

# **Pax Christi Collaborative Finance Council Minutes June 18, 2025**

The June meeting of the Pax Christi finance committee was called to order at 7:05 PM by Father Philip Erickson. Those in attendance were Carol Holliger, Jeff Korfhage, Paul Moon, Judie Greiner, Bob Schroeder, Rick Reinert and Monty Reeves.

Father Philip went over some thoughts that he had as follows:

1, The finance committee has not functioned as a finance committee in the past (at least back to Father Dave or Father Chris), rather more like a parish council. It was brought to his attention by one of the committee members that there was surprise and shock at some of the things in the budget that Lisa brought up at the last meeting. How can any of the church's financials shock any of us? Are we not looking at the financials? Father needs to be able to trust us to keep up with the financial trends of the collaborative.

2, Father mentioned that Deacon Tim was discussing the old days and doughnut Sundays. This is the very kind of community building things that we need to be doing. No events, No community and the birth of individualism in the church.

3, Where are we on fundraising? Answer from all, we are in a holding pattern pending the settling of the flux in the charitable gaming commission issues. Currently no training even scheduled was the last thing we had heard.

4, The date for the closure of St. Therese will be on July 26. The Archbishop will celebrate the Mass on July 12. It has been suggested that we keep control of the buildings at St. T. until the end of August to get time to move things we want to keep out of the buildings. A 4 PM fast Mass will replace the 5:30 fast Mass at OMOS. No further Mass changes at the moment.

5, The discernment period for the re-aligning of the Archdiocese Parishes is starting. It was heavily discussed at the assembly. We could expect a 20% reduction in priests in part due to attrition and in part due to the possibility of foreign priests now serving possibly being deported by the current administration. If what happens here is like Atlanta a few years ago, up to 50% of the Parishes could possibly close.

6, All of this has caused Father to completely change the plans for preparation for discernment and preparing the Parishioners. We will now release the financial data though most of July. Archdiocese data on July 12, the next week financial data of the collaborative and then preach on the awareness of our financial issues that has led us to where we are now. In August we will have a collaborative-wide forum seeking input from the parishioners and discussion.

Bob Schroeder brought up this as a sort of theme suggestion “We should ask ourselves, why do we want to survive and not be closed?”

7, John Campbell sent a text complaining that the QR codes on the pews are tacky. Paul Moon commented that they are absolutely necessary in the modern way of funding and contributions and the whole point is to make them “in your face.” Judie Greiner suggested maybe just having them placed down a few inches would be better, or on the hymnal holders on the back of the pews.

Monty brought up the suggestion of a micro project / fundraising possibility and recruiting volunteers to do small projects at a time. Father agreed 100% that someone taking the reins and getting a grounds committee up and going would be wonderful! But he did caution that if you start to piece meal contributions to micro projects, rather than the general fund, you will see a trend where parishioners only contribute to their pet projects and not to the general fund, and this leads to the greater sin of individualism inside the community.

Father updated all about his ongoing health issues and was assured of prayer and support from the committee.

With nothing else coming before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by Paul Gary Moon