Mother of Perpetual Help
Pastoral Council Meeting
August 19, 2026

The pastoral council of Mother Perpetual Help church met on Wednesday, August 19, 2026. Present where the following: Father Rob Johnson, Steve Rendleman, Kevin Kingsbury, Luke Eggering, Bill Schreiber, Susan Jordan, Chuck Hinkel, Maria Jansen, new member Joe Feldmann. Guests in attendance: Emma Hodepohl, Ryan Clark, and Sheldon Carlson.

Meeting was opened with prayer by Father Rob.

The previous minutes were approved as emailed out.

Meeting date change: Father Rob asked if changing the meetings to a Monday night would be a problem. Hearing no disagreement the next meeting will be Monday, November 16th in the parish hall. Quarterly meetings going forward for 2027 will be February 17, April 20, August 18 and November 15.

Office Update: Sheldon Carlson gave an update that Mandy O'Brien has started as the bookkeeper. She came to us from St. John Neumann office. St. John Neumann is fully staffed in their bookkeeping department as of this next week so Mandy should begin her regular hours. Susan Jordan, the bookkeeping volunteer, was thanked for her time and effort and will continue to work to train Mandy O'Brien.

Centennial Campaign Update: Bill Schreiber reported on the Centennial campaign update. The parking lot is the next big project. The letter was sent to the Bishop for the approval. The desire to have this job done has been going on for several years. Two bids were obtained but Gillihan Concrete accepted all terms and conditions for our job and quoted $357,400. Previously budgeted for $260,000. We have additional funds to cover the project. This includes taking out the concrete that is in currently in the fenced area where the trash cans are, putting thicker concrete that will be under the dumpster, 6 inches thick all around, expanded 20 more additional spots toward the rectory. They plan to reuse the dirt from this project at the rectory to create a berm. Early November is the tentative start date. It will add to the additional cost if it gets too cold. The question was is raised if there is something under the black top that may create soft spots? They have quoted us $1250 to haul out if necessary and put in rock under if necessary. They are also planning to put a conduit to the rectory for additional wiring options for the future. There will be no driving on the finished product for seven days. The perpendicular parking versus the slanted parking was discussed and all options will be considered to maximize space. Also, the rectory culvert might need to be replaced. It needs to have a U-shaped culvert put on there and then black top on top, which is now a rock area. Campaign original goal was 1.4 million. To date we have pledges for 1.88 million, 1.2 million of which has been collected for 64.4% compliance. Only 17 pledges have had no contributions made to date. Those 17 pledges total about $55,000. To date, the projects completed have been the church lights, church

HVAC was totally replaced which was $103,000. The tuck pointing for all buildings was completed at $87,000. The new garage door opener system for the rectory allowing for better clearance was $4200. Gutter helmets for all buildings was $25,000. Security system was $14,300 and the two focus missionaries, which will be ongoing and have already started. A local foundation financially sponsored the Focus missionaries for three years, which was above the budgeted amount. $140,000 tithe to the Diocese with a total amount spent to date of about $750,000. Future needs via discussions was to set up an endowment, Choir room addition, window replacement, pew and kneeler replacement, dropped ceiling tile replacement in the church. It was brought to the attention of the council that our bathrooms are not ADA accessible bathrooms, not in the church or in the parish hall. It is very difficult for anyone even with a walker to enter the bathrooms and almost impossible with someone in the wheelchair. Father said that had not been brought to his attention and we would look at updating the bathrooms.

Bishop's upcoming visit: Father discussed the purpose of his visit. One is to be the capstone to the campaign. It will also be Bishop Paprocki's last visit ,as he will soon turn 75 years old and it will be his Synod follow up visit, which he does every five years. The presentation that had been prepared was previously briefly discussed. The order of the day will be prayer, introductions, opening comments, overview presentation, opportunity for challenges and discussion. Father encouraged any member to bring up any challenges that they believe that the bishop should be aware of. There will also be a tour of St. John Neumann, where it was noted that their fundraising has not kept up with increasing costs of operation.

Office Hours: Question was raised will the office hours be changed to Monday through Friday since all personnel on board. Father said that is up for discussion.

PSR and religious education: Maria asked what the vision was for PSR as someone who has young children. Emma discussed that it is probably most likely a 20 year plan for get Catechesis of the good Shepherd up and running. We need volunteers to help this year, the parents are doing the bulk of the work with “family of faith”. They will be having a monthly meeting and there's approximately 10 people enrolled to date.

New Principal: Search for St. John Neumann has started as Mr. Russ Hart will be retiring in one year. Father Rob asked for prayers for a good candidate. Somebody who has a higher calling for a higher standard for SJN and willing to look at the Wichita model for the school. Chris Plance, a Diocesan representative and will be present at the October meeting to help their school board to discern priorities.

Pastoral Council: The previous years of the council were more of standing reports from members. There was a brainstorming session held to see how the pastoral council can get more involved in long range planning, short range activities, clarity of roles and organization. Also, using a common language of the four pillars should be an emphasis.

Glory Story: Father Rob shared with the committee that of the Alton Deanery only two parishes are above pre-Covid attendance numbers; St Mary's Alton is up 7% while Mother Of Perpetual Help church is up 22%!! Ryan Clark shared a Glory story of a mother who returned to reconciliation because her daughter had prepared for her first reconciliation.

Luke Eggering thanked the pastoral council and said this will be his last meeting. He started on the pastoral council in 2016 and said it's been a privilege to serve his parish for that long. Steve Rendleman was also an “original parish member” started back in 2008. He shared “a man who couldn't say no” is the booster motto and how he ended up on the pastoral council.

A prayer was held to end the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully recorded by Susan Jordan