

Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Saint Nicholas Church, Belle River
April 18, 2023

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

1. Opening prayer.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – The minutes of the March 21, 2023 meeting were approved.
3. Agenda Additions – No additions.
4. What’s Happening at St. Nicholas – Eucharistic Adoration is being arranged for one day or night a month. First Communion will be held April 30th. A Meet & Greet Registration Sunday is being planned for May 7 after the 8:30am Mass to welcome St. Nicholas parishioners who have joined the parish over the past two years. Two RCIA candidates will be welcomed to the church this weekend. Thirty-three people were nominated for the upcoming pastoral council vacancy. So far, two people have accepted the nomination; further contacts will be made before the election process. Gary Haavig, who will be completing his pastoral council term in June, has accepted the role of Chairman to plan the Diocesan Rural Life Celebration Mass at St. Nicholas Church.
5. Church of St. Mary Pastoral Council Member Election - Jerry requested help from pastoral council members at the election on April 30th. Randy will be the timekeeper and will help tabulate ballots. Additional members volunteered to help with handing out and counting ballots.
6. Evaluate and Consolidate Committees in the ACC – Jerry asked members to start thinking about which committees at the parish level could be consolidated in the ACC; for example, JPIC (Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation), Young Adults, Musicians, Outreach. There are some committees that have to or should be site-specific, such as Finance Councils and Cemetery. It was suggested to have “Ministry Moments” at Immaculate Conception and St. Nicholas, which could help in recruiting more people for committees.
7. JPIC Zoom Meeting – Jerry encouraged members to participate in a JPIC Zoom Meeting with Kateri Mancini, Diocesan Director of Social Concerns, Monday, May 15 at 1:00pm, in the Parish Office conference room in Alexandria.
8. Eucharist 40 Hours of Devotion – Planning is underway for this event at Immaculate Conception Church August 10-12 beginning with the Thursday 9:00am Mass and concluding with the 4:00pm Mass on Saturday. They would like to have 6 guardians present at a time. There will be music, a children’s hour, an opportunity for confession, reciting the Divine Mercy chaplet, etc. Please give your ideas to Jake Mach, Darcie Boogaard or Gary Haavig. They will be meeting again on Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00pm at St. Mary’s Church.

Our ACC has 60 tickets to participate in the 2024 National Eucharistic Revival pilgrimage. Details for participation will be worked out in the coming months. Our Diocese will kick off the

Eucharistic Revival in September. There will be a Eucharistic Procession from Itasca that will go through our ACC.

9. Diocesan Rural Life Celebration Mass – Gary Haavig is the chairman for this event which will be held on Sunday, August 20th at St. Nicholas Church. It will include a Mass at 10:30am, meal, entertainment, family activities, etc. Let Gary know if you would like to help with the event.

10. Todd's Topics

- Todd gave an update on activities in the Come To The Water ACC to Kristi Bivens, Diocesan liaison for ACCs.
- Jodi Rehovsky offered to host the June ACC meeting. This has typically been a social meeting, election of officers and a welcome for new pastoral council members.
- St. Mary's School has a vacancy for a first-grade teacher for the fall, and St. Agnes School has vacancies for a kindergarten teacher and a cook manager.
- Todd is working on budgets for the next fiscal year for the three parishes. The Finance Council at Immaculate Conception walked around the church and school and made a list of things they need to address, in addition to a wish list. Needs will be prioritized and addressed at future meetings. Todd noted that this process has already been done at St. Nicholas and St. Mary's.
- Storm windows will be put on the stained-glass windows at St. Nicholas this spring. They are planning for steeple repair and an asphalt parking lot.
- Fr. Matthew, Fr. Rick, Todd Wentworth, Tim Marthaler and Eric Seidel and Jim Megel (St. Mary's Finance Council Rep) toured the three parishes, as part of the study for a rectory. Further understanding of options, including remodeling of existing rectory, is needed.
- Todd will be attending the quarterly Diocesan Administrative meeting on May 10th. Let him know of any questions he should bring to the meeting.
- The ACC landing page on the website has been set up; there's more work to be done on it, but it is live and functioning.

11. Pastors' Perspectives

- Father Matthew asked for feedback on the joint Holy Thursday service. Feedback was good; there is a need for more parking for people with handicaps. Next year, they will consider reserving the entire small ~~south~~ east parking lot by the parish house for handicap parking.
- Father Rick will be hosting three more sessions on Sacred Architecture: April 30th in St. Mary's at 6:30pm, May 7th at St. Nicholas at 6:30pm, and May 13th at Immaculate Conception at 6:30pm.

The next ACC Pastoral Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 23, 6:30pm at Immaculate Conception, Osakis.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary