

St. Maria Goretti Parish

Pastoral Council Meeting Notes for May 12, 2026

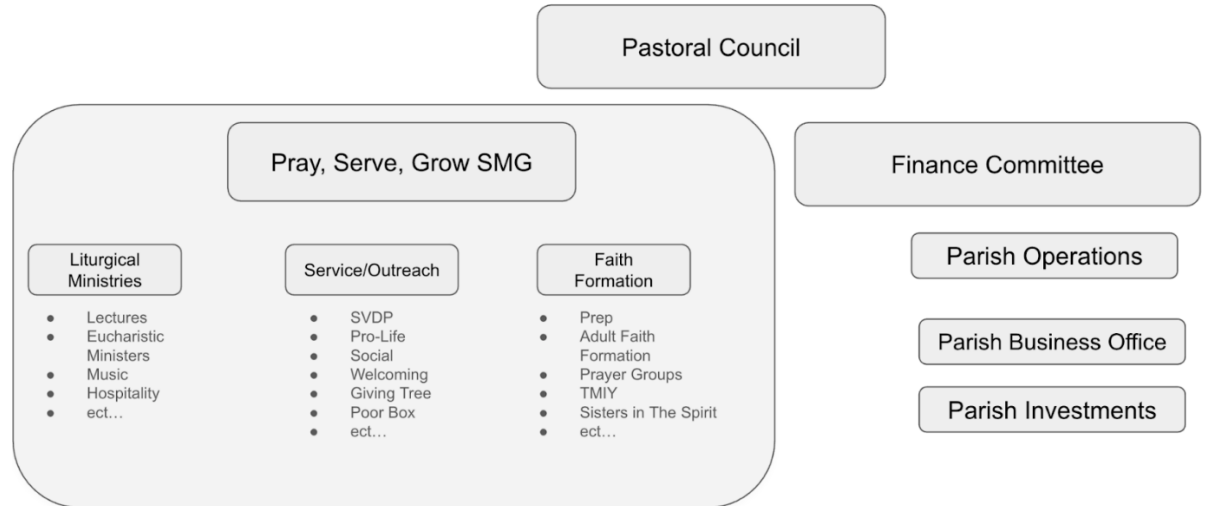
Members Present: Father Chung, Deacon Steve Vandercrone, Cheryl Ryan, Kim Staudt, Steve King, Janine Paillard, Joe Bondi, Phi Vu, Bill Wynne, and Charles Amuso

Father Chung opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:05 p.m.

1. Father Chung reported the following:
 - a. First Communion included 48 children.
 - b. Confirmation # needed
 - c. May Crowning was a beautiful event for the parish.
 - d. The adjustments and addition of 6 speakers to the sound system in the church have improved hearing in the former low sound areas. The volume of the microphones was also increased. The cost was \$6,000 and was arranged through Tom Coughlin.
 - e. Father is planning to improve the church lighting system by changing to LED lighting and adding adjustable lighting with blue tooth controls. Estimated cost for upgrade is \$85,000.
 - f. A digital sign will be added to the Cowpath Road side of the campus. Approximate cost is \$25,000.
 - g. A parishioner will be the new snow removal contractor at a greatly reduced cost.
 - h. Father is planning to add some pre-4th graders to the altar server group. There are some younger, very good candidates. The altar server group is always seeing high school graduates leaving the full-time server group.
 - i. The parish has many very popular social activities, in addition to the outstanding liturgies including the outstanding the music ministry. All these work together to increase the welcoming nature of our parish.
 - j. The recently added PPJ sandwich ministry that meets on Mondays to provide sandwiches for local programs that feed those in need has seen many additional volunteers.
 - k. Father will be recruiting members of a committee to plan for the parish 75th anniversary.in 2028. The celebration will be planned for and opening Mass in 2028 and Closing Mass in 2029 and many events during the year, including a parish pilgrimage.
2. Kim Staudt reported on Finance Council and the SMG Capital Campaign:
 - a. The financial position of the parish remains strong, with \$4.5 Million in cash and investments.

- b. The current Capital Campaign shows \$3.6 Million pledged, with \$2.6 Million in cash on hand to date.
- c. The Capital Campaign is behind our earlier estimates for collection currently. As a result, Campaign Committee will be contacting all parishioners for initial or additional contributions in the next few weeks. Father will be making a video to request that all parish families make pledges and contributions.
- d. The Pledge Form will be an insert in the weekly bulletin for the convenience of parishioners.
- e. The total estimated cost of the new building is currently \$7.5 million.
- f. The Hatfield Township Commissioners approved a deferral request regarding the requirement that the parish install a sidewalk around the Derstine and Cowpath edges of the parish campus. This deferral was very unusual and will save the parish approximately \$300,000 in additional project costs.
- g. The Land Development Process with Hatfield Township is now complete.
- h. As soon as the parish can collect a sufficient amount, advertisement for bids for the new building will be issued.
- i. The scheduled distribution of parish collection envelopes has been delayed due to a production problem with the contractor. Announcements will be made advising parishioners and recommending ways contributions can be made.

3. Bill Wynne proposed a new approach to the Long-Range Planning function of Pastoral Council.
 - a. This would not operate as a traditional committee. Ministries would be grouped – 3 groups with similar areas of focus - for a Saturday planning session that would begin with a speaker and a Day of Reflection



After discussion, it was agreed to ask Bill to proceed with planning.

4. Deacon Steve reported:
 - a. 11 participants of OCIA became full members of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. All were very enthusiastic about the Faith and a number have already volunteered for ministries in the parish.
 - b. 3 individuals have already signed up for the next OCIA class.
 - c. The Sacred Triduum was very well attended this year – a beautifully celebrated by the clergy, ministers and the Music Ministry.

Father Chung closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Charles Amuso – May 17, 2026