith formation classes. There were 520 children last year. The format has changed from every week to every other week per the Archdiocese. The 4th and 5th grade schedules have also changed. Peer Ministry is on hold per the Archdiocese. The issue is the veritas training and we need two with background checks. The youth ministry director for the Archdiocese will be meeting with Donna. We still need CCD teachers and if need be, two can teach together as a team. Teachers for 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades are needed. There is a lot of new technology in the St. Francis room to assist with the teaching.

Emily/Mikayla/Lorelei: Yolande welcomed the new members of the council along with our new youth representatives. There is a lot of peer ministry work ahead, and they are working with Jenny Smith who is the director of formation at St. John Bosco. All introduced themselves and they are trying to get a senior project of students getting confirmed. Yolande and the council feel the excitement of the new representatives.

Tony (guest): Tony is with the Guilford Interfaith Volunteers Program. They meet for coffee after church at the Congregational Church. They invite non-profit groups to attend. The topic of affordable housing in Guilford is a hot topic right now. Tony offered to present the program to St. George after a mass. Affordable Housing is based upon income levels, and a percentage of homes must be affordable for developers to be granted a project. Affordable housing ranges from \$245K to \$250K; whereas the average house in Guilford costs \$500K to \$600K. Yolande suggested that if members were interested in getting involved with this, they should contact Tony directly. She will provide the contact information. Father agreed that we need to disseminate the affordable housing information to our residents. Their next meeting is Oct. 9.

George: The September 6, 2025, Yankee game was a success. Approximately 38 people attended. They departed at 9 am and the Fun Bus had trivia games, and the price is right. Fran's husband won and two people from Maine won, and James Budd won. A BBQ followed upon arrival at the stadium. They then toured the Yankee Museum prior to the 1:05 pm game. There was a one hour forty-six-minute rain delay but the Yankees won and we got home by 8 pm. Next year we will investigate a Red Sox game. Thank you to Fran and Sara for the help with the trip.

Yolande/Deb: The retreat with Sister Lany Joe was a huge success. 48 people attended and it was quite a religious experience. A big thank you to Sheila and Fran for organizing it.

Nancy: This was a follow-up to the proposal last spring to have a May parade for our Blessed Mother. It was suggested that we sponsor a parade after mass, around the surrounding streets to St. George. It was suggested we invite and include St George groups such as The Knights of Columbus, our children who just received their First Communion, Priests, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Ministries available and The Men's Group. Proposed date was Mother's Day.

Father said it was a good idea, however, we need to work with the town on dates and requirements to do this, especially with street closures. Years ago, Father Mendoza helped organize a similar procession on the Green. Discussion ensued about the difficulty in closing any streets around the green on Mother's Day and that it might be better to combine or walk in the Fair Day Parade. For that parade, the streets are already blocked off.

Yolande suggested that Nancy investigate the street closures further with the town and the Guilford Police Department, to see if this was feasible?

Another new idea was to arrange for Saint Carlo Acutis travel museum exhibit. This would get the youth ministries involved. Nancy will investigate the dates with the help of Fran and Donna. It is a two-day event..

Noreen: The Noah trip is planned. It will be October 22nd through October 24th. 41 people signed up for the trip. There is still room for more reservations.

Yolande: We are ordering sample shirts, collared shirts and hats for St. George. We will be providing individual orders, per an email link, for approx \$30 per shirt. The link will be placed on the website to order St. George swag, once in place. It is not available yet, since we are waiting for the sample order.

Yolande mentioned the amazing contributions of the food salvage volunteers. Thirty people pick up at the Big Y and haul carts of pies, cookies and pastries to various needy locations. At St. Peter and James, New Haven, the donations go to four hundred families every Saturday. There is also a free clothing area for the homeless and others in need. They need shoes and underwear, for men, primarily. Fran will place the boxes at the church entrances for collections that St. George is sponsoring.

The columbarium covers to the niches were cut incorrectly and had to be returned. Once the correct ones are put in, we can set a date for a blessing of the columbarium. The brick campaign is currently on hold as we cannot place the final order until some phone calls are made to follow up. George suggested we put a reminder about the campaign in the bulletin. Most likely the bricks won't be installed until early next spring.

Closing prayer by Father at 12:57 pm

Our Next Meeting is October 26, 2025 after the 10:30 am mass.