

**Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Held at Saint Mary's Church, Alexandria, Minnesota
March 25, 2025**

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

1. Jake opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with prayer.
2. Minutes from February 25, 2025 were approved.
3. All Things New Update – Todd reported the ACC's All Things New committee met with diocesan representatives and the committees from other ACCs in our deanery last Saturday. They reviewed guiding principles, parameters, timelines, creating plans and smart goals. Todd shared the Guiding Principles & parameters handout. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 26.
4. Todd introduced Joe Korkowski, the ACC Communications Coordinator. Joe said he is learning the duties of the position and will work to keep everyone informed of what's going on within the three parishes using many formats (Facebook interviews, email blasts, weekly bulletin, TV monitors and Instagram).
5. Individual Standing Committee Reports were reviewed with the following additions:
 - Board of Education – Jake said the name of the RCIA ministry has been changed by the USCCB to OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) to emphasize the ongoing nature of faith formation. There are 8 openings for kindergarten enrollment at St. Mary's School for the fall and there are additional openings in grades 1-6. It was noted that enrollment numbers at St. Mary's School is down from previous years; the public school is also experiencing this drop in enrollment. The recommendation for 2025-26 tuition is \$3,975 for K-6 students, plus \$500 per student from a non-parishioner family.
 - Cemetery – Rodney reported there will be a mass at the St. Mary's cemetery on Memorial Day. A clean-up day is planned for May 20, 3:00-6:00 p.m. He noted there is a young children's section at the cemetery near the chapel where there is no cost for the burial lot.
 - Finance Council – Craig reported the basement and kitchen at Immaculate Conception have been painted and new carpeting will be installed on the stage. New lighting, tables and chairs have been ordered. They are updating the pictures of past and present priests and religious. Mike said Saint Nicholas has ordered a new dishwasher and countertop. Their fish fries went well and the profits will go towards the upcoming Harvest Pack. Leon reported the engineering work is still progressing to repair the windows in the church. There were 7 applicants for Father Ludwig postsecondary scholarships; \$23,000 was awarded. An "open forum" time is made available at each of the Liturgy committee meetings for people to bring concerns and ideas to the committee.
 - Parish Life – Bev said the people who signed up to help with liturgical ministries at ICC are being notified and placed on the schedule. Their ministry booklet is almost finished. She suggested doing something at the beginning of Mass to be more welcoming to people.

- JPIC – Francie said there will be a 50th anniversary celebration of Life Connections on June 1st; it will include a kick-off for their initiative, “Walking with Moms.”
 - Stewardship – Reports were sent to council members with no additional updates.
 - Pastoral Council Discernment – Todd reminded members to complete their contacts to people who have been nominated for a pastoral council position and send the results to him by Monday, April 7th.
6. Old Business
- Celebrating Wins – Craig will send a thank you note to Denny Paul for all his work on the church basement and kitchen at ICC.
7. New Business
- Jake requested 6-8 volunteers to begin the Holy Thursday foot washing process at Mass. Several members volunteered.
 - Evangelization Committee Revival – Josh has been working on recruiting members and asked if you know of someone who might be interested in being a part of this committee, to let him know. A message will be included in an upcoming bulletin.
 - “Return: How to Bring Your Child Back to the Church”- Josh reviewed the three main sections of this book: (1) Understanding why people leave the church, (2) A game plan for conversations and invitations, and (3) Overcoming common objections. This would be a good book for the revived Evangelization Committee to study. Copies of the book were handed out to those present at the meeting. Further discussion will follow.
8. Administrative Update
- Todd said the ACC is sponsoring a Harvest Pack day on April 25th, with the goal of packing 75,000 meals. Meals cost \$.30 each, with \$22,500 being the total cost to hold this event. Proceeds from the fish fries and regular weekend offerings will cover the cost.
9. Breakfast with Father – Father Dan said this has been a successful event with 17-20 teens attending this monthly gathering in the Great Hall. They are looking at the possibility of doing this in Osakis, too.
10. Next meeting of the Come to the Water ACC pastoral council will be held Tuesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church. ICC reps will meet at 6 p.m.