FINAL

St. Clare Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 14, 2026

6:30-8:00 pm, Fireside Room

Absent: David, Christine

OPENING PRAYER: Fr. Don

1. PASTOR'S REPORT: Fr. Don
   - The Men's ACTS Retreat was a great success.
   - The Glory Singers concert was excellent. There were 70+ attendees. Parishioners have indicated interest in additional musical events.
   - The priest convocation was last week. Fr. Don shared that he loves spending time with his brother-priests.
   - Beginning Monday, October 19, Fr. Don will be on a week-long personal retreat.
   - Fr. Don recommended reading Archbishop Sample's letter on Mission Renewal, which encourages the nurturing of priests, strengthening Catholic identity in the schools (including greater focus on Adoration), and developing dynamic parishes.

2. PASTORAL ASSOCIATE'S REPORT: Kim
   - Women of Faith currently has a total of 15 members divided into two groups. They are currently reading and studying a book about Mary.
   - The Women's ACTS Retreat is coming right up. Preparation for next year's retreat will begin soon.
   - The young moms group is growing. A dads group may develop.
   - There are now enough readers to have two at each Mass.
   - A few people have expressed interest in being part of the Environment Committee.
   - There will be four Dinner Talks this year: 11/12, 12/10, 1/14, and 4/8 at 6pm. The theme is "Follow: Your Life-long Adventure with Jesus," inspired by a book of the same name. A question was raised about the possibility of recording the talks.

3. OPEN DISCUSSION OF PASTORAL COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVES FOR 2026-27:
   - Fr. Don and Kim have hopes that the Pastoral Council will accomplish the following this year:
     - Achieve a smooth transition to the new pastor
     - Clean up the parish membership master list
     - Form a vocations team
     - Reach out to Pastoral Councils of other parishes so that our Council can be a listener as well as a voice
     - Create ways to transport older parishioners to/from our church
     - Find ways to hold events in the daytime
     - Watch for men in the cry room who are not parents

- Identify a representative from Pastoral Council to the Giving Tuesday Committee. (Per Matt B. – Jim Krueger has agreed to continue in this role. He will send reports before each PC meeting, and Matt will cover them and respond to questions from the Council. Pat DeKlotz is chairing this committee.)

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
   - Community Life:
     - In addition to distributing Christmas food boxes this year, our parish will also distribute food boxes at Thanksgiving. LeAnn Spencer and Debbie Hollingsworth will take the lead. Allison suggested that we include the school families for specific items.
     - Future events: Christmas Bazaar and Advent Fair
   - Outreach:
     - Prison Ministry - This ministry will continue at Coffee Creek. A group of five people from St. Clare Parish visited recently. One of our parishioners, Essie, is studying to become a chaplain. She led a prayer service at the recent visit.
     - Dinner Service: This ministry will continue at both St. Francis Dining Hall and St. Andre Bessette.
     - St. Vincent de Paul: Mary Bunday will continue in her role as the coordinator of this ministry.
   - Education:
     - Beginning at our next meeting, Allison will provide monthly updates to our council from both the school and the preschool.

5. OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS:

- Dolly, even though her term on our council has ended, will continue to work on an online directory for our parish.
- Matt B. will continue his work on the parish survey.
- Matt C. has volunteered to help with an updated parish website.
- The PC members listed below will provide the following committee reports:
  - Community Life – LeAnn
  - Outreach – Marilyn
  - Education – Allison
  - Website – Matt C.
  - Giving Tuesday – Matt B. (information provided to Matt from Jim Krueger)
- Question: are there any updates regarding the progress of the parish grief program?

CLOSING PRAYER – Fr. Don

NEXT MEETING – November 4, 6:30pm