

Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Saint Mary's Church, Alexandria
March 21, 2023

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

1. Opening prayer.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – The minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting were approved with one clarification, as follows in #5, 4th bullet under ‘Thoughts were Shared:’ “Discussion on ways to welcome new parishioners: Combining the KC Breakfast at Immaculate Conception Church with welcoming new members.”
3. Agenda Additions – Liturgy Committee report from Mary Gorghuber and Board of Education report from Josh Waltzing.
4. Liturgy Committee – Mary reported that St. Mary's Liturgy Committee has been working on details for sign-up and the general order of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services. Margaret Zidon said they are scheduling a planning meeting at St. Nicholas Church to work on ideas for ‘welcoming new parishioners.’
5. St. Mary's Board of Education – Josh Waltzing said the Board of Education has been discussing kindergarten registration. There are 40 students registered for kindergarten for fall 2023. Before next winter, the board will set a very specific rank system for establishing an order of priority for the incoming kindergarten class and wait list. What was previously in place was good, but to avoid a grey area, they want to be very specific.
6. Diocesan ACC Formation Day - Jerry Kostreba reported on the session he attended; it stressed the importance of praying together as ACCs in the Diocese and also within our ACC. Jake Mach invited pastoral council members to participate in Eucharistic Adoration at the St. Mary's chapel on Monday evenings from 8:00-9:00pm, the time slot they chose for ACC pastoral council members.
7. Todd's Topics
 - Pastors' Residence – A committee is being formed to study options for a pastors' residence, researching locations and determining whether they would or wouldn't fit the needs of a residence for the ACC priests. He noted the goal is to find a long-term solution.
 - Pastoral Council Elections at St. Mary's Church – Jerry Kostreba and Jody Rehovsky are completing their terms on the ACC pastoral council this June. Todd shared the steps in the pastoral council discernment process to elect two new members at St. Mary's. Todd will give a script to each of the current pastoral council members which they can use when making phone calls to nominated parishioners. It was suggested that sometimes an initial text message works better than making the first contact by phone. Members volunteered as follows to introduce the nomination process at masses the weekend of March 25-26: 5pm – Mary Gorghuber, 8am – Jerry Kostreba, and 10am - Josh Waltzing. Gary Haavig from

St. Nicholas is completing his term at the end of June. A process will be defined to determine who will represent St. Nicholas and ICC parishes.

- May ACC pastoral council meeting – The May meeting will be moved from May 16th to May 23rd.
- Strategic Plan – Todd shared an updated Come to the Water ACC Strategic Plan, with items added from last month's discussion. Father Matthew would like the ACC to begin their work on the strategic plan by focusing on Goal 3's objective of "Developing a plan and engaging parishioners to actively participate in the U.S. National Eucharistic Revival by June 30, 2023." Jake Mach, Gary Haavig and Darcie Boogaard volunteered to be on a sub-committee to review the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan, clarifying the changes/additions in 'red print' and developing action steps for them, beginning with Goal #3. Gary noted his wife would be very interested in being on the committee, too.

8. Pastors' Perspectives

- Father Matthew said there will be one Holy Thursday service in the ACC this year, which will be held at St. Mary's Church. Parishioners from St. Nicholas and Immaculate Conception are invited, encouraged, as always, to attend the service. Jody, Jake, Randy, Jerry, Gary and Bob volunteered to be pastoral council volunteers for the six stations for foot washing. After the priests wash the first six persons' feet, foot washing will be opened to all people in attendance. The pastoral council members will remain by the stations and will help with the foot washing, if needed.
- Father Matthew said he was very impressed with our Confirmation students and their answers to his questioning. Also, Bishop Neary was impressed with the Confirmation liturgy on March 5th; it was his first Confirmation Mass as a Bishop.

9. Round Robin

- Francie Peterson said the Adoration Committee has begun planning an event for the ACC in August, *40 Hours of Devotion*. This event can be considered part of the ACC objective pertaining to Eucharistic Revival. It will be 40 consecutive hours of Eucharistic Adoration and will be held at Immaculate Conception Church beginning on a Thursday evening and continuing until Saturday evening mass. Additional considerations are to include speakers, a children's hour, young families hour. Francie asked for contact people from all three parishes to help with planning, signing up people, etc. They would like to have at least two people in attendance at all times. Contact Francie with your ideas and names of people who might want to participate. She also said the Sanctity of Life Committee is celebrating the Annunciation at the 8:30am mass this Friday.
- Mary Gorghuber asked for prayers for the children preparing for First Communion.
- Mark Maloney said St. Mary's Finance Council is working on prioritizing facility needs of St. Mary's Church and School.
- Todd Wentworth said Mass attendance at St. Mary's Church is at 84% of pre-pandemic numbers.
- Jake Mach said the Fish Fries held at St. Mary's have been a time of good fellowship and good food. They have averaged 415 people attending them.
- Jody Rehovsky noted the Sign-up Genuis that was used for Fish Fry volunteer helpers worked very well. New Membership Sunday will be held on May 21st after both masses. The Parish Life Committee is working with Kathy Ballou, Communications Coordinator, to produce a new video to show new parishioners.

- Gary Haavig asked if there are any plans for the ACC to participate in the Eucharistic Revival pilgrimage in 2024. Todd said they have booked about 60 tickets for it and details for participation will be worked out in the coming months.
- Darcie Boogaard said she would like to receive more committee information from SN & ICC. Todd Wentworth reported that Bob Brillhart will lead the next Habitat for Humanity (HFH) Build for Immaculate Conception/St. Nicholas. They are tithing from the budget for their donation to HFH which is a new concept. In the past, there was a special collection with envelopes to try and raise the \$1500 for the faith build team. Our ACC will be participating in three HFH Builds this year, one paid for by SN & ICC and 2 paid by St. Mary's. The SN Finance Council is looking for contractor bids for steeple repair and the stained glass storm windows will be installed this spring. ICC finance council will meet in April.
- Tonya Marthaler said she would be interested in helping with the 40 Hours of Devotion event.
- Father Rick has been offering adult formation sessions on Saturday evenings, however, the attendance has been low. He asked for ideas. Some ideas that were offered were: announcing at Mass, personal invitations, having food at the sessions, holding them on a Saturday morning or a Sunday evening.
- Josh Waltzing asked about altar server training as there is noticeable confusion during liturgies. Father Matthew has held training sessions, but the attendance has been low. He may consider parent-child server teams. Mark Maloney noted in the past they have encouraged students who have been confirmed to continue serving and/or being mentors to younger children.
- Jerry Kostreba asked if the names of Confirmation students and their sponsors could be published after Christmas so people could pray for them as they prepare for Confirmation.

The next ACC Pastoral Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 18, 6:30pm at Saint Nicholas Church, Belle River.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary