



Paulist Center Community Meeting #3

2025-2026 Pastoral Planning Process
March 8, 2026



Facilitator: Jonathan Lewis
Mission Strategy Officer, Paulist Fathers

Overview of the Day

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer
2. Update on the Pastoral Planning Process
3. Update on the Executive Director hiring process
4. Introduction of Strategic Anchors
5. Introduction of Pastoral Planning Priorities
6. Q/A



Opening Prayer



Brothers and sisters:

Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained access by faith
to this grace in which we stand,
and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

And hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

(Romans 5: 1-5)

Pastoral Planning Timeline



September:

- Two Zoom Community Leader Meetings
 - Evening of Reflection
 - Core Values discussion
- In-Person Community Meeting #1
 - Needs and Priorities Discussion

October:

- Paulist Fathers Pre-Assembly Meeting
- In-Person Community Meeting #2

November/December:

- Synthesis of community priorities
- Offsite staff planning day
- Community update on priorities and next steps

January/February

- Draft pastoral planning documents for community feedback
- Announce hiring of lay Executive Director

March

- Community Meeting #3
- Publish Executive Director Job Posting
- Update Pastoral Plan draft

April/May

- Interview and hire lay Executive Director
- Publish 2026 Pastoral Plan

Community Meeting #1



 PAULIST CENTER OPPORTUNITIES

MINISTRY AREAS:
COMMUNITY | EDUCATION | STEWARDSHIP | OUTREACH & EVANGELIZATION
SERVICE & JUSTICE | LEADERSHIP | PRAYER & LITURGY

EXAMPLE:
Ministry Area: Outreach/Evangelization
Opportunity: For couples that go through marriage preparation at the Paulist Center to have a reason to come back and join the community

1 Ministry Area: _____
Opportunity: _____

2 Ministry Area: _____
Opportunity: _____

3 Ministry Area: _____
Opportunity: _____



What are the 3 greatest opportunities for growth at the Paulist Center in the next 3 years?

Opportunities

- 224 opportunities collected (synthesized to a top 40)
- Original Responses by Ministry Area:
 - Outreach: 112
 - Prayer: 32
 - Education: 25
 - Community: 21
 - Service/Justice: 21
 - Leadership: 8
 - Evangelization: 3
 - Stewardship: 2



Community Meeting #2



- *Where do you believe the Spirit is most urgently calling us to invest our best energy in the next 3 years?"*
- *STOP → "What do we need to let go of or pause (programs may have reached natural completion, allow to focus resources on most-mission aligned)?"*
- *STRENGTHEN → "What is already good but needs investment to bear more fruit?"*

Executive Director Hiring Process



- Fr. John Ardis and Fr. Rick announced February 8th
- Job description will be posted this week!
- Goal is to have a candidate selected by May
- Hiring team includes:
 - Fr. René Constanza, Deborah Heimel, Barbara Miller, Fr. Rick Walsh, Jonathan Lewis
 - Includes interviews with pastoral staff, Pastoral Council Chair and Finance Council Chair

Board of Directors



- Currently the only oversight of the Director is the Paulist Presidential Board (NYC)
- Hiring a lay ED offers an opportunity to increase support and oversight
- Lay-majority Board will be established to provide annual reviews & make recommendations to the Presidential Board
- Board Bylaws are still being created but the Board will include the Pastoral Council Chair and Finance Council Chair

Renewed Paulist Fathers Commitment



- The new leadership model demonstrates a renewed commitment to the Paulist Center
- Paulist Fathers are also committing to greater responsibility for the property management of 5 Park Street
- There is a lot to be thankful and hopeful for!



2025-2026 Pastoral Planning Overview

Strategic Anchors

An **intentional** Catholic community where everyone is known & relationships grow

A **spiritual** community nourished by lifegiving prayer & liturgy

An **empowering** lay community that elevates the gifts of its members

A community that **forms and sends out disciples** to live their faith in daily life and work for justice

Priorities



Prayer & Liturgy

- Increase transformational prayer experiences at Masses & beyond
- Strengthen formation and support for ministry leaders
- Focus the weekend experience around radical hospitality



Community Life

- Strengthen community engagement through upgraded communication tools
- Cultivate a strong culture of belonging and relationship
- Expand the Center's reach through a strong & relational digital ministry



Outreach & Evangelization

- Support all members in living out their faith actively as disciples
- Strengthen external communications to support outreach & engagement
- Leverage the Center's downtown location for weekday events and outreach, including to young adults



Service & Justice

- Deepen formation in Catholic Social Teaching
- Commit to be a prophetic Catholic community in action and in witness
- Strengthen collaboration & partnerships for greater impact



Formation

- Reimagine & strengthen the family religious education program (FREPE)
- Expand faith formation opportunities
- Strengthen sacramental preparation & ongoing accompaniment



Stewardship

- Foster a strong culture of volunteerism & engagement
- Strengthen fundraising to support the Center's long-term sustainability
- Diversify revenue streams to support mission & sustainability



Leadership

- Develop an innovative lay-led model of leadership
- Strengthen collaboration with the Paulist Fathers
- Support & develop the pastoral staff team



Affirmation of 2011-2016 and 2020 Strategic Plans

- “Deepen relationships among current members”
- “Increase public awareness about the Paulist Center”
- “Provide on going education to foster well-prepared liturgical ministers”
- “Foster opportunities for non-Eucharistic liturgies”
- “Foster a more engaged relationship between the Paulist Center Community and the Paulists”
- “Strengthen the Family Religious Education Program (FREP)”
- “Provide programming in the areas of scriptural study, theology, Catholic Social Teaching and sacramental preparation”
- “Expand the education component of young adult ministry”
- “Celebrate and support members who are working for social justice and outreach in their daily lives”
- “Strengthen relationships with justice and service organizations as well as with other faith communities in greater Boston”



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What are Strategic Anchors?

- Clarify what the community is fundamentally about
- Provide continuity across leadership transitions
- Help evaluate which initiatives align with the mission
- Translate the spiritual vision of the community into strategic direction

How is the Paulist Center different from a parish?

Discussion

*Which of these
resonates most with
your own experience
of this community?
Why?*



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Discussion

As you reflect on the priorities listed:

What gives you hope for the future of the Paulist Center?





Questions and Answers

Jonathan Lewis
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Closing Prayer

Almighty and ever faithful God, You spoke your Word to the world in your Son, Jesus Christ, and commissioned St. Paul to bring your word to all nations and to the ends of the earth.

Your Spirit led Servant of God Isaac Hecker to proclaim your word in North America using tools of the modern age. We ask you to strengthen and renew all members of the Paulist Center community to live as missionaries in the line of St. Paul and Father Hecker.

May we burn with passion to give the Gospel a voice so that all may know the mystery of your love. May we follow the Lord Jesus with the zeal of St. Paul and Father Hecker as we carry on the mission of the Paulist Center.

In the power of your Holy Spirit, we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

