

ST. BRENDAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING MAY 1, 2025

PRESENT: Fr. M. Betti, Fr. Anit, Madeline Dubas, Ada Flores, Ginny Grant, Cynthia Graves, Bob Houser, Laura Kniaz, Celeste Korpon, Tom Kuncewitch, John LeFebvre, Bob McGahran, Bert McGoff, Pat McLaughlin, Charles McShane, Jeanne Miller, Sandra Nelson, Thomas Ocasio, Vincent Russo, Michael Schmid

EXCUSED: Kimberly Antolini, Ronald Hickson, Matt Kelly

1. Ginny Grant welcomed the members. 2. Fr. Mark opened the meeting at 9:32 AM with a prayer.

3. Minutes of the April 3, 2025, meeting were approved, as written.

4. **FINANCE:** We currently have \$330,270 in general checking, of which \$86,000 will be spent for the initial payment on the Electronic Lock and Surveillance System. We are required to retain \$240,000 in reserve which represents six weeks of operating expenses. Focus over the next few months will be on rebuilding our checking and savings accounts to cover the final cost of the ELSS project on completion and building a reserve account for unforeseen facility repairs/replacement. Finance plan for land purchase still being worked on with Diocese.

5. PASTOR'S REPORT:

- A review of Lenten Services and Masses was reviewed. Attendance of Ash Wednesday Masses at 8:00, 10:00, 5:00 and [7:00 pm Spanish] was well-distributed. However, in 2026 the times will tentatively be changed to 8:00, 10:00, 12:00n, 6:00 pm and [8:00 pm Spanish] to accommodate bigger crowds.

- Attendance at Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday at 8:00 PM and 7:00 AM on Sunday were comfortable, 8:30 had overflow in the parish hall, although overflow could have been accommodated in the Church. 10:30 AM Mass was heavily attended with approximately 200 directed to the parish hall. Parking was again a challenge with overflow moved to grass. All at the 12:30 PM Mass in Spanish were seated in the church. 2026 schedule would tentatively change to: Easter Saturday Mass at 4:00 PM, Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM; Easter Sunday schedule would be 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM in English and [1:30 PM Spanish].

- On Wednesday 21 May a joint meeting for parish leadership (Staff, PAC, PFC and SMM) will be held in the parish hall following the 9:00 am Mass. Lunch will be provided.

- The QR code stickers have been placed in the pews; QR codes will be published weekly in the bulletin next to the weekly offertory report. PFC will monitor results and report back at the September PAC meeting.

- Contract on the Electronic Surveillance and Video system is ready to sign. Must be signed and initial payment made by May 10 to hold current pricing. Planned 60 days to start; 120 days to completion.

- Lower Cape Fear Life program on Advanced Care Directives attended by approximately 13. Kathleen Brandenburg gave a short presentation on Diocesan policies re. end of life. Thank you to Kim Antolini for her help with registration QR codes and to Vincent Russo for his notary services.

- Parish Organization/Flow Chart continues to be refined. Potential layout and Ministries to be included were distributed. Questions raised as to necessity of such an in-depth report. Project will continue to be developed. Suggested various ministries be highlighted in future bulletins to educate parishioners of their existence and call attention to all of the information contained on the website. Suggest various ministries could update the Council on their activities on a quarterly basis. Continue reminders in bulletin along with a contact link.

6. NEW BUSINESS;

- Farewell receptions for Fr. Anit will be held following all Masses on June 21 and June 22.
- Welcome receptions for our new Parochial Vicar will be held at all Masses on June 28 and June 29. Our summer seminarian will arrive in June.
- Date for farewell for Fr. John Paul who returns to Uganda on May 19 still being finalized.
- Our Lady Star of the Sea has invited us to explore their Cancer Care Support Ministry—God's Shepherds of Love and Hope by attending their Rosary of Hope Prayer Service on May 5. Ginny Grant and Madeline Dubas will attend and give feedback. This may be a program of interest to St. Brendan's.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **ST. MICHAEL MINISTRY**—See attached report. Jeanne Miller added that, as shown on Easter Sunday, St. Michael Ministry is a team effort between all members of St. Brendan’s
- **K OF C**—See attached report. Reminded all to sign up for May 20 Blood Drive. The Silver Rose of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be here on Tuesday, May 27. Date of arrival of Sacred Heart icon TBD.
- **COLUMBIETTES**—See attached report. Have 5 scholarship applications to date. May 8 meeting will initiate 4 new members. Distribution of charitable funds will be determined. Election for 2026 Board.
- **LITURGY**—See attached report. Plans for Pentecost still need to be determined.
- **FAITH FORMATION**—See attached report.
- **FACILITIES**-See attached report.
- **HISPANIC**—The Spanish Community will be offering authentic Mexican Food after all Masses on May 3/4, May 31/June 1, June 14/15 and June 28/29. Basically, served as Food to Go, however, some tables will be available. Proceeds to be donated to the Building Fund.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2025, FOLLOWING THE 9:00 AM MASS.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 AM. Fr. Mark closed the meeting with a prayer, including prayers for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ST. MICHAEL MINISTRY—

1. On Sunday, April 13, 2025 during the 8:30 a.m. Mass, a Eucharistic Minister (EM) approached a lone, elderly man sitting in the “reserve” section at the back of church. He had his eyes closed. The EM touched him gently on one shoulder, and then the other, but did not get a response. An usher, who also serves as a Saint Michael Minister as Medic, observed this interaction and became concerned. She approached the man, and realized he was not conscious. She called immediately for the on-duty SM Medics who, after responding, were not able to raise him. They were assisted by other ministers and ushers to move him to a prone position and the AED was retrieved. In the meantime, 9-1-1 was called.

The SM medics were eventually able to revive the man without use of the AED. He was assisted back into the chair. The EMS arrived and were escorted to the patient. Parishioners exiting church were very accommodating and gave way to the EMS personnel. As EMS personnel assessed the patient, they urged him to come to the hospital. He initially balked as his son was on the way to visit. The sacristan stepped in and retrieved his cell phone so he could call his son. A Kof C member stepped forward and offered assistance in getting him home. EMS personnel used excellent skills, and (finally) got him to agree to go the hospital.

This is an excellent example of the teamwork that exists between EM’s, Ushers, Sacristan, Knights of Columbus and Saint Michael Ministers.

2. On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, a Saint Michael Ministry (Security) observed a 20-30 year old white male, blond curly unkempt hair, approximately 200 pounds, pacing back and forth in the Gathering Space 5 minutes before communion. The subject had not been observed earlier. Dressed in a t-shirt and cargo shorts, he was wearing a black, zippered, tactical “drop” pistol holster on his right calf. The holster was zipped closed and appeared to have some weight as it hung from his leg. There was no evidence of a medical delivery system (such as insulin). The subject was typing into his phone during the entire observation. He entered the communion line, and the SM Minister shadowed him. The Minister was able to alert two ushers, and the subject was followed after communion back into the Gathering Space where he continued to pace back and forth as if waiting for someone. He left the church and headed to the parking lot in front of the McGivney

Center. He was observed entering a vehicle with other people (not as driver) and a complete description of the vehicle along with the license plate was obtained. All Ministers involved believed that something was “off” about this individual.

Video was reviewed and he was observed entering the church with what appeared to be family. He separated from the family and sat on a bench in the Gathering Space, and they proceeded to the Parish Hall. None of this was observed by the Saint Michael.

FACILITIES—

Campus Closure: During the semi-annual campus closure from April 21 - 25, we were able complete the following:

- Ø Normally inaccessible ceiling lights in the church and library were repaired and/or relamped.
- Ø The damaged ceiling and walls behind the altar were patched and painted by parishioner Ramone Benavediz and his crew.
- Ø Several landscape beds were enhanced with flowers. The work was performed by parishioners Bill and Marge Krug.
- Ø The choir room was patched, painted, and carpet shampooed by the Saint Michael Ministry.
- Ø The parish hall floor was deep cleaned and polished.
- Ø Sections of the parking lot were restriped.
- Ø Pews were polished, vacuumed and spot cleaned.
- Ø Ceiling vents were cleaned in the McGivney Pastoral Center

Inventory: All ministries with assets were provided with data collection sheets to add, delete, or edit their inventory. Thus far approximately half of the ministries responded, accounting for approximately one third of the inventory assets. The target completion date for everyone to respond is Friday May 2.

Real Estate: The purchase agreement for the land adjacent to the church was ratified by both parties on March 30. On April 4, the seller turned over relevant site documentation to help facilitate the site examination. Contracts have been put in place for the following:

- Ø Phase I Environmental Survey
- Ø Sub Surface Soil Investigation (soil boring)
- Ø MAI Appraisal
- Ø Alta Table A Survey

These activities are scheduled for completion by May 31. at which time a review of the results will be conducted by the parish’s Land Acquisition Team, and the Diocese of Raleigh Property, Construction, and Risk Management team.

Also pending is the submission of the Financial Plan from Saint Brendan’s to the Diocese of Raleigh and subsequent review and approval by their Loan Committee, and Deposit & Loan Board. Closing is scheduled to take place no later than September 8, 2025.

Roof: Several minor repairs were made to the gathering space and library roof.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS--

- The May First Friday Rosary will be prayed at 8am on Friday May 2nd.
- The regular monthly meeting for Council 9039 will be held on Monday May 12th in the McGivney Room at 7pm. Nominations for 2025-26 Fiscal Year Officers will be held at this meeting.
- The Knights will hold their monthly social lunch at Homestyle Foods at 12 pm on Wednesday May 14th.
- The Knights will be selling Dinners to Go on Saturday May 17 from 1-5pm in St Brendan's Kitchen. The Menu for our May Meals to go is Lasagna, Meatball and Bread.

- The 2025 NC KofC State convention will be held on Friday Saturday and Sunday May 16-18 in Hickory NC.
- The Upcoming North Carolina March for Life will be held in Raleigh NC on Saturday May 17 at 12:15pm to 3pm.
- The Semi -Annual St Brendan's Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday May 20th at St Brendan's Hall from 10 to 3 pm. Please sign up for appointments at the American Red Cross.com
- The Kof C Silver Rose will be brought to our church and Council on May 27th. The Silver Rose is the Knight's way to honor the apparition of our Lady of Guadalupe and her being named the Parton of all the Americas.
- The Knights Officers meeting will be held Monday May 28th at 6pm in the McGivney Room.
- The May First Friday Rosary will be prayed on June 6th at 8am St Brendan's Church and Holy Hour after First Friday Mass in St Patrick's Chapel.
- The Knights hope to start selling the Monday Night Football books at St Brendan's starting in June.
- The Knights upcoming Golf Tournament Fundraiser will be held at Sea Trail on June 12.

COLUMBIETTES--

- Elections for new board members will be held at our May meeting on the 8th.
- It was voted that we would do the Backpack program again this summer.
- Scholarship recipients should be determined by the end of May.
- It was voted to provide baby board books in support of the Literacy Council.
- Convention will be held in Raleigh May 30 and 31, 2025.

LITURGY—

1. Opening Prayer – Father Mark

2. Committee Reports

Ø Music/Cantors – Sandy Payne

ü Father will conduct a rehearsal for the Easter Vigil today (after this meeting) with all of the selected participants.

ü Sandy is very pleased with this year's group of cantors who performed well on Palm Sunday and have something exciting planned for the Easter Services.

Ø Choirs – Sandy Gemach (absent – sent a written report to the meeting)

ü Tenebrae Service – 4pm on Holy Thursday

ü Deacon Mullins will snuff out the lit candles after each song.

ü Holy Thursday Mass will begin at 5pm. The choir will sing So You Must Do during the washing of feet. At the end of mass, the choirs will follow the Priests, and Deacons out to the parking lot while singing Pange Lingua. They will continue singing the song until the Monstrance, Priests, and congregation enter the Chapel. If the weather is inclement, the choir will sing the song as the Priests and Deacons circle inside the church.

ü The choirs will be on vacation April 21st through April 30th. They will finish their season on June 7th/8th (Pentecost).

ü The choir is currently sharing the music file cabinet room with the St Michael Ministry, Sr. Mary Theresa, the Welcoming Committee, and other groups who appear to be storing food items or objects they may need for their events in the choir room. This is a very small room. It was suggested that Sandy Nelson/Sandy Gemach review the situation and speak with everyone currently using the room.

Ø Enhancement Committee – Sandy Nelson

ü Friday April 11th – set up for Palm Sunday

ü Wednesday April 16th – set up for Holy Thursday

ü Thursday April 17th – Easter plants arrive around 10am and will be placed in the crying room

ü Thursday April 17th – set up for Good Friday

ü Friday April 18th – set up for Easter (12 noon)

Ø Other -the following were reviewed: Ash Wednesday; Stations of the Cross at the beach OIB pier 10:30 am; Communal Penance Services; Holy Thursday. Sandy Payne will change the Christmas Music currently being broadcast outside of the church at 6pm.

Ø Next Meeting – Tuesday September 2, 2025 (Library)

FAMILY CENTERED FAITH FORMATION— 2024-2025 School Year

-The Food Drive for the Food Pantry of St. Brendan's on April 6th was a very successful event. The generosity of the families was outstanding! The lesson for the children was to give and be generous to those who are less fortunate.

-On Saturday, April 26th was the First Holy Communion Mass. It was absolutely beautiful for the children and their families. Fr. Anit made the entire morning very special....thank you, Fr. Anit! Thank you to Sister Mary Teresa and the Catechists for an awesome job of preparing the children throughout the school year.

-Our last session for the 2024-2025 school year is on May 4th. It was an outstanding school year for the children. The seeds of the Catholic Faith were planted with each one of them and now we watch them grow. This is truly a blessing!

-Upcoming events:

The Sacrament of Confirmation-10 AM on Saturday May 3rd

Crowning of the Blessed Mother—On Mother's Day, May 11 at the 9:30 AM Mass

This Children's Ministry is very special....we are blessed to be part of it!
