

**Saint John the Baptist –
Pastoral Outreach Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Date:	Tues., Apr. 22, 2025, 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	X
Joni Metz	X	Nilo Asio	X
Cheryl Puffer	X	Father Derek Gilde (Staff)	
Vicky Wicks (PLC- Guest)	X		

A. Opening Prayer: Mary

B. Tonight’s Agenda of the Meeting was approved.

C. Pastoral Ministry Coordinator Update:

1. Curanotis and Senior Center Ministry

- a. We’re close to just putting Curanotis all out there, all users who have had their volunteer status vetted by Rita have been set up in the system.
- b. The Senior Center Ministry has been added to the application by the Administrator since we’ve been working so hard to get a team at each of the locations where Father Derek does off-site Masses at different Senior Centers
- c. We’re getting close to seeing how each Center might look different. We have a whole team that rotates each week when they go on for Communion Services. Some have the same team that goes several times. Some have a person as a backup because they’ve handled it themselves. They may all look different depending on what the needs are. Hopefully we can have all figured out by today, because we did not change a lot there but when a new person come on and she did not understand that we were not going to do a Mass every week; and that ended up on the Center’s calendar, then people would come and nobody showed up. It’s been going on for a couple of weeks back and forth. We will know in a couple of weeks whether we have straightened this out.
- d. The Divine Mercy group was added to the system.
- e. Start learning how the program operates

2. Prayer Shawls-

- a. The finished and blessed quilts and prayer shawls are available for distribution in totes in the Storeroom where any staff can take someone over there. So, when people come to get a prayer shawl or quilt, they get them from the same area. It’s also one area where the quilters can count up how many they made and were given away and that’s where we’ll know what the numbers are at the end of the year.

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- b. There is a check-in list and the sheets for signing prayer shawls out; we'll put them both in the same book. In the sign book is the date, the name of the person who picked it up, who you got them for and a note on how many you've taken.
- c. Today, Quilters Group said it has many more new quilts for our priests' blessings and later put in for the Villa volunteers to tie up the knots.
- d. This is a very interesting Ministry, the quilters do not sew the tops of the quilts. Some tops are donated, and some are assembled by volunteers who use fabric that has been donated. The quilters find materials for the underside and make them into quilts. The tops are always wide and varied and never the same pattern, never the same material and they just have so many tops to work on. And they have four quilts done a week, twice a month. So now we have a stock of six to go over at the Villa whenever they come over and pick them up. They are going to tie them for us- this is how they want to be involved in our Ministry. It's fun to see how these Ministries are growing and the work that they do.
- e. Recently we gave 3 quilts and 12 prayer shawls to the Chaplain that works in VA.
- f. We're planning to pull bigger ones for the Sharing and Caring Hands which asked for blankets. Quilts are of different sizes, majority of them are lap coats, depending on whatever materials they get.
- g. The Eucharistic Ministers are encouraged to take some for homebound and Nursing Home residents or individuals attending their services.
- h. They've set up a table at one of the Masses and about 24 quilts were given away. So, it's a very prolific group

3. Faith and Recovery Group – a 12-step program

- a. The group is currently implementing the 12-steps Program for recovery in coordination with the Catholics in Recovery (<https://catholicinrecovery.com/>) and the Calix Society (<https://www.calixsociety.org/>).
- b. The first of the monthly meetings was last Ash Wednesday, the 5th of March during which only one came.
- c. They're gaining interest on the group with an improvement on April's attendance.

4. Transportation for Senior Parishioners to/from Church or appointments. When POC receives a call for transportation assistance, we will give the callers these options for their consideration:

- 1) Mary did some research and made a phone call to '[Help at Your Door](#)', suggested by someone from Pastoral Council. The charge for a one-way trip is from \$12 (up to 15 minutes) to \$24; advance booking needs. This works good for an appointment but not where the person needing a ride just heard about now.
- 2) One doable she'd researched among the names of other transportation groups given to her is one that charges \$3- \$5 a trip, depending on the milage, for Seniors
- 3) If it's absolutely necessary and when those above options still do not work, like for more expensive rides a Senior will not be able to afford, then we'll have a contract with a taxi service, kind of a 'deep pocket' that we can pull if we need for somebody.

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D. Old Business:

1. SJB Vetting Process–

- a. **Re-vetting the international Missions:** Marie, Nilo & Carolyn are meeting on Monday to review their paperwork. They don't anticipate any problem so they should be finished on Monday, the 28th of April, and we'll let you know next month.

2. 2025 Bulletin Shorts

MONTH	MINISTRY	COMMENTS
May		

3. Website Updates-

- a. All are encouraged to look at the website.
- b. These Ministries need to be added:
 - i. Fertility
 - ii. Faithfully Fit
 - iii. Hearing Loss – the turntable for the assisted listening devices has been moved now besides Fr. Paul's confessional. They ended up putting the batteries for charging on the shelf of the ramp; chords run behind the confessional box to plug it in. We tried to put this change in location on Bulletin to let people know and Joe is going to make some signs to guide people where it is. He'd also mentioned that he'd like to use the old hearing aid with the devices for better listening experience.
- c. Some need updates on names:

NO.	OLD MINISTRY NAME	NEW MINISTRY NAME
1	Wounded Hearts	Healing Wounded Hearts
2	Ministry of Consolations	Journeying through Grief
3	Ministry of Accompaniment	Divine Mercy Prayer Team

- d. We did a big POC website update last time, this will be quite small compared with everything else. Everyone is encouraged to take a look to see what Mary might have missed and let her know of your recommended changes for this update.
- e. The POC ministries are listed in two places on the website.
 - i. Pastoral Outreach homepage: <https://stjohnnb.com/about-us/church-governance/pastoral-outreach-commission/>

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- ii. Community Outreach page: <https://stjohnnb.com/community-outreach/> , with Angel Tree and the Prayer Line (not POC's).

4. Divine Mercy Prayer Team Update

- a. The Ministry is kicking off. Fr. Derek has referred four clients, two of them, death was somewhat eminent. The group prays over the individuals who are in end-of-life situations and prays with their families.
- b. Two new people are interested in joining the group. So, they are looking forward to having a training session in May to bring them on board.
- c. They also leave St. John priests' business cards to take to people they visit.
- d. This Ministry was also added to the Curanotis. Jean loves this tool, and she has just added new people to the app. It's very sleek and easy to use system.
- e. We have the prayer booklets ordered.
- f. Father Derek uses the Magnificat and Companion to the Sick. Some had recommended the Book of Psalms, but people have to pick up verses that are appropriate for the situation. One other suggestion for prayer is St. Padre Pio's prayer after Communion, 'Stay with Me, Lord' (<https://padrepiodevotions.org/stay-with-me-lord/>). Vicky suggested Divine Mercy novena.
- g. The volunteers experienced the effect of singing to them. One client who had not spoken for a long time had started singing.
- h. Even on memory care people, one thing they can do is sing.

E. New Business

1. Ministry Appreciation Mass –

- a. This is the second time they are doing Night of Gratitude. It started with Audiom, then Mary May joined them with the Project Development Group to do a dinner in appreciation of volunteers. Last year, the janitorial, kitchen people and all the people Terie usually works with had their own thing.
- b. Mary thinks we will overwhelm the Volunteers Group if we, in POC bring to their Appreciation Night more than 20 volunteers. So, she does not really know how to go about it. In POC, some of our Ministries like St. Vincent de Paul has their own appreciation dinner at the end of the year. The Food Shelf has its own thing, so she thinks this might be something that needs to be researched more.
- c. We can decide if there's an Appreciation thing we can do with our volunteers because there's a lot of them and they do a ton of work. So, how can we say, 'thank you' and let them feel that they have not been left out.
 - i. A brunch
 - ii. A thank you note
- d. **ACTION ITEM:** Liaisons: check on which Ministries already have appreciation events for their volunteers
- e. **ACTION ITEM:** liaisons, ask your Ministries again for the listing of their volunteers with their contact information

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- f. Come up with some ideas for the POC volunteers' appreciation, and how we can pull something up. It does not have to be this spring, we can do it in the fall.
 - i. Respect Life
 - g. **ACTION ITEM:** Who are the volunteers already **E3** (Safety Environment Training, Code of Conduct, and Background Check) certified? Send message: that to comply with the Archdiocesan requirements if you're in contact with populations that are vulnerable, it's coming and will apply to most of our Ministries: *eq...* for Food Shelf, St. Vincent de Paul, Meals and Wheels, a new coordinator of Caregivers
 - h. Jessica on setting the boundaries for Vulnerability: *eq...* Intercessory Prayer Ministry everybody can walk in so, it's an open situation for an abuse case is unlikely
 - i. Mary gave them the whole list of Ministries, and she asked them to tell her who needs **E3** certification. We just have to air on the side of caution.
 - j. For Virtus Training as a boundaries training, Code of Conduct has to be signed, have the Background check completed, and most importantly you have to do the driver's information in the background check, because if you have to drive for anything or anyone for the Church, even if it's going to the grocery store, you have to have your driver's information in there. So, this is how much we ask everybody.
- 2. Stats –** Mary have sent out email to ask Ministries if they are keeping tag of their stats & accomplishments of their Ministries. Some Ministries like Able Fix It, Respect Life and Food Shelf had already sent their stat to the Recorder for consolidating in the Report for Father Paul. In the end we want them by the end of July, beginning of August. Father Paul puts all these numbers together by late August.
- a. **ACTION ITEM:** Marie suggested it would be good if we could get the stat from the previous quarters so we can have consolidated numbers by the end of July.
 - b. **ACTION ITEM:** Recorder must send the completed numbers to Mary.
- 3. Marketing Plan Document Requirements**
- a. This is on hold, at least for Mary, because she has enough to do and Father Paul agreed. It's on the backburner.
 - b. They are doing another phase of Marketing of the Parish. They want us to use a uniform advertisement flyer with the five official colors of the Parish: blue of the shield in the logo, white, gold accents, pale blue and pale gold as accent colors
 - c. Use the fonts in the logo for flyer fonts.
 - d. They've given us freedom or a wiggle room to use one other color distinctive to that Ministry. Like Devoted has the dusty rose in their promotion; a particular font 'small d'. Start with a blue & white line on it with the Parish logo.
- 4. Red Bird- Pregnancy & Infant Loss-**
- a. We have Growing through Loss, during the retreat night, where they have speakers and they break into groups according to loss for discussion sessions
 - b. Journeying through Loss is St. John's own Ministry meeting 3rd Thursday monthly for prayers & sharing

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- c. A young couple from St. Charles Borromeo, who lost a child, a stillbirth, would like to start a new Ministry for those who have experienced Pregnancy & Infant Loss. They have been attending SJB's Journeying through Loss since December, which they really liked a lot and appreciated the support they are getting from the group

Red bird ministry on infant loss

- Red Bird Ministries is a Catholic grief support ministry that offers compassionate support for families who have experienced the loss of a child.
- Founded by Kelly and Ryan Breaux, the ministry focuses on providing resources and support for those who have lost children of any age, including pregnancy loss, stillbirth, infant loss, child loss, adolescent loss, and adult child loss.
- They offer a variety of resources, including multimedia resources, pastoral services, healing boxes, local chapters for support, and an annual Mass and memorial wall.

- d. Mary is attending a meeting on Friday with other priests, to hear the story. She hopes that this ends up as a Diocesan Ministry- we can feed into it but we don't need to own it
- e. Dr. Abigail, the speaker at the Church of St. Paul, on Child Loss was in Mary's youth group. She learned a lot from this talk and there's a second one she recommends to the Respect Life. Parents who have lost a child are parents; just because the child is not here, they are not called parents anymore. So, do we recognize them on Mother's Day and on Father's Day? We need to be more sensitive to that and inclusive of that.
- f. She's going to recommend to the couple that they take a look at those teachings that would help with the training they're planning to put together.

5. Members' Updates

- a. Those not coming back to POC next year: Marie, Carolyn, Joni & Cheryl
- b. If you know anybody interested to join POC, please let Mary know.

6. Hospitality-

- a. POC will have three volunteers for the evening Mass on Saturday, May 10 (Joni, Cheryl & Marie)
- b. three for Mother's Day Sunday, May 11 and a volunteer to pick up the donuts on Saturday- Mary, Cheryl, Carolyn, Nilo, Louie & Socchie & Dorothy (EMHS)

7. PLC Question- What ways did you experience transformation this Lent?

- a. For our 4-Lenten Fridays small prayer group, we watched video series of Lent reflections of Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, attended the evening Masses, had fish & soup Friday dinners, and joined the Stations of the Cross
- b. Another small prayer group had so many of the ladies, find interests on how to stir the Holy Spirit in their lives, most importantly finding the grace of knowing the love of Jesus. We get this little handout for Lent, the brochure, reading them and spending time quietly and reflecting on the Book of John during this Easter season.
- c. She's not in a small group, went to most but find coming to Friday night's Stations of the Cross more spiritually enriching

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- d. Some went for the seven Church visits starting at St. Williams, which was beautifully decorated by Jay Hunstiger, Immaculate Conception, two closed Churches, St. Anne & St. Odilla, Basilica of St. Mary, St. Charles, and lastly St. John the Baptist.
- e. It's the third year for Jean and friends doing it. She called each of the Churches for their closing time on Holy Thursday evening before heading on.
- f. Mary took the Church information and direction off from Catholic Spirit, started at Church of St. Paul, St. Catherine in Ramsey, St. Stephen's in Anoka, Church of the Epiphany, lastly the Cathedral.
- g. Marie went to the 30-days 'Be Healed Retreat'
 - i. one of the speakers, Dr. Bob Schuchts, founder of JPII Healing Center and author of the book with the same title. He says that everyone has wounds. "What you believe about yourself in your heart becomes your identity, which in turn shapes everything in your life."
 - ii. Another amazing speaker was [Sis. Miriam Heidland, SOLT](#) said that 'wounds that are not transformed are transmitted'. She spoke daily during the retreat.
 - iii. It was a very good session. Several priests were available for confession; intercessory prayer ministry was also going on
 - iv. There were 900 people of all ages, even teenagers. We think it's for all women but there were lots of men there too. It was good to see a great mix of people.
 - v. They do this in Saint Paul once a year. This is where they get the most retreatants
 - vi. They talked about how the State is growing spiritually here
 - vii. There are people who say Saint Paul, this area is a green house for spirituality. We just don't have SPO and NET but we have so many ministries now, the Charismatic Renewal Ministry, Unbound Ministry and many more wonderful Ministries
 - viii. There is a Carlos Acutis documentary movie coming out at AMC Theater on the 27th -29th of April. About 10-12 SJB staff are going, and they are inviting others to join.
- h. Two buses of SJB parishes drove to Planned Parenthood prayer rally with Father Paul last Good Friday and joined hundreds of people in Minneapolis clinic. The Protestant Pastor interestingly mentioned our Blessed Mother in his prayer. Father Paul had a short reflection of that day's Gospel reading. There were just a handful of pro-abortion rallyist that day so there was less disturbance on our prayers, rosary and worship and praise songs for all affected by abortion.

F. Three+ items for PLC

- 1. Hospitality for May 10 and 11*
- 2. Transportation for Seniors
- 3. Divine Mercy Ministry
- 4. Prayer Shawls

Closing prayer: Mary prayed over Louie

Next Meeting: May 20

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2025 PLC_POC Meeting Dates: June 10

Minutes recorded by:
Socchie Fondevilla

Minutes approved by:
Marie Zimmerman- POC Chair