

**Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Saint Nicholas Church, Belle River**  
**September 20, 2022**

Present: Father Matthew Kuhn, Father Rick Aubol, Todd Wentworth, Jerry Kostreba, Mary Gorghuber, Randy Kinney, Bruce Pederson, Josh Waltzing, Jake Mach, Tonya Marthaler, Darcie Boogaard, Bob Kulzer, Gary Haavig, Francie Peterson. Absent: Margaret Zidon, Jodi Rehovsky, and Carol Gaffaney.

1. The meeting opened with the Ministry Meditation from the fall newsletter written by Father Matthew.

2. There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Under Todd's Topics, corrections to be made:

- Third Bullet: By next Monday, ~~Charter Communications~~ should have the new phone system at Saint Mary's campus in operation.
- Fourth Bullet: Saint Mary's School teachers will start working on August 22, preparing for students. The first day for students is ~~Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>~~. Tuesday, August 30.

Under Pastor's Perspective: Correct spelling of **Jordan** Cantalope to Read **Jordyn**

4. Featured Committee Report – Parish Life at St. Nicholas

The history of St. Nicholas Church was shared with a few interesting facts.

Gary & Margaret submitted a handout on the following ministries at St. Nicholas:

**\*Women of the Cloth:** Meet monthly to sew quilts for newly baptized (9 this year), confirmed students (5 this year), for Veterans, parish members and also non-members, with cancer (16 people). Chair: Connie Thesing

**\*St. Ann's Sodality:** Serve for hospitality for First Communicants, funeral lunch & bake sales. President: Lynne Steidl

**\*Youth Ministry:** Coordinator Tonya Beulke oversees Religious Ed for elementary and secondary students along with their parents. Including First communion and Confirmation. Key dates this year: First Reconciliation January 18, 2023; Confirmation March 5 at 2pm at St. Mary's; First Communion April 26 at 8:30 am

**\*Music Ministry:** Coordinator: Joyce Waldorf – no info provided on this ministry

\*Father shared St. Nicholas financial strategy: Church Lights to be replaced, roof to be fixed, parking lot for future project.

5. Todd's Topics

- Job openings at St. Mary's:
  - FT Custodian.** Tracy is leaving for a better opportunity
  - Faith Community Nurse-** Kathy retiring at the end of the year
- New Phone system is in and working well.
- Stewardship Fair, Commitment Sunday this weekend at St. Mary's Sept. 24/25
- Finance committee meeting Wednesday, September 21. St. Mary's is below budget in giving. Todd investigated and observed the way people are giving has changed over the years, some giving online, some giving has not increased for years, others giving one time (DAF) & attendance has declined. Suggestion made to reach out to those that have an online account to communicate praying about an increase in sacrificial giving.
- Increase to budget was 5% for this FY.

- Due to the cost of building, the search to build a rectory, larger school kitchen, and increasing school to pre-school, 7 & 8 grade classes, is on hold until a future time.

#### 6. Pastors' Perspective

- Giving is a mindset, not just 'giving' – on avg. – St. Mary's is \$60K below budget thru August and estimated \$80k thru September.
- After reaching 80-85% of pre-pandemic attendance levels, we are dropping down to 70-75% - People are not coming back/leaving for multiple reasons.
- Father posed the question of 'What can we do to invite people back?'  
Many comments:
  - a) The ACC Pastoral Council can help with inviting members back and attempt to curb any negative conversations.
  - b) What about a donate button in the online masses. Online mass is "watching mass" NOT participating in mass. There is a purpose for online mass, for those that are homebound or sick.
  - c) "Other" churches are doing many events, fun events and kids are getting invited to other churches to participate.
  - d) Todd suggested to contact the people that did not pick up their envelopes from the community block party. Have a cup of coffee and conversation. Much can be learned by this!
  - e) Stakeholders vs: shareholders... a stakeholder says 'I need this!' A shareholder says 'what's in it for me?'
  - f) Frustration over music liturgy, timing of weekly reminders, too much for the captains of ushers/hospitality to take care of. Suggestion that it is time to get organized to have specific greeters, ushers, and people to serve at the hospitality desk.
  - g) Adoration – maybe bring back gatherings where a parishioner shares how adoration has changed their life.
  - h) There will be an overall push from now until Christmas for stewardship.
- We have three healthy parish communities - these little parishes are very strong! Small healthy communities.
- At the Diocesan Stewardship Day, the comment was made; there are some priests in the diocese that are very fatigued.
- Jerry said we are very grateful to our pastors for their patience and perseverance in working to develop our Area Catholic Community as well the Stewardship way of life.

#### 7. Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- National Relic Tour of Eucharistic Saints at St. Mary's, Friday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- National Eucharistic Revival Regional Ministry Gathering – Oct. 5 at Our Lady of Victory, Fergus Falls
- **ACC Joint Pastoral Council Formation Day – Saturday, October 15 – 9:30 am – 2:30 pm at Saint John's Abbey – ALL Pastoral Council members from around the diocese are invited to attend.**
- Next ACC Pastoral Council meeting - Tuesday, October 18 - 6:30 pm at Immaculate Conception Church

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer.

Mary Gorghuber  
Recording Secretary in the absence of Carol