

Approved Pastoral Council Minutes for August 7, 2025, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Vision: To be a growing community that inspires all to follow Jesus with a spirit of inclusion, compassion and service.

Mission: We encourage all to deepen their relationship with Jesus through scripture, prayer, stewardship, and ministry to others.

Tag Line: Follow Jesus Serve Others.

Meeting Notes

Attending: Father Joy Thachil (Parish Priest), Michael Flaherty, (Trustee), John Plant (Parish Council Chair), Sue Switalski (Parish Associate), Jason Metz, Sharon Wrotecki, Paula Lucey, Dennis Sobush, Dave Chudy, Rachel Henderson, Jim Schutte, Dave Knoll, Ellen Park

Excused: Fidel Mangwiza, Anne Dettlaff, Mickey Holtz, Chase Stubley, Rita McGann, Dan Ryan

Absent: Jerry Huber

John opened the meeting, followed by Bible readings; Council members shared experiences relevant to the readings.

The Vision and Mission statements were read, as well as the tag line.

The minutes from the meeting on June 5 were approved.

Reports

Father Joy:

- Thanked all Funfest organizers, staff and volunteers for their efforts, culminating in what appears to be a successful Seton event (final tabulation not yet completed).
- The feast of the Assumption, a holy day of obligation, will be celebrated on Friday, August 15: Masses at 8 am and 6:30 pm.
- Bible Camp: almost 75 kids are participating; thanks to the organizers and volunteers.

Mike Flaherty:

- Net operating revenue (income less expenses, adjusted for Love One Another funds) for 6/30/2025 year-end expected: \$40,000-\$45,000; turned out to be \$125,000.
- Collections were 3.3% below the previous year's actual and approximately 4.0% below budget; all expense categories were favorable versus budget, offsetting the revenue deficit; savings were realized due to unfilled staff positions.
- Sponsorships are expected to be comparable to the last two years.

- Budgeted 6% for the archdiocesan assessment but were charged 5.5%; will increase to 6% next year.
- Holy Apostles subsidy decreased \$21,000 because we don't have as many children attending the school and an overcharge was corrected.

Sue Switalski:

- Youth Minister hiring update: have a candidate discerning now.
- All catechists are invited to attend a brainstorming session on Monday, August 11.
- Wine and beer fundraiser is scheduled on February 14, 2026.
- Need to promote stewardship in the parish.

Old Business

- ReConnect Ministry: visiting the elderly and others who cannot attend Mass; training for volunteers on August 13, 9-10:30 am; pamphlets will be ready to hand out; Paula wants to coordinate information and ideas with surrounding counties so we are prepared for visits, also correlating with Bereavement Ministry for parishioner information.
- Catechesis of Good Shepherd: Montessori-based instructional program, for 3 to 6-year-olds, beginning next year. Seton Hall side rooms will be updated to accommodate classes; some funding provided by Love One Another funds; volunteers already constructing materials, making this an intergenerational program.
- Catechetical Conference, August 21-23; need to register by August 15 at Evangelization and Catechesis: clausena@archmil.org.

New Business

- John noted new Council members Dave Knoll, Fidel Mangwiza and Ellen Park; Jason Metz will remain on the Council; Jerry Huber and Dennis Sobush will be leaving.
- Next month, new members will meet in the Sanctuary at 5:45 pm on September 11, to be joined by all Council members to elect officers.
- September 27 is a Day of Reflection from 9 am-3 pm; day of spiritual renewal and leadership development led by Father Tom Sweetser.
- Comments on Funfest were shared, again thanking all parishioners for making it a success, experiencing personal conversations with attendees and confirming that the Spirit of Seton shines brightly.

Council members joined in Prayers for Others; Father Joy led members in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm; the next meeting is on Thursday, September 11, 2025.