

Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Church of the Immaculate Conception, Osakis
August 22, 2023

Present: Father Matthew Kuhn, Todd Wentworth, Tonya Marthaler, Bruce Pederson, Margaret Zidon, Tim Baas, Nathan Eisel, Dwayne Waldorf, Mary Gorghuber, Jake Mach, Randy Kinney, Josh Waltzing, Rodney Roers, Francie Peterson, and Carol Gaffaney. Guests: Gary and Veronica Haavig. Absent: Father Rick Aubol, Darcie Boogaard, Adrian Panther, and Mark Maloney. Bob Kulzer resigned from the ACC pastoral council.

1. Opening prayer.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – The minutes of the July 18, 2023 meeting were approved by consensus.
3. Agenda Additions – No additions.
4. Report on Rural Life Celebration – Gary and Veronica Haavig thanked everyone for their help with the Rural Life Celebration at Saint Nicholas Church on August 20th.
 - Estimate of 1,060 attended the mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick Neary; more people came after the mass concluded.
 - Great sound system and a very nice day weatherwise.
 - \$4,000 in donations collected during mass for the Rural Life Fund of the diocese.
 - Approximately 900 meals served; food serving went smoothly and moved quickly.
 - Planning committee did a wonderful job; people from all three parishes volunteered.
 - Great to have all three parishes together for an event.
 - Fundraising to date: \$21,435. Approximately \$5,000 in donated services. 57 sponsors.
 - \$20,500 in bills expected. Should break even.
 - Had issues with getting a tent; had tents secured two times that were cancelled. Finally successful in booking a tent; they finished setting up the tent by 10pm Friday evening.
 - Would be helpful if the diocese would book a tent annually, being they know there will be a Rural Life Celebration in the diocese each summer.
 - Gary and Veronica are documenting the steps involved in chairing the event.
5. Report on 40 Hour Devotion – Jake Mach reported that all 40 hours were filled with at least one adorer. There were a lot of drop-ins. Over 100 people attended Thursday evening's speech by Fr. Justin Kizewski; somewhat fewer attended the Friday evening session. There was good feedback on the Children's Hour. The committee will meet to recap. They felt it was successful for the first time of having it and hope to hold this annually.
6. Committee Liaisons – Josh Waltzing will be the liaison to the Stewardship committee and Mary Gorghuber will be the liaison to the Parish Life Committee at St. Mary's. JPIC still needs a liaison; Todd will talk with Father Rick regarding that. Bruce Pederson will report on the Immaculate Conception Finance Council and Dwayne Waldorf will report on the St. Nicholas Finance Council. Tonya Marthaler will get updates from other committees at Immaculate Conception.
7. St. Agnes School Update – Father Matthew apologized for not involving the ACC Pastoral Council more in the meetings about St. Agnes school earlier in the summer. On July 20th, the bishop closed the school. Father noted that the teachers have all found jobs elsewhere; they will be given a severance payment. There were several factors in the decision: financial (unable to compensate employees at a fair and just salary, also a current \$110,000 budget shortfall), human resources (unable to attract employees for vacancies, teacher shortage across the country), maintaining Catholic identity (over 25% of current students did not attend Mass), enrollment, tuition issues, and academics. There will be a get-together at the school on August 31st for the 21

families with students at the school. Any St. Agnes School children enrolled at St. Mary's School for this fall, will be offered transportation from Osakis to Alexandria, and back again at the end of the school day. It was noted that the St. Agnes school facility is in good condition and technology was also improved recently. Discussions will be held on ways the building can be used.

8. Todd's Topics

- Strategic Plan – Todd wants to form a sub-committee that would meet 4 times a year to review progress on the strategic plan; he suggested at least one person from each parish. Let Todd know if you're interested in being on the sub-committee.
- Bus Transportation to the National Eucharistic Congress (July 17-22, 2024 in Indianapolis) has been secured; they are working on hotel arrangements. We have 60 tickets for the National Eucharistic Congress.
- Stewardship Conference, August 30-31 – Five people from our ACC will be attending this conference in Wichita, KS.
- Unemployment Tax – Todd reviewed new legislation that has been enacted affecting non-exempt, non-teaching employees who are not employed over the summer. The State of Minnesota will cover the cost of unemployment payments made to affected public school employees, as long as funds remain, but not religious school employees. This will be an additional expense for St. Mary's.
- Facilities – The roofing project at St. Mary's is moving forward, hopefully this fall; they are currently waiting for materials. Insurance claim was denied by Catholic Mutual. Storm windows have been installed at St. Nicholas; steeple and main roof condition being monitored. At Immaculate Conception, the light post was repaired, driveway sealed, new sign installed, concrete lifted and all 3 bells work now. The front of the church needs work, tuckpointing, leaks by windows; they are getting quotes for that.
- IT improvements were made at Immaculate Conception church, rectory and St. Agnes school. Fiber optics has been installed at St. Mary's.
- Bulletin – Todd asked for feedback on the one-page bulletin that has been used every other week for the last couple months. He noted there was a small savings by doing this. After discussion, it was decided to go back to a full bulletin every weekend. Discussion followed on other avenues of communication that could be used.

9. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 19th, 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church in Alexandria.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary