

Saint George's Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2026

Present: Donna Yatcko, Fran Wainer, Father Dillon, George Goulet, Maria Hacker, Regina Beausejour, Val Campanelli, Yolande Eldridge, Debra Falvey, Noreen Wolleben, Mikayla Scalici, Jody Fay

Absent: Bob Keiser, Maggie Bruno

The meeting began at 11:43 am with an opening prayer from Father Dillon. Minutes approved with minor revisions. January meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Father Dillon: Christmas was very successful and church very full. The 4 pm mass had standing room only.

OCIA is held in the parish every Easter Vigil. Fran, Father Dillon, Deacon Stephen and Donna will be there. Confirmation is at the Cathedral.

Now we are preparing for Lent. Yolande sent out a Pope Leo message that Lent is not about giving up food. It is more than that. The Pope is – fasting from complaints, expressing gratitude. The point of Lent is to turn away from things that keep you from Christ.

Father is going to include suggestions for Lent in the bulletin.

Father suggested reading Vatican News, which is online.

This year's St. Joseph Medal is being awarded to Allyn Temple who is very involved with the Knights of Columbus.

Fran: The columbarium is completed and there is a waiting list. We will be having a prayer service and a blessing prior to any internments, per Father. This will be after Easter. Once there's a date, it will be in the bulletin.

The bricks for walkway have been ordered as well.

The Appalachian trip has been scheduled for June 18th to June 26th, 2026. The trip will include members of St. John Bosco, St. Margaret and St. George.

Youth Representative Report - Mikayla: The ministry held Taco night to raise money at the retreat at incarnation center in Deep River.

It has been difficult to get participants from St. George to participate in peer ministry. Only five showed up and there were a lot of no shows.

The upcoming retreat is for two nights. 9th graders on the first night and 10th graders on the 2nd night. There is concern that some are Peer Ministry solely using as a resume piece. There is a requirement to attend at least two meetings.

There is adult leadership with Jenny Smith who works with St. John Bosco. Maria volunteered to help and she and Mikayla will connect to foster more St. George Peer Ministry participation. The next retreat is February 27th through February 28th.

Faith Formation – Donna: The St. Carlos Exhibit is scheduled for April 17th, 18th and 19th 2026. It will be open until 9 pm on Friday; open all day Saturday and Sunday. A presentation on the Bishop of the Forgotten Tabernacle will be part of the exhibit. We need adult volunteers to set up and to monitor the exhibit. This can qualify as service hours for Confirmation Candidates. Need council volunteers as well. Kindly let Donna know.

Regarding the youth ministry lead, there was a meeting with Father Dillon, Father Lerner and Father McClaren, and three Directors of Faith Formation for the three parishes and we are in the process of creating a job description and will begin interviewing for the position to connect the youth ministry and engage them more effectively.

The archdiocese has put together a Tool Kit for Discipleship to help the parishes create Faith Formation programs with a focus on helping the children learn about and become disciples, while helping the parish to accept our young disciples.

There will be three training dates that Father and Donna will participate in.

The Faith Formation Program will be moving to a Family Model. This format has parents and children attending classes together and empowering parents to teach their children about our faith.

Vacation Bible Camp is going to be July 6th through July 10th, and the theme is "Vacation Bible Experience". The program is called "Come to the Table" and is about the Eucharist and they will be working St. Carlo Acutis into the program.

There will be a Lenten Family Event on what the families want to work on for Lent.

There was a vocations panel a couple of weeks ago comprised of two priests and three sisters. Questions that were submitted were very thoughtful. We will repeat this.

4/25-Confirmation

3/8-Confirmation Retreat

3/14 -First Holy Communion retreat

1st Communion-4/26 and 5/3.

This year we have three adult baptisms, 16 first communions and 12 to be confirmed in a combined OCIA program at the Easter Vigil.

Electronic church schedules - Maria: Maria gave a video demonstration about the application. Fran stated that the parish did investigate it some years ago but there was some concern for older parishioners in terms of navigating the application. Donna loves the application and used it at her former parish. The reminders are via email or texts, and the schedules can be printed out. The base rate is \$50 per month and extra is \$65 per month. Father and Fran will research it and get back to everyone.

Yolande/Deb: The online store for swag is OPEN and ready for orders. An anonymous donor bought ten shirts for the children's choir on 2/16. Adult orders start online on 2/16 and sales are ongoing. April 23rd is St. George Day, and we will consider, with Father's permission, to have a group photo with St. George logo shirts.

The **revised by-laws (copy attached)** were circulated to all and voted upon. All were in favor of the changes. Fran will upload the revised by-laws to the website. We are in the process of getting a new website per the archdiocese.

There are at least three vacancies on the council. Fran requested the pins back from those no longer serving on the council. Father again requested nominations from the council to fill the vacancies.

New Business: George is speaking with Gary from Fun Bus regarding a Boston Red Sox game. Right now, just in the planning stages. More to follow.

Father reported that remediation was completed in the Sullivan Center. No mold.

Yolande stated that Bob Keiser will handle the water for graduation.

Jody asked that we read "No Paved Road to Freedom" for the next book event. It is a book about her friend's father Cornel Delano who immigrated/escaped from communist Romania. He came to North Branford with the help of a Baptist Church. Cornel Delano, Jr. lives in Clinton and has volunteered to participate with the Q & A portion of the event. Yolande is going to read the book and get back to everyone.

Motion to adjourn – all approved.

Closing prayer by Father at 12:48 pm

Our Next Meeting is March 22, 2026, after 10:30 am mass.