

**Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**St. Mary's Church, Alexandria**  
**September 19, 2023**

Present: Father Matthew Kuhn, Father Rick Aubol, Todd Wentworth, Darcie Boogaard, Tonya Marthaler, Bruce Pederson, Margaret Zidon, Tim Baas, Nathan Eisel, Mary Gorghuber, Jake Mach, Randy Kinney, Josh Waltzing, Adrian Panther, Francie Peterson, Mark Maloney and Carol Gaffaney. Absent: Rodney Roers and Dwayne Waldorf. Guests present: Gale Nordling, Deacon Eric Evander and Bev Paul. Also present: Christine Olschlager.

1. Opening prayer.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – The minutes of the August 22, 2023 meeting were approved by consensus.
3. Agenda Additions – One addition: Men on Fire Breakfast and Retreat.
4. Men on Fire Breakfast and Retreat – Gale Nordling explained the Men on Fire Breakfast and Retreat scheduled for Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-11:30 a.m. in the Church of St. Mary and the Great Hall. There is no cost to attend; pre-registration by October 20<sup>th</sup> is needed for planning purposes. Mass will be celebrated with Bishop Patrick Neary. The keynote speaker is Fr. Peter Anderl. The retreat is being advertised throughout the Diocese of St. Cloud.
5. Deacon Eric Evander – Deacon Eric Evander is from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis. He provided a brief history about himself and his desire to serve in the ACC while in Alexandria taking care of his ailing mother. His wife is a teacher and they have 3 children and 12 grandchildren. While he is living here, he will be helping our priests and the people of the ACC.
6. Stewardship Retreat – Bev Paul attended the Stewardship Retreat in Wichita, Kansas, with four other people from our ACC. One primary takeaway was on what we can do in our parishes to be more welcoming. We must be welcoming in our parishes first so we can then grow together as stewards in prayer, formation and service. Todd Wentworth noted that the next Stewardship Retreat in Wichita is scheduled for February 28-29, 2024.
7. Todd's Topics
  - Finance and Facility Update – As of the end of August financials, all three parishes were in the black. Todd shared a facility projects list which included active projects and a wish list for each parish. Many projects are being completed or are near completion at all three parishes. Todd said they are still waiting for materials to do the roofing project at St. Mary's Church. It may not be completed this year if materials aren't received soon.
  - Immaculate Conception Church is looking for a site coordinator for Faith Formation. There is a need for a person to be present on Wednesday evenings, supervising and taking care of incidentals, etc. This could be a paid position.
  - There will be EM training at St. Mary's church on Saturday, September 30, 9:30-11am. This is being offered for any new and current EMs in the diocese.
  - Todd said they are investigating the My Parish app, a communication tool that was suggested at the last meeting.
  - St. Agnes School - Todd noted that there will be continued maintenance of the school building and grounds. The Finance Council is starting to discuss ideas of what the building can be used for. It is currently being used for religious education classes and by other groups and outside people. Whatever happens, it must maintain a Catholic identity. A severance package for teachers impacted by the closing was approved. For the families impacted, the Finance Council is waiving faith formation costs for those kids in K-6 for this school year. Transportation is being provided to St. Agnes students who enrolled at St. Mary's in Alex.

8. Pastor Perspectives – There was discussion on the closing of St. Agnes School and suggestions were given to begin healing among parishioners and families of students. A letter will be prepared and sent to parishioners and parents of students. It was decided to invite Brenda Kresky from the St. Cloud Diocese office and Father Ed Vebelun from the Church of Seven Dolors in Albany to come and visit with parishioners.
9. Next Meeting – The next ACC pastoral council meeting will be Tuesday, October 10th, 6:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church in Belle River.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer.

Carol Gaffaney  
Recording Secretary