

Holy Apostles Pastorate Council Minutes

5 May 2026

Members Present: Fr. Tom Clement; Fr. Gary DeRouchey; Deacon Joe Tegethoff; Jim Werkmeister-St. Paul the Apostle, Armour; Tricia Neugebauer-Saints Peter & Paul, Dimock; Brenda Millar-St. Ann, Geddes; Diane Sandhoff-Sacred Heart, Parkston; Russell Gall-St Mark, Lake Andes;

Absent: Fr. Jim Friedrich, Darrell Mueller, St. Peter the Apostle, Platte; Bud Koupal Assumption of the BVM, Dante; David LaCompte- St. Paul, Marty; Robert “Buzz” Durham-St. John the Baptist, Wagner.

Staff Members: Sr. Maribeth Wentzlaff, Discipleship/Evangelization; Bailee Mogck, Business Manager; JoNell De Haan, Pastorate Administrative Assistant/Communications; Marty Royston Facilities Manager

1. Fr. Tom opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Minutes from the 3 February 26 meeting were reviewed-no corrections noted.
3. Confirmation: 443 attended Confirmation at Wagner with some of the overflow in the basement. This was approximately 10 people per confirmand. Parkston will be hosting the 2027 Confirmation. No date has been scheduled. Currently there are 31 to be Confirmed. A meal is being planned to serve all parishes. Parkston had 564 for the Easter service and Fr. Gary said that they could hold more.
4. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd education program may be moved to Marty. Currently Fr. Jim and Amy Doom are pursuing training.
5. 40 Hours: Fr. Tom and Fr. Gary reported that it went well in their triads. Fr. Gary would like to bring in a speaker in the future. Fr. Jim had minimal participation and will be making some changes for next year.
6. Financial Assistance: There was discussion on our role as parishes, whether this should be a pastorate objective and how some parishes have handled this.
7. Fr. Tom presented the next thematic goal: “Staying connected to the Vine” (biblical metaphor Jn 15: 1-7). This goal is the focus for the next 3-9 months. There was some discussion on activities that could be done as a family during the summer. Prayer cards, car games, and pilgrimage sites were some of the ideas that will be pursued.

8. Religious Education Appreciation Mass and Meal will be Wednesday, 27 May 26 at 6:30 in Armour. Sr. Maribeth will need numbers prior to the event.
9. Sr. Maribeth gave an update on OICA and Cradle Catholic programs. She explained how “rite” vs “order” impacted the focus of the program with order being more of a long term lifestyle. The start date for new OCIA training will be the beginning of October. The Cradle Catholic programs will continue with no end date set.
10. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 29 September 26, at 7:00 PM.
11. Deacon Joe closed the meeting in prayer.