

October 12, 2026 Minutes

Members Present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Zach, Deacon Ron, Lisa Codo, Barbara Judge, Martha Kozub, Jim Lesniak, Alice Lewinski, Mike Morley, Bob Solorio, Connie Solorio, Matt Wieser

Fr. Marty opened the meeting by reading an excerpt from St. Fulgentius's Treatise Against Fabianus, a longtime favorite passage among certain meeting participants. An opening prayer followed, as did a formal welcome to Fr. Zach Glick, who was attending his first council meeting since becoming associate pastor on July 1. Those present also commended Fr. Zach for finishing the Chicago Marathon in 2 hours 59 minutes the previous day.

The Parish Pastoral Council had a fruitful retreat on September 11 and 12. A portion of the retreat was spent discerning for the roles of chair, vice-chair and commission liaisons for the 2026-2027 council year. The results of that discernment are as follows:

Chair: Bob Solorio

Vice Chair: Mike Morley

Education and Formation Commission Liaisons: Barbara Judge and Jim Lesniak

Parish Life Commission Liaisons: Lisa Codo and Connie Solorio

Peace and Social Justice Commission Liaisons: Joan Bullock and Martha Kozub

Spirituality and Worship Commission Liaisons: Linda Kinzer and Alice Lewinski

Stewardship Commission Liaisons: Theresa Kowalczyk and Matt Wieser

Council Member At-Large: Mick Adamson

The council's other major event of September was the parish's Feast Day celebration on September 26-27. Mike compiled a list of tasks that needed to be accomplished on certain days and times to ensure the event runs smoothly, and Alice reported on this year's event and what changes could be made to ensure the 2027 Feast Day weekend is even better. Those changes will be given to Mike so that he can update the list of tasks and make it available to council members when planning for the 2027 event commences. It was reported that more people signed up to join or renew their places in ministries this year than in previous years. Everyone who signed up or renewed at the ministry fair or by filling out a ministry card in the pews should be contacted by a ministry leader to ensure his or her participation in that ministry. Some of the people who signed up or renewed may also have the opportunity to grow into ministry leaders in the coming months and years. Bob also suggested that the Stewardship Commission expand its membership, and Fr. Marty shared his experiences of how groups of any size and mission can move forward as members come and go.

A major event for the parish in August was the one-day festival on August 8, and planning for the 2027 event will formally commence at a meeting on October 14. Bob distributed a description of the Parish Festival Committee's duties as well as responsibilities and traits needed in a new Festival Committee Coordinator. Bob is hopeful that new leaders will emerge at the October 14 meeting and those present shared in that hope.

On October 23 the parish will host a welcoming dinner for those people who became parishioners in 2026. Connie reported that 86 invitations were sent and that 6 or 7 couples are planning to attend. The Welcoming Committee is planning on having 3 dinners in 2027 and those present agreed that was a suitable number.

November will bring Conference 2026 to the parish on November 5-7, and Fr. Marty invited any liturgical minister to attend and experience renewal and training during the 40th anniversary event. The parish is considering an entry in Schererville's first-ever twilight holiday parade which will be held November 28 at 6 p.m. on Joliet Street in downtown Schererville. Fr. Marty believes that parishioners might be excited by the prospect of decorating a trolley car or other parish parade entry for Christmas, and people on the parish float may distribute hot chocolate packets and the parish's Christmas schedule to paraders.

While many of the events discussed at this meeting have specific dates and times, the parish is also focused on more long-range goals. Foremost among them is the ongoing GIFT campaign. To date the parish is approximately \$680,000 short of its goal, and those funds are desperately needed for construction of the parishioner service center. The parish has received a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. but more contributions are needed and the parish strongly prefers not to take out a loan from the diocese. Fr. Marty said that parishioners responded well to the opportunity to sponsor windows in that facility, and so he and other campaign leaders now plan to offer parishioners the opportunity to sponsor certain rooms in that facility. He plans to update parishioners by speaking about campaign progress at Mass in early 2027. Two events to be held this fall will help parish finances including the GIFT campaign. Music Ministry is having a gala event on October 16 to help defray the cost of instrument maintenance. The parish also will host its annual Grapes, Mash and Hops event on October 25. Fr. Marty will be part of an all-star cast of clergy who are hosting tasting rooms. Spirits will be provided by Lake Liquors and cuisine will be provided by Gamba Ristorante. It is hoped that 100+ people will attend. As funds continue to be raised, preliminary work on the parishioner service center project rolls on. Architects will be on site on October 16 to begin detailed planning that will take 10 months or so. After that Fr. Marty and building advisors will approach the Bishop and his Consultants for permission to begin the build. However, this timeline depends on closing the \$680,000 gap in pledges that are needed to finance the work. Once physical construction begins, it is estimated that the parishioner service center will take 12 months to build.

Near the end of the meeting, liaisons updated those present on their initial meetings with ministry leaders within their commissions. Fr. Marty reported that the parish's web site will get a new look in the coming months thanks to a partnership with a company specializing in web sites for Catholic parishes. Finally, those present were heartened to hear that Deacon Gary is working to secure a grant from Sacred Places Indiana which would be used to help defray the cost of restoring the grottos in the parish cemetery for their upcoming 100th anniversary.

Deacon Ron led a closing prayer and then the council adjourned until its next meeting on November 9 at 7 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms in St. Patrick's Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled for December 10, January 12, February 9, March 9, April 15, May 11 and June 18, with discernment sessions for new members slated for March 11 and March 18.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox