

Come To The Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Held at Saint Nicholas Church, Belle River
May 17, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.

Present: Father Matthew Kuhn, Darcie Boogaard, Tonya Marthaler, Gary Haavig, Margaret Zidon, Sean Gay, Jerry Kostreba, Rita Winters, Mary Gorghuber, Janet Schiltgen, Randy Kinney, Jodi Rehovsky and Carol Gaffaney. Absent: Father Dave Petron, Todd Wentworth, Bob Kulzer, and Francie Peterson.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Agenda – Additions to the agenda were: State of the Parish report on June 5th and planning for the June meeting.

St. Mary's Elections for the ACC Pastoral Council Members – Jerry explained the process used at St. Mary's Church to elect two pastoral council members. After a 3-minute talk by the candidates, parishioners who were present voted on 15 nominated candidates. Josh Waltzing and Jake Mach received the highest number of votes and will become St. Mary's representatives and will join the ACC pastoral council in July. (They will be invited to attend the June meeting in an unofficial capacity.)

Also, in regard to pastoral council elections, we talked about a few problems that were encountered with the nominee list used for calling. It was noted that some nominees were listed (and alphabetized) by their first name instead of last name on the list so that spouse's names were separated. This resulted in two different council members calling one and not realizing the other spouse was on someone else's list. A clarification is also needed to know who would not be eligible to be a nominee (for example: the spouse of a staff member or current council member would not be eligible) and then to be sure to take their name(s) off the calling list before distributing them.

Pastors' Perspective

- Father Matthew said an allegation of past sexual misconduct has been made involving Reverend Arthur Hoppe. Because of that allegation, Bishop Kettler has scheduled two listening sessions for the people of the parishes in which Father Hoppe served. There will be a listening session at the Church of Saint Mary in Alexandria on Tuesday, May 24th at 6:30 in the Great Hall. A listening session will be held at Paynesville the same evening.
- Father has submitted a request to the Bishop to start the process of procuring a rectory for the Come to the Water ACC. He has attended/and/is scheduling meetings with each parish's Finance Council.
- The parochial vicar assigned to the Come to the Water ACC will begin work here on Wednesday, June 29th, and Father Matthew hopes to introduce him (if it works for the new vicar to attend) at a June 5th gathering for a State of the Parish report.
- Father and the new vicar will live in the Immaculate Conception Church rectory and will use the Alexandria house on occasion, when needed.
- Father noted that he will rotate presiding at masses every other weekend: a weekend in Alexandria and the next weekend in Belle River & Osakis.
- They are still reviewing the possibility of Todd Wentworth working with the staff of the Immaculate Conception and Saint Nicholas Churches.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

- The minutes of the April 26th meeting were approved prior to the meeting via email.

Todd Wentworth's News – Todd sent the following report via email:

- Saint Mary's School – Interviews are being held this week for a sixth-grade teacher position to begin this fall. K-6 projected enrollment is anticipated to be about 261 students this fall. Erin Takle, Music Coordinator, will be moving from part-time to full time (35 hours per week) beginning May 30th.
- Annual Financial Plan: The St. Mary's annual financial plan (budget) has been presented to and approved by the cemetery committee (their portion only) and the Human Resources Committee (parts pertaining to employees, compensation and benefits). Next Wednesday, Todd will present to the St. Mary's Finance Council.
- Audit – St. Mary's has been selected for an IRS audit of our Form 941x for 2020, quarter 2, that was filed for the Employee Retention Credit (ERC).
- Damage to St. Mary's from last week's storm was fairly minimal. Three doors were damaged and need repair and two small batches of shingles are either gone or loose from the steepest part of the church roof.

Bylaws

- Jerry reviewed the recommended changes to the Come to the Water ACC. They will be presented at the next meeting; at which time the ACC pastoral council will be asked to come to a consensus on the recommended changes.
- An additional suggestion was made to include information in the Bylaws or an Appendix to clarify who is not eligible to be considered as a candidate to the ACC pastoral council from St. Mary's Church. Randy and Carol will work with Todd to develop language. There may need to be an appendix for each parish with similar details.

Committee Reports

- Minutes of committee meetings were emailed to pastoral council members.
- Gary Haavig reported on the following maintenance needs at St. Nicholas Church:
 - Steps in front of the church (trip hazard) – this project is a priority
 - Tuckpointing by the handrails/stairs
 - Gap between storm windows and stain glass windows
 - Re-roof the steeple and roof
 - Lower chimneys about 4 feet and re-cap them (note: they are not being used)
 - Damage from last week's storm to a storm door

ACC Formation Day – Saturday, June 4th, 9:30-2:30 at St. John's University. This is for new and returning ACC pastoral council members.

State of the Parish Report – Father Matthew will give a State of the Parish report to the parishioners of St. Mary's Church on Sunday, June 5th.

Planning for June Meeting – Randy will check if the Knights of Columbus Hall in Alexandria is available for the June ACC meeting. The meeting, including a potluck meal, would start at 5:00 p.m., if possible. Assignments were made for people to bring appetizers, salads, main dishes, desserts, plates/utensils, etc.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 21st, 5:00 p.m. in Alexandria.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary