



St. Mary of the Assumption - Hill Campus | Our Lady of Pompeii Campus | St. Martha Campus | St. James Church
St. Philip the Apostle

MINUTES
BDCL FAMILY COUNCIL
October 7, 2026 – 6:30 PM
OLP Campus

In Attendance: *Fr. Rich, Charlene Mahony, Fr. Bart, Heidi Rembecki, Norma Hess, Deacon John, Fr. Paul, Fr. George, Joe Acquino, Anne Pomaski*

Excused: *Annette Wargo, Michelle Knoop, Christina Pietrantonio, Ryan Panfil, Jim Dzekian*

1. **Opening Prayer:** Deacon John

2. **Review of September 3, 2026, Minutes:** Motion by Joe to accept as presented. 2nd by Heidi. Carried unanimously.

3. **Ongoing Business:**

a. **Pillar Updates:**

a. **Liturgy:** *Michelle:* read by Charlene:

i. Instead of an Advent food drive, we decided to hold the drive before Thanksgiving, so donations are available for both holidays. This will be a family event, and the donations will remain with the respective parishes/worship sites for use according to their individual needs. The drive will run from October 24th through November 8th.

1. St. Martha Pantry will take excess food from any pantry that would like to donate.

ii. Fr. Rich: Committee continues to work on the Funeral Book along with the Liturgy committee

b. **Spiritual:** *Joe:* Barb Weir, Sue Kucewicz, and Sr. Joyce are all willing to help. Would like to meet with Fr. Rich and Fr. Bart to create a calendar of Spiritual events, such as Lenten Retreats, Bible studies, the Women's book club, special devotions, etc.

c. **Forming Disciples:** *Christina:* read by Charlene:

i. **Need help promoting the Youth Program.** Jes Damian has an events schedule and three teens on her ministry team who help organize events. See attached for details.



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- ii. **The Junior Ladies of Charity** girls' service ministry (ages 6th grade through 12th) is seeking more members. It currently has 14 members, down from 35-40 pre-pandemic.
- iii. Michael Pawlowski is holding a **Community Night at St. Martha** on Wednesday, October 28th for ages 18-30. The event runs from 7- 9 p.m. in the gym and will include games, basketball, and snacks.
- iv. **Faith Formation** is off to a strong start, with approximately 450 kids currently registered within the Family.
- v. **God's Family** is always looking for volunteers to help with sessions. Class is held at St. Philip's on Saturdays from 1-2:30.
- vi. **OCIA** will start November 1st. Currently, we have 6 people interested. **Fr. Bart** is interested in helping, if available.
- vii. Will also start an **Adult Confirmation class** in February. Interest is already generated.
- viii. Next meeting is October 26th.
- d. **InReach/OutReach:** *Norma/Jim:* Committee met on October 6th, discussed the Young Adult Community Night (see details above). Jim Snyder et al. continue to work on the booklet of organizations/ministries.
 - i. **Unity Mass:** Sunday, October 25th after the 10:30 am Mass at St. Martha
 - 1. Invites have been emailed. **RSVP date is October 10th.**
 - 2. Promotion has been in the bulletin, on social media, and in announcements.
 - 3. St. Martha Gym is reserved and will be set up by St. Martha maintenance staff/volunteers.
 - 4. There will be a table for **kids' activities**; it will be staffed by DRE's and youth group students.
 - 5. Refreshments will be served. Ann P. has set money in the budget.
 - 6. The **theme color is Orange for Unity** and fits well with a Fall theme. Pillar members will decorate, etc.



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7. **MASS will be concelebrated.** Gifts will be presented as a show of unity. The homily will reflect on how the Eucharist truly unites us as a Family.
8. A **prayer card** will be ordered for distribution.

e. Stewardship: *Annette/Ryan:* by Fr. Bart: Met on October 1st.

i. Develop Yearly Planner: Would like to map out the current fundraisers across the Family to provide better promotion and participation and to consolidate or eliminate events in the event of duplication. Need a list of fundraisers from each Parish and Worship Site. If needed, Ryan has drafted a letter to mail to all ministries to inquire about these events. This will enable the committee to develop a Yearly Planner.

ii. Increased Offertory and/or New Capital Campaign: Fr. Bart suggested this be added as a focus for the next few months as the final phase of the Diocesan Bankruptcy is expected to be finalized by the end of the year. All in attendance agreed that this is important.

iii. Time/Talent Objectives of the Pillar Defined: Discussed a “stewardship drive” so parishioners can be made aware, to explain that service/volunteering can provide them with a sense of purpose and fulfillment. ***This can be done via homilies at weekend Masses and at the Family Unity Mass to specifically invite displaced, new, and “old” parishioners to serve. This ties in with the Ministry Fair planned for after the Unity Mass.***

iv. Next meeting 10/29/26

f. Administration: *Charlene/Heidi:* Met with Lauren, Jessica Spylman, Jennifer Gaglione, and Fr. Rich to discuss feedback since last meeting with Lauren.

i. Change in Bulletin: Children’s Coloring section will be removed but will be replaced with Coloring Sheets provided by the DRE’s, which will be placed at each church entrance. **Note:** This will allow for more information – photos to be posted in the Family Bulletin. Keep in mind that the bulletin is printed early in the week, so submit information early.

ii. Fr. Rich reiterated some of the feedback that he receives regarding the bulletin and that it should be standardized each week and/or have dedicated pages for each campus.



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***Fr. Rich also noted that Jim Snyder is working on a brochure/handout highlighting Ministry and Organization information. The brochure will address the uniqueness of each community.

iii. **BDCL Family Communication Team:** Discussed a proposal to restructure the existing communications responsibilities into a formal Family Communication Office. The intent is to streamline the current approach and create a more coordinated team effort, with each person having defined roles. Once the proposal is refined, it will be presented to the Family Council, and since the funding will be family-wide, it will need to go into the budget and be presented to the Family Finance Council, when that is in place.

b. **Business Manager Report:** *Anne:*

- a. *****Annual Reports** are due Nov 1st. Anne will present the Annual Reports of the four (4) St. Mary's Worship sites at the next Joint St. Mary's Finance Council.
- b. Letters are going out to remind a small number of parishioners that **checks must be payable to St. Mary's**.
- c. **The transition from WeShare to Vanco** has been successful, and only a few donors need to make the change. Anne is looking to take WeShare down soon.
- d. Sue Cole met with the funeral team at St. Martha last week, and the integration tweaks were successful!
- e. The next set of **offertory envelopes** will have new identifying numbers for PDS and will include uniform "Grounds – Maintenance" envelopes.

c. **Pastors' Report:** *Fr. Rich*

i. **Diocesan Updates:**

1. Vatican ruled on the Appeal presented by St. James. Agreed with the Bishop re merger/closing; the procurator can appeal; total cost is about \$6,000, and the next step is a review of the Vatican Dicastery's process, not of the appeal itself. Appeal must be filed within 20 days. The diocese pulled back on selling



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churches. Vatican did not agree with taking 80% of the St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta funds. Once the merger/appeal process is complete, SMTC will be assessed at the rate of St. Mary's (65% or 70%) and will allow for the funds to be integrated into St. Mary's

2. **Fr. Gene Ulrich:** has health problems and cannot drive for a year but does have a driver, so he would like to celebrate one Mass each month. Fr. Rich adjusted the Priest schedule accordingly.
3. **Road to Renewal:** “Beyond Renewal” is the next step, which prioritizes Evangelization and will focus on how to help support parishes. Bishop Mike plans to visit each family once every year.
- ii. **CVA/Bankruptcy Update:** Next major court date is October 15th.
- iii. **Diocesan School Update:** Full implementation is at bay for Diocesan School. Hoping it will be in effect for the 2027-2028 school year. Questions remain as to how it will be integrated and how schools will be funded. SME Principal Glenn Olejniczak will attend the November Family Council Meeting.
- iv. **Social Media/Communication Committee:** See Administrative Pillar report.
- d. **Other Ongoing Business:** None to report.
- e. **New Business:** None to report
4. **Closing Prayer:** Fr. George
5. **Motion to Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Heidi – 2nd by Norma – Carried unanimously @ 7:42 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2026

6:30 pm – OLP Campus