

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

### Finance Council Meeting

July 23, 2025

### Minutes

The Finance Council of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic parish met on Wednesday, 7/23/25, from 3:00 to 4:00 in the parish hall meeting room. The meeting was called to order by Alex and a quorum was established.

#### Council members present:

- Alex Gray (Chairman)
- Ed Quinnan (by telephone)
- Jack McAleer
- Jim Rice (Secretary)

#### *Ex-officio* members present:

- Fr. Jhonnatan Carmona
- Rebecca Bayless (Bookkeeper) (by telephone)

#### Council member absent:

- AB Introcaso

Fr. Jhonnatan read next Sunday's gospel by way of an opening prayer ["Ask and you shall receive . . ."]. Alex then stated that the principal purposes of the meeting were:

- (a) to fine tune a preliminary FY 2026 (beginning 9/1/25) budget (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the "draft preliminary budget") prepared by Rebecca in collaboration with Alex prior to its submission to the Diocese of Monterey on or before 7/31/25;
- (b) to discuss ways and means of securing and enhancing revenue from plate contributions, the Annual Ministry Appeal and miscellaneous fund raising opportunities; and
- (c) to discuss and approve replacement of the parish office door.

Alex walked the meeting through various of the accounts set forth in the draft preliminary budget with reference particularly to an Income Statement for the ten-month period ended 6/30/25, also prepared by Rebecca, explaining how the budgeted amount was arrived at and soliciting input from the other council members. Noteworthy was a proposed increase of \$5,000 from the preliminary amount for total plate collection, to \$180,500, and, after extensive discussion, concurrence around the amount of \$45,000 for AMA 2026, the same as provided in the draft

preliminary budget, for the AMA rebate. Copies of the draft preliminary budget as “tweaked” for submission to the diocese (and of the aforementioned income statement) will be included as a component of the full meeting binder.

The (slightly) revised budget to be submitted to the diocese shows a net loss of approximately \$10,000 which Alex characterized as “conservative” and likely be acceptable to the diocese. Attendees unanimously approved such budget and authorized Rebecca to submit it.

A lively discussion then ensued regarding how best to increase the parish’s cash flow. A promising device that Father and Alex thought could be implemented in coming weeks involves deploying to the pews a bar code that can be scanned on the spot resulting in a recurring donation or \$20 contribution via “donate by text.”. Also an AMA appeal that set aside in advance a portion of proceeds to a “building fund” for major capital improvements, such as a new ceiling and related infrastructure for the sanctuary, might encourage more parishioners to dig deeper. More work on that to be followed up in the near future.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, Alex and Father described the office door “as barely hanging from its hinges.” And Alex estimated the all-in cost of replacement with a residential quality door as approximately \$3,000 – a project and amount that were immediately approved by all attendees.

Attendees agreed that their next meeting would take place, probably via Zoom, sometime in late August, in time to approve a final submission of the F2026 budget to the diocese.

Then, after Fr. Jhonnatan led the council in the Lord’s Prayer [“The prayer that Jesus taught us.”], Alex thanked the attendees for their time and entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

/s/ James A. Rice  
James A. Rice, Secretary

July 25, 2025  
Date

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<sup>1</sup> That such a set aside would only decrease operating income and, thusly, increase the deficit, would perhaps encourage people to increase their plate contributions, the goal being that such should cover operating expenses.