Saint John the Baptist –
Pastoral Outreach Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date:	Tues., Apr. 21, 2026, 6:30pm	**Recorder**	Socchie Fondevilla	**Chair:**	Nilo Asilo

Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Nilo Asilo (Chairman)	X	Ed Aylward	X
Mary Kohlhaas (Staff Liaison)	X	Jean Wagener	X
Fr. Derek Gilde (Staff)		Lynne Swalchick	X
Jeanne Koslowski		Jim Treat	
Socchie Fondevilla	X	Janice Treat	
Louie Fondevilla	X	Guest	
Brad Kadrie	X		

A. Opening Prayer: Ed

B. Tonight's Agenda of the Meeting (with added items) was approved.

1. The Minutes of March meeting was approved for submission to Joseph Huebl.

C. Commission Question: Where have you seen the power of the Lord this Easter season?

1. On Sunday, she attended her great-granddaughter's First Communion at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Medina. There were several Masses, five in total and the church was packed, with three lines during Communion. It felt like there were 2,000 children receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Her great-granddaughter looked beautiful in her white dress and white shoes. It was such a special and joyful moment. That experience truly felt like an encounter with the Lord.
2. During the past month there were sixteen converts to the church in SJB. This feels like the power of the Lord.
3. The power of the Lord is experienced by a Eucharistic minister's role of being a guide to one who has been away from the Church for more than 30 years then coming back slowly, first Communion through the Eucharistic service then going to Confession. The persistence helped to soften her heart.
4. The Anointing of the Sick was discussed as a sacrament for serious illness and healing, not just for end-of-life. Offered by a priest, in whom the power of the Lord is shown.
   - A recent pastoral visit showed the importance of encouraging the elderly to receive sacraments like confession and communion, meeting them where they are while gently guiding them.
   - The reflections on balancing approaches between youth ministry and elder care, noting the need for more intentional encouragement with seniors is important.
   - A specific case highlighted a positive spiritual breakthrough, giving hope that the person will continue growing in faith, with ongoing prayers for her journey.

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D. Pastoral Ministry Coordinator's Update:

1. **Anointing Mass Recap**
   a. Date: April 17th There were around 70 participants.

   b. Thanks to the volunteers who helped in the kitchen and with the tables signing people in.

   c. 21 quilts and 11 prayer shawls were given away. The Quilters and Prayer Shawl makers were all excited about that and we think the difference from last time was that Father Derek mentioned it at the announcements during the Anointing Mass.
2. The **Immaculate Conception** Parish Fund Raising- during the **Food Shelf** collection of Saint Vincent DePaul total was $10,900 plus.
3. **Medical Mission Update**: we have to stop this mission for now.
   a. Mayo Clinic wants their warehouse back. Some machines there are too expensive and must be kept out of public access, therefore, the mission of about 50-60 years is now finished.
   b. We are in the process of considering another place that can distribute our donations.
   c. Paul and Jody Metz are the ones who have taken this ministry on and always drive everything down to Rochester. Paul found a place in Fridley called **Global Health Ministries** which is Lutheran-based and happens to have a warehouse. Another place being considered is in Hutchinson. But their e-mail bounced back and we have not had a chance to follow up on that. One other place in mind is Peru for us to follow up.
4. **Rosaries Mission Update:** rosaries going to the detention centers on the border.
   a. There is a strong need for mission rosaries at detention centers on the border, where Jesuits minister provides spiritual care and distribute 100–150 rosaries weekly.
   b. CCW has agreed to pay the postage to send these rosaries down the border.
   c. The Legion of Mary is willing to supply materials for making rosaries.
   d. There is a need for volunteers to assemble them; outreach to youth and young adults has not yet received a response.

5. **Faith and Recovery Retreat**
   a. Date: May 16th; Venue: SJB; Coordinator: Chris Seiple; Mass: to be officiated by Archbishop Hebda with another priest, national chaplain for the Catholics in Recovery; the other group they work with is Calix.
   b. Chris has been working passionately to get this put together. He is hoping for 300 attendees.

6. **Hearing Aid Ministry**

a. Jan Beatty who is one of our Eucharistic Ministers goes to visit one homebound in New Brighton who could never hear anything. She asked Joe Sevick (from the Hearing Aid Ministry) if there were anything he would suggest helping.
b. Joe's wife had a headphone-type hearing unit with a long cord and with variable frequencies. This was assessed and worked best for Jan's client who loved it.
c. Joe came in today with the new unit that he had just ordered and received. Mary tested it and she found it was amazing. These units were incredibly clear and loud, and it was nice as it is best for somebody who is really having a challenging time hearing and their hearing aids are not working. It can be put over the hearing aids, or the hearing aids can be taken out and just use this.
d. They are about $250 a piece.
e. Possibilities of where to store them: in the cabinet down across from the Adoration Chapel. We should place them where the EM can easily get them on their visit; in a safe place where they can bring them back to return them. We should also make it available to the clerks. Another suggestion is the cabinet next to the lost and found cabinet. Lynne volunteered to clean it up.
f. Mary will send out an email to the Eucharistic Ministers and see if anybody else is having this issue. From here we will find out how many units we need to stock. Like one resident in Round Lake had a tough time hearing.

E. Old Business:

1. **Ministries Statistical Data Update-**

    a. In Q1 of 2026, the Food Shelf served about 150 households, with approximately 170 visits. Around 7,500 pounds of food were distributed during the quarter, about 2,500 pounds per month.
    b. This quarter's totals include a special event that added to the distribution numbers. Food is typically shared between Ralph Reeder and in-house distributions.
    c. Their new space is very well organized, clean, and thoughtfully managed. The team has about 30 volunteers (previously 36), and they do an excellent job of keeping everyone engaged without having too many people or too little work. With the new space, they were able to add an extra cabinet (now three instead of two), allowing them to store and display more food. Even though the space is small, it is used very efficiently and looks excellent.
    d. **ACTION ITEM:** If anyone else has statistical updates from their ministry, please pass them along to the POC Recorder

2. **Poverty Education - School Holy Week Retreat**
    a. Date: Wednesday, April 1st; Time: 9:00AM
    b. The students presented a lesson for the school kids on poverty and the ways that St. John's is helping with that. Missions and the Outreach Ministries which participated: The Food Shelf, Meals on Wheels, Kidz Closet, Sharing and Caring Hands, St. Vincent the Paul Society, and our

International Missions: Building Bridges Liberia and Mary's Meals. All of these would hopefully be there, so the kids can see the faces and the people who are involved with the ministries that directly impact poverty.

c. SJB students learned about poverty by meeting parish ministries and the people behind them, making the lessons more real and meaningful. They recognized these volunteers as "heroes," creating posters to connect faces with the work being done.
d. A walkathon (moved mostly indoors due to severe weather) reinforced their learning, with ministry members along the route encouraging them.
e. The experience was tied to the Road to Emmaus and Catholic social teaching, emphasizing putting faith into action through justice and mercy.
f. A follow-up idea emerged: have classes visit ministries like the Kidz Closet and Food Shelf, and involve older students in hands-on service, helping build long-term engagement and future volunteers.

3. SJB Mission

a. **South Sudan Mission**
   i. We have not heard from Jane, so we are not sure if they are still interested in being vetted.
b. **SJB Missions-** How many missions? As far as we remember, the Vetting Committee guidelines allowed only three Missions to operate in SJB at one time.
   i. Since we decided on NET and SPO are already approved by the archdiocese and since we have had enough experience with them, and they have been with us for long time now, Father Paul gave NET volunteer, Annaleigh Collins permission to have the table up in May for fundraising.
   ii. St. Paul Outreach (SPO) does similar work as NET Ministries. Instead of traveling 10 months of the year, they are assigned to Universities and Colleges. They meet people, build relationships, and invite them to grow in their Faith.

4. **POC Goals Update:**

a. **ACTION ITEM:** Updates will be presented to POC's at June's meeting.
b. last update was during the first quarter.
c. **ACTION ITEM:** Let the Recorder know if you have some items to be added.

F. New Business

1. **Community Support Center Luncheon**

a. Date: April 30th. **ACTION ITEM:** RSVP to Saint Vincent DePaul by the 24th of April
b. Venue: North Church, Mounds View at 11:30AM.

c. It is worth joining this lunch to learn a lot about the ministry, what they do and the reason SJB supports them financially with other churches.
d. Saint Vincent DePaul does vetting and some emergency support for those who need it. When clients need training in finances, parenting, budgeting, job training, etc., CSC takes over and walks alongside the client for a time.

2. **St. Vincent de Paul's Clothing Drive** coming up on
    a. Date: Saturday, May 2nd. **ACTION ITEM:** start going through your closets now.
3. **Respect Life** on **Mother's Day**
    a. Date: Sunday, May 10th will be selling flowers again on the St. Paul's Plaza.
4. **Night of Gratitude-**
    a. Date: Wednesday, May 13th; 6-8PM.
    b. **ACTION ITEM:** RSVP
    c. If anybody has been missing, which is certainly a possibility, please invite them and let POC know.
    d. We have people in several different ministries, and we have sent reminders to MANY volunteers.
    e. Venue is Saint Joseph's Hall. We may we will spill out into the St. Paul's Plaza.
    f. Waiting for the Saint Vincent DePaul list of volunteers.
5. **Father Derek's moving**
    a. **ACTION ITEM:** pray, pray, and pray for him and pray for the next Priest we are getting.
    b. His last day with us is June 24th. He will be the next Vicar of St. Hubert Chuch in Chanhassen on July 1st.
6. **Mary's Meals update**
    a. Mary's Meals is not doing a fundraising dinner this year. The organizers need to take a break.
    b. We have a couple of other fundraisers instead:
        i. Date: Monday, June 22nd dinner at Mac's Diner in North Saint Paul, they'll give you 30% off which goes to Mary's Meals if you provide receipts, so we need to make sure we get the flyers out. They have a patio in case of clear weather. Last year we had a storm rolling in and we still did well. Please add pleasant weather to your prayers.
        ii. Date: Sunday, August 23rd in the afternoon, a concert at Mancini's Char House for a couple of hours. If people want to stay for dinner that night, they can as well.
7. **Healing Wounded Heart Update**
    a. In the meeting, answers to these questions are nailed down: What do you really want this ministry to be? How are we going to do this?
    b. Brad Baker, a trauma therapist is willing to work with them to figure out a little bit more about the ministry and how to establish that human reference that they wanted to be- a support

ministry for people who have gone through trauma whether that they were abused or that they are post abortive or whatever trauma means to you

8. **Divine Mercy Cenacle at the Cathedral**
   a. The Coordinators of the DMC are interested to know about our Divine Mercy Prayer Team for the dying, they are interested in collaborating with us and forming a similar one at the Cathedral.
   b. **ACTION ITEM:** talk to Jean who had that concept and has really been the coordinator.
9. **Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office Spring Conference**
   a. Date: April 25th ; Time: 8:30AM
   b. Venue: Mary Mother of the Church
   c. Mass: Father Jim Perkel
   d. Topic: 'Sent by the Spirit'- with talks on "The Sacred Fire of the Temple Altar" the Scripture (Jesus comes to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire), and "St. Elena Guerra: Apostle of Pentecost"
   e. The speaker is going to be Dr. Mark Giszczak, the same one who was here for our Parish Mission
   f. **ACTION ITEM:** RSVP to join.

10. **Our Lady of Guadalupe** pilgrim statue
    a. Date: Thursday, April 23rd – 26th at the Cathedral
    b. It has been traveling for the upcoming 5000-year anniversary of her appearance to Juan Diego. Beautiful that it is also during America's 250th birthday. After all she is the Patroness of the Americas.
    c. There are all kinds of things coming up to celebrate the 250th birthday of America: the bishops are asking that we dedicate America to the Sacred Heart
    d. The Eucharistic Revival Congress is doing a pilgrimage along the Eastern Coast covering the 13 colonies.
    e. They are doing some new Eucharistic events and all kinds of celebrations that are religious in nature to commit America back to the Lord.

Three Items for PLC:

1. Recovery and Faith Retreat
2. The Night of Gratitude
3. Medical Mission is on hold for now as we look for a new place to donate.

Closing prayer: Louie

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Next Meeting: May 19
2025-2026 PLC_POC Meeting Dates: Jun 16

Minutes recorded by:
Socchie Fondevilla

Minutes approved by:
Nilo Asilo - POC Chairman