



Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council  
October 15, 2025 (7:00 PM)

Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

**Participants:**

**Parish Staff:**

Fr. Kevin Gillespie  
Tony Varas (Liturgy)  
Christopher Dake (Development)  
Dcn. Charles Huber

**Parishioners attending:**

Paula McCabe  
Frank Ganis  
Margie Legasky

**PPC Members:**

Malcolm McCluskey, President  
Frank Butler, Vice President  
Judith Bunnell (absent)  
John Czajka  
Roly Díaz  
Jim Hennessy  
Rob Johansson  
Colleen Kennedy  
Gail Louis  
Jacquie Mooney  
Eric Nichol  
Paul Ravenscroft  
Pat Towell

1. Opening Prayer: (Paul Ravenscroft)
2. Welcome and Introductions: (Malcolm)
3. Parishioner open forum:
  - a. Margie Legasky - Representing María Madre de los Pobres. 1) Thank you for the high regard for social justice that we have paid staff in those positions, since it is a rare occurrence. Also for the continued support of

the SJC to support the education of young children at MMdIP's school. Also for emphasizing the three sister parishes to the parish. 2) Emphasis on education to help people be free from poverty. If they can thrive in place they don't have to leave and emigrate. 3) She brought 1-pager about the ministry to MMdIP. This ministry originated from the aftermath of the war and the violence of extreme poverty. Also shared letter from MMdIP to HT thanking for HT's support. Letter cannot be distributed due to risk to the parish. 4) Invitation to travel to El Salvador in January to visit the parish. (Jan 22-29, 2026) 5) Request: suggestions for alternative funding sources in the US or ES that can help keep their school running due to the loss of some funding sources.

#### 4. Pastor's Report:

- a. Health: Four members of the parish clergy are having health issues. Possible newly ordained priest coming next year.
- b. Interviewing for Tabitha Acosta's position and should have a hire by next week.
- c. Fr. referenced the article in the bulletin about the homeless situation in the city with the loss of possessions and their tents in the sweep to clear homeless encampments.
- d. Meeting with Sr. Simone (Nuns on the Bus) to discuss what the church can do and how does parish respond to the homeless crisis. HT have seen increase in guests at Sunday dinner from about 70 to about 100.
- e. One of members of the migrant familia has a deportation hearing. One member of Afghan family was granted asylum. Later learned that judge was dismissed as too lenient.
- f. School earned the Blue Ribbon Award. USDOE ended the program before the formal award, but has been taken over by an independent organization.
- g. New Nats President of Baseball Operations will be a parishioner.
- h. Pope Leo's apostolic exhortation is on the parish website. Fr. Kevin quoted from it and noted how it represents continuity with Pope Francis. Pat Towell added how the exhortation did not mince words, Frank Butler quoted specifically about the "passionate connection to the poor." SJC encouraged to incorporate it into decision-making.
- i. Fr. asked Eric to comment on the increase in need at McKenna Center, SOME, and other service organizations and how the parish can increase giving.
- j. Fr. asked Chris Dake about how donors are involved in giving specifically to ministries. Giving is a bit ahead of last year and Chris summarized the trajectory of the plan (thanking donors, letting donors know how their giving helps meet specific needs).

#### 5. President's Report

- a. Report that the Committee Retreat was successful. High emphasis on

continuing to train in synodality. Frank highlighted that this is a focus on the Holy Spirit - it is not a management style, but a spiritual movement.

Frank opened the floor for comments:

- i. Jackie: Committee's needs and what the PPC needed to do differently (more discussion and listening moments)
- ii. Jim: better communication with each other, with committee liaison and how to incorporate synodality into that.
- iii. Paul: how a lot of committees wanted to come and report to the PPC and taking direction from the PPC.
- iv. Frank: how to continue to train in the process of synodality - every dimension of synodality will need help to continue to improve.
- v. Pat: a general understanding that there is a need to communicate to those outside the bubble.
- vi. Fr. emphasized that PPC members should be at New Parishioner Orientation.
- vii. Creating space at PPC meeting for Committee reports/annual reports from committees

b. Security:

- i. Tom Farvet and Tony Varas attended meeting with DC officials. 1) Potential grant money to upgrade security at churches. 2) MPD shared about what churches should think about. Main concern is tension between desire for open environment and balance with security. HT's takeaway is to assess our security and response to active threats. Tom asked someone from Homeland Security to assess with an eye for that. (E.g., train greeters to welcome and keep an eye on things).
- ii. Possibility for an update to the parish in an e-letter or a bulletin? Especially after shooting in synagogue and attack on Mormon temple. (Fr. Kevin also wants to update the banner policy.)
- iii. Parish was actively supporting the Jewish community. Deacon Charles: Two weeks from now is the 60th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, which changed the relationship of the church with other religions.
- iv. Paula McCabe: noted that there are many Jewish spouses to parishioners seen in marriage preps.
- v. She also noted that New Parishioner Orientation is a "magic moment" to task people to join parish ministries.

c. Banner Policy

- i. It was stated in June that the BLM banner was coming down. Not published until the fall. Proposal is that BLM banner be up for Black Catholic History (Nov) and Black History Month (Feb). Other banners will go up at other times of the year.

6. Development: Chris Dake

- a. Three priorities - data clean up, capital campaign, annual pledge. Data

clean up is proceeding (handout to PPC). Planned move to Customer Relationship Management system. Have verified 1800 households (4500 parishioners verified). About 95% of regular participants in the parish. Trying to get current vendor (SUMMA) to code in the way that the parish wants to make migration to new CRM system smooth. Hope to have more information to help “get out of the bubble” and reach people in different ways.

- i. Frank Butler asked about “talent” portion of time, treasure, talent. Committee retreat highlighted need for volunteers and how there is no easy way of understanding who is in the parish. Chris Dake noted some of the information that he would like to know to help understand what motivates people. Parish collects information anecdotally and by listening. Do we do surveys to identify needs. Do we maintain wish list of skills or needs to be met? Do we offer time-limited opportunities that might attract younger parishioners (especially)?
- ii. John: how do they calculate number of parishioners? HT counts children as parishioners. According to ADW, you are a parishioner if you attend mass and you give. We want to recognize young people who might not give individually as parishioners.

#### 7. Committee Retreat Report:

- a. There were several emphases: to get a clear understanding of what committees are doing, including staffing of committees and the relationship between committees and parish staff, how do committees recruit members and develop succession plans. Committees have different ways of recruiting and term-limiting members/
- b. Looking for committee rosters in October and later an annual report.
- c. There was a good discussion on bylaws. Suggestions will be sent to Fr. Kevin.
- d. There is a goal to standardize committee procedures.
- e. Fr. Kevin wants to assure continuity on some committees and have staff look at proposed changes as well.

#### 8. Old Business

- a. Follow up on PPC availability on Sundays. Roly Díaz will develop a SUG and have updated name tags in the back of the church.
- b. September minutes were approved by a show of hands.

#### 9. Closing Prayer (Roly Díaz)

**Next meeting: November 19, 2025**