

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

Present: Father Matthew Kuhn, Deacon Dan Ruprecht, Tonya Marthaler, Bob Kulzer, Bruce Pederson, Margaret Zidon, Tim Baas, Nathan Eisel, Mary Gorghuber, Jake Mach, Rodney Roers, Adrian Panther and Carol Gaffaney. Absent: Father Rick Aubol, Todd Wentworth, Darcie Boogaard, Josh Waltzing, Randy Kinney, Francie Peterson, Mark Maloney, and Dennis Hillmer.

1. Opening prayer.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – The minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting were approved by consensus.
3. Agenda Additions – No additions.
4. Committee Liaisons – Mary Gorghuber will be the liaison to the Parish Life Committee at St. Mary’s. Mary will talk with Josh Waltzing regarding a committee that will work for his schedule.
5. Welcome New ACC Pastoral Council Members – Mary Gorghuber welcomed Nathan Eisel (Saint Nicholas), Adrian Panther (St. Mary’s) and Rodney Roers (St. Mary’s). Tonya Marthaler is serving a second 3-year term (Immaculate Conception).
6. Upcoming Events
 - Eucharistic 40 Hour Devotion, August 10-12, Immaculate Conception, beginning with the Thursday 9:00am Mass and concluding with the 4:00pm Mass on Saturday – Jake Mach reported that 19 of the 40 hours of devotion have been filled. He encouraged people to sign up and to invite five people to attend the event. Guest speaker Fr. Justin Kizewski will present on Thursday and Friday at 7:00 p.m. Other scheduled events are Morning Prayer, Rosary, Confession, Divine Mercy, and Evening Prayer.
 - Jake also noted that the National Eucharistic Congress will be held July 17-22, 2024 in Indianapolis, IN. The last National Eucharistic Congress was held 83 years ago. 80,000 people are expected to attend the 2024 celebration. Todd has gotten 60 tickets for the National Eucharistic Congress; they are working on travel and hotel arrangements. More information will be forthcoming. Jake reported the sub-committee has purchased 1,000 copies of the book, “This is My Body” by Bishop Barron on the Real Presence.
 - Jake invited pastoral council members to participate in an hour of adoration at St. Mary’s chapel on Monday evening, 8:00-9:00 p.m. Let him know if you’re interested in signing up; the opportunity to participate would come rotate through participants every 4-5 weeks.
 - Mary Gorghuber noted she spoke with someone at the Echo Press newspaper and they are interested in doing an article on the Corpus Christi procession held in June.
 - Diocesan Rural Life Celebration, August 20, Saint Nicholas – Fifty volunteers are needed for set up Friday and Saturday, and fifty for tear down/clean up Sunday evening and Monday. They are working on getting a sign-up genius working. They need a large, clean stock tank for bottled water. They’re close to reaching their financial goal; waiting on word about a grant they applied for, which would put them at their goal. More details and sign-up information can be found on the St. Mary’s webpage, then click on ACC, Saint Nicholas, and Events, where the sign-genius should be visible.
 - Stewardship Conference, August 30-September 1 - Final registrations have been sent in and arrangements are being made for those attending.
7. Pastors’ Perspectives

- Father Matthew said no applications have been received for the principal position at St. Agnes School in Osakis. He reported that he (as pastor) and the other members of the corporate board of St. Agnes School, consisting of the Bishop, Vicar General, two ICC Finance Council members, and the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the diocese met today regarding the future of St. Agnes School. The facts were presented and the bishop will make a decision by the end of the week regarding the school. They gave great thought into funds being set aside for families that are church members to enroll at St. Mary's or Sauk Centre Catholic schools to assist with tuition, if the decision was to close St. Agnes School.
 - Immaculate Conception and Saint Nicholas parish secretary Jennifer Kaweesa has resigned. She was also in charge of 7-12 religious education at ICC.
 - Father said the trend of church mass attendance has been steadily increasing at Immaculate Conception and St. Mary's Churches. The church has been full at Saint Nicholas.
8. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 22nd, 6:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, in Osakis. (This was originally set for August 15th; however, the 15th is a Holy Day, the feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so the meeting was moved to August 22nd.)

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary