Pulse of the Parish
August

Parish Council Member	Summary
Mark	• **Collection Counters:** The laptop originally designated for them was instead given to another staff member in more dire need of a computer after hers died. More to come but still in the queue to receive one. • **Ushers:** Can still use more ushers, especially at the 4:30 PM and 11:00 AM masses • **Music Ministries (Cantors, Handbells, Choir and Praise and Worship Ensemble):** No needs requested from Parish Council. Several events coming up (well publicized already)The Parish choir will commence on September 14 at 11:00 a.m. Mass for the start of Eucharistic devotions. Contemporary Ensemble will begin its' regular schedule of singing at 11:00 a.m. Mass the following weekend. Musical Arts 2025/2026 series went public on August 19. The first event on Sunday, September 21 at 4:00 will be Astralis Chamber Ensemble presenting "Romantic Masterworks" for flute, cello and piano. •
Symon	• **Nothing to report**
Brian	•
Katy	•

Tom	• **St. Sebastian Garden (from Jennifer Sullivan):** **The produce garden next to Byrider is a collaborative effort between Good Samaritan hunger center, St Sebastian parish and school. Historically, the garden has produced up to 1,000 pounds of produce that Good Samaritan then distributes at its grocery distributions throughout the Akron area. I recently became the coordinator for the garden. It had fallen into a bit of a state so we had a garden work party from 9am to 8pm on Saturday August 16th. Good Samaritan provided donuts, lunch, snacks and drinks. We had 12 people come during the morning including 4 you people who were working on service hours for confirmation or school. An additional 3 people stopped by in the evening. We got a TON of clean up and wedding done. There is still a lot to do but it looks much better! I am hoping to hold four of these work parties a year. We also had a table at the school open house to sign up volunteers to help. Currently there is a text chain for immediate needs like watering but I am also creating an email list for monthly updates and volunteer opportunities. I have also been kicking around the idea of having a garden naming contest to increase awareness about the garden. I am hoping to start a garden club as an after school activity and encourage the teachers to continue to utilize the garden as a way to learn about where food comes from, how things grow, food insecurity, and social justice. I have talked with Karen Spangler about using some greenhouse space for seed starting also getting the school involved with that process.** • **Booster Club (from Tim Tober):** **We've got 240 kids participating in fall sports, terrier madness is friday night, we had a very healthy open house that saw new families ready to jump into the athletic programs, and we are pushing objectives, in collaboration with the business office, to include both private and corporate sponsorships to improve both our kids' experience in our gym and those that we host (i.e. new scorers' table, new scoreboard, new floor finish, etc.).** • **Archives (from Dave Redle):** **We continue to identify items and separate those that have been scanned from those not scanned. When we have completed this inventory task, and, we hope that investigators will have a reasonable idea of what is available and where it might be found, we are going to consider the need and propriety of completing digitization of the items. Volunteers have used personal scanners to scan roughly 2,000 items. I would guess that another 3,000 remain unscanned.** **As I'm sure you're aware, the final decision on whether to complete the scanning process and how to do it will come down to costs involved. I did speak with Ed Halamay regarding his services. Speaking generally, since he did not have a good handle on what our needs were, we discussed price ranges for his operation to scan items. We agreed that we need to get a better handle on what we need and what we are willing to pay before continuing negotiations.** **The room used to store the archives is a small area in the basement of the rectory. We have one file cabinet, a large investment cabinet (which actually has come in handy to store oversized items), and shelves along one wall. At some point, the**

	parish should consider better facilities, including methods of storage of items for their protection. **We had earlier asked for a dehumidifier (could be problematic because there are no drains in the room) in order to try to minimize damage to the items by the humidity. That problem has not been resolved.** **We meet every second, third and fourth Wednesday from 9:30 to 11 AM.** ● **Good Samaritan Hunger Center (from Michele Smith):** **No updates.** ● **Athletics (from Kevin Kindbom):** **Numbers are up, teams looking good. I'm looking for a "spiritual director" for the CYO program. Coordinating Mass, developing activities or methods of closer connecting the athletic programs to the Parish.**
Barb	● **Bible Study-** will begin a 10 week study on The Prophets, Messengers of God's Mercy, on Sep 8th. ● **Extraordinary Ministers-** three new EMs were added, with three more going for training next month. The last EM training in the Akron area will be held at Prince of Peace on Sept. 7th. Anyone interested, please contact Karen Bader for more information and registration. ● **Visiting Extraordinary Ministers-** Seminarian, Sean Homcy's help in getting the VEMs better organized was very much appreciated by Laura. The VEMs could benefit from training to ensure that everyone is 'on the same page' and doing things properly. Someone called Laura for contact information to get a ride to Mass, apparently because the word Visiting is in the name(?). Laura provided her updated contact information. ● **Mother of Sorrows-** since last month's report, four Mass Intentions (three at St. Paul's and one at St. Hilary's) have been scheduled for persons whose Funeral Masses were held at St. Sebastian. ● **Our Mother's Hands-** Sep/Oct Newsletter will be available this Saturday. Our Blessed Mother's Nativity will be celebrated Sep 7th (6th Annual). There will be medals and prayer cards for the canonization of Carlo and Pier Giorgio. Will host Donut Sunday with a Donut Hole Rosary; will leave ZHall by 12:30pm for the Marian Procession which will take a new route. OMH will meet at St. Paul's PAC on a semi-regular basis due to the basketball games in Byrider beginning Sep 20th. Holy Face presentation will be at St. Paul's on the 5th. The Vocation Crucifix Program will be going back to one week from the current two weeks; on-line sign ups for the VCP and for the Pilgrim Virgin Statue visitations (still two weeks) are planned. Working out details for the March 21, 2026 Women's Retreat (three speakers reserved; scheduling four confessors) ● **Sanctuary Society-** nothing to report. ● **St. Vincent de Paul Society-** the group now meets at the Elmdale property across from the church. It received an unexpected donation which should help solidify Fall finances. ● **West Side Catholic Couples-** the annual Fall Brunch will be held at the home of Dave and Kathleen Myers on Sept. 14th following 9am Mass. A study of Scott Hahn's, The Creed, will begin in October and go through May 2026. ● **ALPHA- t**en week program from Sep 10th to Nov 12th in ZHall. Team leaders had training last night; will have one more meeting regarding logistics next week. Jen Sullivan has created an on-line sign-up for the Alpha Night dinners, with the first three weeks already covered (assuming

	50 attendees at this point).
Andrew	● **Faith and Light: Annual picnic on Fri Aug 22nd and monthly meetings resume in September** ● **HASA: Upcoming events include Christ is Our Light, a back to school prayer service led by Fr. Marceli. Also a celebration of the new Saints Carlo and Pier with donuts/prayer cards/activity pages/decorations, and a new monthly Bible Study based on parent feedback that aligns with the middle school group in cooperation with Keith.** **Last Year was a record year for Read-a-thon bringing in 20k after fees. Turned right away into bringing in Technology speakers in February, gifting all the staff and teachers outerwear, bringing in Sal's gelato for field day, and cupcakes/prayer cards/decorations to generate excitement with the students for our new Pope Leo XIV.** **Concerns- Still don't have financials from last year(waiting on June), they are often given very late or not at all without follow up, which makes it difficult to budget in a timely manner.** **Pre Cana, All previous 'chairs' and volunteers have stepped down. In need of new volunteers for 2025/2026. Currently the ministry consists of the Langs and the Rothkopfs. If any faithful couples are looking for a mission with a one day commitment and two meetings leading up to the day please send contact info to Jill.** **Gratitude Ministry and Rectory Volunteers-All is well** **Peter Maurin-No update**
Carrie	● **School Choir:** nothing to report ● **JB:** Started the year with 106 students (capacity is 132). They still have openings in many grades, and would like to work with the community, so that they can have a better understanding of what we offer, and the students we serve. They have recently updated their outdoor space and created an outdoor learning center with picnic tables and umbrellas to allow classes to be outside and in a different environment. They are looking to get a greenhouse, and start a garden. They also are starting Girls on the Run for 3rd-6th graders, so if there are any St. Sebastian girls who would like to participate, it is after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. ● **Band:** Band numbers are good for this year. Band practice will begin next week (Sept. 2nd) ● **Youth Groups:** Running both middle school and high school groups. Each group will meet on alternating Sunday evenings in Byrider from 6:30-8 pm. ● **SAC:** Will meet in October. At the last meeting we went over Parent Pulse results. Working on improving transparency with family's financial responsibility and with drop-off and pick-up procedures which scored the lowest satisfactory levels on the survey ● **Principal Rohr:** Safety- always a top priority! Rohr has spoken with security officials, faculty, and staff to review our protocols. Every precaution is being taken to protect our students, staff, and community. Enrollment is very strong with over 400 students in day school and preschool combined. Four new teachers - Hannah Reese - 2nd grade, Alanna Data - 5th grade, Matt Powell - Technology, and Rachel O'Neill - lead 3 yr old preschool teacher. Welcome Back coffee - Sept. 2nd in courtyard, Parent night - Sept. 4th, Celebrity Bartending Night

	- Sept. 16th Received Ohio Governor's Thomas Edison Award for 7th year in a row. Spectacular is scheduled for April 25, 2026 - Focus will be the playground. Still looking for co-chairs or committee members.
Shannon	● **Moms-of-Littles:** 20 families at last popsicles in the park. Sept 5th starts Friday meet-ups. All Saints Day Party on 11/1 at 10:30. Working on showing "The Star" for Advent. Hope to work with Marketing on a postcard for upcoming events. Mentioned that several names were missing from their first postcard mailing, and suggested a separate Google sheet to track the newly baptized. She offered to manage the list. ● **Women of St. Sebastian:** ● **Rectory Cooks:** ● **Lectors:** ● **St. Sebastian Prayer Warriors:** ●
Chris	● **Book Rack:** Seasonal booklets ordered. Invoice will be due when Advent booklets ship ● **Respect Life:** Life Chain first Sunday October (October 5th) after 11am mass. ● **Altar Server Training:** New servers received final training to begin weekend service ● **Baptism Class:** Nothing to report. ● **Catechist Formation:** PSR meeting this past Saturday. New 4th grade teacher. Looking for potential subs. Catechetical Sunday on September 21. A blessing of catechists will take place at 11:00 am Mass that day. ● **Donut Sunday:** Nothing currently needed ● **Gabriel Ministry:** The video system is working smoothly and quietly now that we changed the battery in the UPS (universal power supply). We were running short on technicians (college and parish choir poached a bunch of our young people) so we have shifted from two to a single tech running the Sunday 9 AM livestream. In doing so, no one is being overloaded. ● **Altar Server Scheduling:** New schedule has been distributed. We have 71 active servers on the roster. All 12 of the newbies have been trained and are checked out to serve weekends, so you'll see the really tiny guys at the altar beginning Saturday, September 6. ● **Children's Liturgy of the Word**: In process of being brought back
Tony	● **PSR-** No updates, sign ups start underway ● **Knights of Columbus-** Tim Sullivan is in the process of making new shelves for the Sacristy vault. Knights will be able to help bus the 6th graders to Camp Damascus this year. Sept. 28 is St. Sebastian Parish's day to volunteer at the St. Bernard soup kitchen. This is a volunteer opportunity for all parishioners, not just the Knights. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old, the time is 3:00 to about 6:30. Either in October or November the annual Fill the Crib campaign will take place. The annual 4th Degree Memorial Mass on November 9. They are looking to hold a membership drive in conjunction with either Fill the Crib or the Memorial Mass. If the Parish is open the Knights would like to provide some financial support towards the new misalettes that will arrive for the first Sunday of Advent. ● **ARCHE-** The Homeschool Group ARCHE will be having an Opening Mass this Friday with Father Marcelli. They starting their fall hikes. The group is working together toward completing the Fall Hiking Spree. ● **Homebound Ministry-** Are in conversation with the EM about providing more support to the Homebound program. We remain deeply thankful for all the work Sean, our intern, contributed over the summer.
Terry	●

	St. Sebastian, Pray for Us! 🙏