

Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Held at Immaculate Conception Church, Osakis, Minnesota
January 28, 2025

Present: Father Dan Ruprecht, Todd Wentworth, Jake Mach, Rodney Roers, Leon Breun, Adrian Panther, John Loomis, Josh Waltzing, Mark Maloney, Francie Peterson, Tim Baas, Mike Ponicki, Nathan Eisel, Veronica Haavig, Craig Highet, Darcie Boogaard, Tonya Marthaler, Bev Paul, and Carol Gaffaney. Absent: Father Matthew Kuhn.

1. Jake opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with prayer.
2. Minutes from December 17, 2024 were approved.
3. Individual Standing Committee Reports were reviewed with the following additions:
 1. Board of Education – Jake said they have revised their bylaws. Discussion continued on setting the tuition for the next school year.
 2. Cemetery – No report.
 3. Finance Council – Craig noted the financial picture at Immaculate Conception looks good. They have improved the lighting outside the building and put in new lighting in the back entrance. Mike said the Saint Nicholas budget and finances are in good shape. The SN finance council discussed investing some of their funds. The water damaged wall is getting fixed. They reviewed two written bids for the steeple and bids for snow removal. Leon said Saint Mary’s is implementing a one-time \$250 non-refundable new registration fee for new students to mitigate the problem that arose last fall.
 4. Liturgy – Bev said they have had their first meeting with Luke VanOverbeke and are discussing what the committee can do for the parish. They are looking for more musicians, altar servers as well as assistance in some other ministries. Mike reported they will be meeting with Luke VanOverbeke in February. Adrian reported that they discussed Holy Week and Easter, as well as engaging parishioners to get involved.
 5. Parish Life – John said their discussions included the upcoming fish fries, cleaning up the storage area and planning more activities.
 6. Stewardship – Bev reported that ministry renewal is in process at ICC. Bible study has started and they are planning activities for the Lenten season. Veronica said a pancake breakfast combined with new member recognition will be held later in February. SN worked with a church in Carlos to offer a free soup dinner, with 91 people attending on a cold evening. They will hold another soup dinner on February 12 with a church from Miltona. Josh reported that the Financial Peace University class has started; this is the fourth consecutive year it has been offered. The Father McGread Conference in Wichita will be held March 19-20. He noted that the planning will begin for the Legacy Dinner. Other discussion on ideas for welcoming new members, the “All Things New” initiative in the diocese, and re-starting an Evangelization Committee.
 7. JPIC – No report.
4. Old Business
 - Celebrating Wins – Thank you notes will be sent to the sacristans and to ICC musicians Dana and Ginger Hetland.
5. Administrative Update
 - Elizabeth Radil has been hired as the St. Mary’s Staff Accountant. The payroll transition moving SN and ICC staff under St. Mary’s has been completed. Annual reviews are coming up.

- Over the next 2-3 weeks, SM parishioners can vote on their preference for the new crucifix. There are restricted donations in place since last year to cover the cost of the crucifix.
 - The ACC pastoral council reviewed a recommendation on the SN church steeple roofing replacement. After discussion, they approved recommending the bid from LakeStar Expert Contracting from Pierz, Minnesota, for the Bishop's consideration.
 - The following ICC projects have been completed over the past several months: back stairwell walls patched and painted, tuckpointed the front of the church, removed the chimney, new flooring in the sanctuary, painting in the sanctuary, refurbished grotto, replaced concrete sections of front entrance, repaired the bell tower floor, and a new Divine Mercy image in an alcove.
6. Father Dan asked pastoral council members to let him know if they need anything from him.
 7. "All Things New" – The diocese is asking for an "All Things New" planning committee, comprised of 8 to 12 people representing each parish in the ACC. This committee will help develop a pastoral plan that includes setting goals, prioritizing resources and fostering a shared vision for the future of the ACC. The names should be submitted to the diocese by March 3. The diocese will create a planning guidebook and resources for the process.
 8. Adrian is hosting a St. Stephen dinner on February 20th and will invite people who might be interested in being a deacon. He hopes to do this multiple times a year.
 9. The Fish Frys are tentatively scheduled as follows:
 - March 7 – Saint Nicholas
 - March 14 – St. Mary's (conflict with St. Mary's on this date)
 - March 21 – Saint Nicholas
 - March 28 – Immaculate Conception, held at the VFW
 - April 4 – St. Mary's
 - April 11 – St. Mary's

Leon said he needs to find an enclosed trailer that would be used over the six weeks. We need to find someone to co-lead this year along with Leon and then take it over next year.
 10. Jake opened discussion on "How to Be an Effective Pastoral Council – Define/How to:
 1. To be a sign of God's Kingdom
 2. To support the pastoral team
 3. To study, reflect upon, and pray about parish needs
 4. To be a leader of mission
 5. To be a reconciler
 6. To coordinate and initiate activities.
 11. Next meeting of the Come to the Water ACC pastoral council will be held Tuesday, February 25, 6:30 p.m. at Saint Nicholas Church. SN reps will meet at 6pm.