Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Immaculate Conception Church, Osakis, Minnesota
September 22, 2026

Present: Father Matthew Kuhn, Father Dan Ruprecht, Todd Wentworth, Darcy Thesing, Steve Harren, Craig Highet, Marianne Shrode, Ashley Shrode, Bev Paul, Rodney Roers, Leon Breun, Dan Eckstein, Maria Lopau, Beth Sabolik, Mark Maloney, Sandy Wussow, and Carol Gaffaney. Absent: Mike Ponicki, Veronica Haavig and Josiah Aultman.

1. Opening prayer.
2. Minutes from August 25, 2026 were approved.
3. Discussion specifically related to Immaculate Conception Church:
   - They have a need for ministers for the Saturday evening Mass in the areas of ushers, lectors and altar servers. Usher training has been held.
   - The bell tower project has been completed. The finance council has done a walk through of the campus exterior to identify needs.
   - It was noted that the school building is being used in several ways; examples are: Catechesis of Good Shepherd, Faith Formation, Knights of Columbus and Women's group meetings/events, home school groups, Head Start, Meals on Wheels, and the school library is still open there.
   - Immaculate Conception will have a good-sized group of students working towards their First Communion; and possibly two candidates for OCIA.
4. Discussions specifically related to St. Nicholas and St. Mary's Churches:
   - There will be a Mass at St. Nicholas Church on October 14th, 6:30 p.m. to celebrate their church's founding feast day.
   - St. Mary's Church will conclude its stewardship commitment drive this weekend. School has begun at St. Mary's School. The new windows have been installed in the church.
5. Pastor's Perspectives from Father Matthew:
   - An update on the All Things New process was provided. Three parishes in the Saint Cloud Diocese have "opted out," meaning they will not be involved in any future Diocesan planning; they will no longer have a pastor assigned; they will not have regular weekend Masses.
   - Father Matthew noted that other religious denominations are having similar problems with fewer ordained ministers to serve in their churches.
6. Council Member Committee Liaison Reports:
   - Board of Education – Maria reported there are currently 14 OCIA candidates. Cassie Klimek, Tammy Huss and Jody Vanderheiden will alternate attending the monthly Board of Education meetings. Maria said all school and parish staff have gone through annual safety training, including the expanded Standard Response Protocol (SRP), developed by "I Love U Guys" Foundation. Faith Formation classes have begun and those teachers have also received this safety training. Ashley said that Erica Braatz will be ICC's onsite contact person for faith formation.
   - Cemetery – Dan reported the work to replace the asphalt paving at St. Mary's Cemetery hasn't begun yet, but plans are to complete the paving this fall.
   - Finance – Rodney reported that St. Mary's has made further progress in converting from cash to an accrual basis financial system. The finances of the three churches will be combined as of July 1, 2028. Past-due St. Mary's school tuition of $8,000 has been

collected, leaving $13,000 yet to be received. Darcy reported they discussed and approved replacing the sound system at St. Nicholas. The roof replacement is done and they feel they have better temperature control in the church. Craig said they are reviewing future needs at Immaculate Conception and noted they are looking at the garage and what options are available to them.

- Liturgy and Parish Life – Beth reported on changes occurring at St. Mary's; new procedures for altar servers and EMHC, having the ambo in just one location instead of moving for various uses, and doing some decluttering of several areas in the church. Bev reported on their meeting where they discussed upcoming celebrations and a mini-stewardship drive.
- Stewardship – The St. Mary's Stewardship Fair was held last weekend and the stewardship drive will conclude this weekend with parishioners being invited to complete a commitment card. Steve said Saint Nicholas held a church clean-up day last week; they are working towards making the parish house there available for use as a retreat center. Marianne said they are planning an annual potluck. ICC will participate in the Trunk or Treat event for Halloween in Osakis.
- JPIC – Father Dan said committee discussion focused on the Nature Walk out at Burr Vineyard, which was well attended. They are looking for additional members for the committee.

7. All Things New Update.
    - Discussion was held on ways to provide Father Matthew with three suggested names to submit to Bishop Neary for the new parish that will be formed when the three churches merge into one parish. He said the parameters for suggested names are: (1) the name of a saint, (2) a mystery in the life of Jesus; or (3) a mystery in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
8. Administrative Update from Business Administrator:
    - Todd reported the Pension Task Force is continuing its work on the diocesan level. A 403(b) plan for current employees of the diocese will begin January 1st. Payments to current retirees are going out as normal, under the Frozen Pension Plan. Todd said letters have been sent to current employees who will be 59 ½ years by January 1st, offering them an in-service lump sum distribution of their pension while still remaining employed and eligible for all other benefits. Todd also requested more suggestions of FAQ (frequently asked questions) in regard to the merging of the three churches into one parish.
    - Todd noted that for safety reasons, the St. Mary's calendar will no longer be available on the website. Information regarding the calendar and availability of space for meetings or events is available by calling the parish office.
9. Closing Prayer.
10. The next pastoral council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Great Hall.