

Saint John the Baptist – Pastoral Outreach Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date:	Tues., Dec. 10, 2024, 6:30pm	Recorder	Socchie Fondevilla	Chair:	Marie Zimmerman
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Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Louie Fondevilla	X	Marie Zimmerman	X
Socchie Fondevilla	X	Carolyn Brandt	X
Mary Kohlhaas (Staff Liaison)	X	Jeannie Koslowski	
Joni Metz	X	Nilo Asio	X
Cheryl Puffer	X	Father Derek Gilde (Staff)	
Michael Gonzalez (PLC- Guest)	X		

A. Opening Prayer: Mary

B. Tonight’s Agenda and November 19 POC Minutes of the Meeting were approved.

C. PLC Question - How do you keep Christ in Christmas?

POC members had put up their Nativity at home. They also had started Advent with the lighting of their home wreaths and praying with family members.

D. Our guest, Michael Gonzalez, was introduced to each of the POC member and the Ministries they are assigned.

E. Pastoral Ministry Coordinator Update:

1. Young at Heart Events

- a. **Mercy Reins-** Four of us went to the [Mercy Reins Ranch](#) last chilly Sunday, Dec 1 evening, in Stillwater, to watch a beautiful live Nativity with music. We stopped at Mac’s Diner in North St. Paul for dinner.
- b. **Advent Party** will be on Saturday, Dec 14 at 1:00-3:30PM at the St. Joseph Hall. To bring a white elephant gift to exchange, an appetizer or dessert to share, and a friend to join the party.
- c. **Advent Small Group-** Mary is holding a small group since December 5, ending in January; on Thursdays at 2:00-4:00PM with originally 7-8 women who comes to a monthly Young at Heart meetings. Their topic: [‘Angels and the Supernatural’](#). In this series, the small group receives 21 lessons. Each lesson consists of a 4–8-minute video from Fr. Kauth and an article from the Good Catholic staff. Each lesson ends with an audio St. Michael Chaplet.

2. Curanotis

- a. The developers are very helpful in making changes to the application to address our Pastoral Care’s needs in monitoring EM volunteers and those we serve.
- b. We have two POC volunteers who have already entered data of visits and clients.

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- c. St. Vincent de Paul shows interest and is sending a member to discuss possibility of using it to transfer their current worksheets of activities, such as client visits.

3- The Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- a. The pilgrimage was last Sat., Dec 7. More than 120 people rode three buses which drove the 2.5 hours travel to La crosse, WI. On arrival, some of us walked up to the Shrine on the hill. During the Mass, the Norbertine priest, who was facing the same direction as the people, said this rite is called [ad orientem](#) (literally, "towards the east"). Holy Communion was received kneeling and on the tongue. Ruben gave the pilgrims an extensive sitting tour of the Shrine's interior after lunch and fellowship. There was time for Adoration and first Saturday Confession. Coming downhill on foot (instead of the golfcart ride), then stopping in the beautiful Votive Candles Chapel was so calming, despite the cold weather.
- b. Future Pilgrimages- POC plans to get financial resources in the form of endowments. The list of pilgrimage places will have to be prepared to accomplish this.

F. Old Business:

Greg Beyer, Chair of PLC asked the Executive Leadership Team during their December 3 meeting about the following Items discussed on POC's November 19 meeting:

1. **Review of the Commissions By-laws and Constitution-** should be done every six years (this follows the pastoral cycle of the Parish). Target year: 2027
 - a. Next year, in 2025, at the start of the new Commission year all commissions will be tasked with reviewing the by-laws and constitution and making any changes if necessary.
 - b. Beth Robertson will check on where the by-laws and constitutions are housed and forward to each commission. Documents will be available to them
2. **Parameters of whom SJB Vets or not Vet –**
 - a. **Re-vetting the international Missions:** POC plans to submit the re-vetting notices of current International Missions, Mary's Meals and Bridging Liberia in January. Submission of each Mission's information is at the end of February (a month after)
 - b. **These organizations are Archdiocesan- recognized programs:** Damascus, NET, SPO (St. Paul Outreach- singing group) and FOCUS. It has been decided that they should be vetted, although they are already universally accepted. If we decide not to vet, we can request the Archdiocese on the organization's documents. Mary is going to check with the Archdiocese before we took any action on these organizations.
 - c.

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- d. For youths who are parishioners asking for support on the missions they are carrying out, time is an element for consideration when deciding on whether to vet them.
- e. For questions and further inquiries on this matter, ask Beth Robertson.

3. 2025 Bulletin Shorts

MONTH	MINISTRY	COMMENTS
January	Faithfully Fit	Jean
February	Kidz Closet	Joni
March	Sharing & Caring Hands	Cheryl

4. Hygiene Bags Campaign Challenge

- a. In the January Commission meeting, we are going to challenge all commissions to bring as many hygiene bags as they can. Mary will print the list of bag’s contents.
- b. Bags will be dropped off the Sharing & Caring table at the February Commission meeting. POC members will be counting the bags coming in to determine the Commission which brought the greatest number of bags.
- c. After dinner we will announce the winning Commission.

5. 2024-2025 Year-End Statistics -

- a. The worksheet has been updated with the July-September numbers from the Food Shelf.
- b. **ACTION ITEMS:** Waiting for the rest of POC Ministries’ reports. St. Vincent de Paul was requested for its submission during their December meeting.

G. New Business:

- 1. **Review & update of the [2024-2025 POC Goals](#).**
 - a. **ACTION ITEMS:** Change the dates of start & completion.
- 2. **The 3rd-5th graders making cards for the Homebound-** Mary will email the details to the volunteers.
- 3. **Second remembrance service for Journeying through Grief-** To honor our deceased loved ones during the Christmas Holiday, a remembrance will be held on Thursday, December 19 at 7:00-9:00PM in the Chapel of the Angels. Bring a bit of memorabilia to share.
- 4. **Nursing Home Ministry-** Fr. Derek had started holding Anointing Masses & Confessions in the Nursing Home facilities. He plans to build a team, consisting of the facility staff and POC's Eucharistic Ministries for the homebound to assist him.
- 5. **Compassion Clinic –** Matt Farmer, an SJB Parishioner & a policeman does not give up on our participation in the Compassion Clinic. In the future, it is recommended to focus on eye and dental care and hand over the medical care to St. Mary’s Clinic, which regularly hold its free medical clinics on Tuesdays.
- 6. **KC’s coat give away to schools-** KC members to find out information details.

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- 7. **Infertility Ministry-** In January, a Parishioner couple will start a small group of those experiencing infertility in their married lives. They intend to meet on Monday's at 8:00-10:00PM in their residence. This new Ministry's faith sharing program includes communal prayers, sharing of experiences and resources and fellowship. The Ministry's goal is to foster relationships with other couples in order to build a community that they can turn to during the challenging times.
- 8. **SJB Hospitality-** POC will discuss with Teri the available dates.

H. Three+ items for PLC

- 1. Hygiene Bags Campaign Challenge (January & February)
- 2. Infertility Ministry
- 3. Nursing Home Ministry
- 4. Second remembrance service for Journeying through Grief

Closing prayer: Mary

Next Meeting: January 21

2024-2025 PLC_POC Meeting Dates: Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 22, May 20, June 10

<p>Minutes approved by: Marie Zimmerman- POC Chair</p>	<p>Minutes recorded by: Socchie Fondevilla</p>
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