

Pastoral Council Minutes August (8/4/26) @ 7:00 PM

Present: Father Von, Adrian Hagan, Lynn Huegen, Brad Halstead, Darlene Timmermann, Michelle Kuhl, Colleen Harper, Marilyn Zobrist, April Foutch

Absent: Nancy Woltering

Opening Prayer: By the group

Current and Prior Business:

- **Gym Wall Pads Replacement:** Brad reported that AALCO, the company that he initially contacted, would require a special order to replace the size of mats needed to replace current gym mats. He contacted a second company, AK Athletics Equipment, that carries the correct size of mat (2 ft X 7ft) and received a quote for \$4596.89 (price includes shipping). Production time would be 4-5 weeks from ordering date.
- **Alb (Cassock):** Darlene reported to the council that she is working with groups to secure donations to cover the costs of 27 new albs. The order will be placed through Catholic Supply for \$2096.80.
- **Jubilee Event in October:** Colleen updated the council on the plans for the St. Francis Jubilee event in October. Katrina Sopiars is helping Colleen coordinate the activities.
 - Transitus service- Oct. 3 (evening-around dusk) will include candlelight, hymns and readings.
 - Jubilee celebration- Oct. 4 around 11:30 am. The celebration will include a pet blessing followed by family-friendly stations set up in the church parking lot. Station activities and snacks are being planned to teach about and honor St. Francis of Assisi in this Jubilee year.
 - Colleen shared the plan to add a flower bed with a statue of St. Francis of Assisi in the front yard of the rectory as part of the Jubilee Event.
 - Advertising/flyers will be distributed in the area by mid-August. Lynn suggested that details about St. Francis be included in the Faith Focus section of the bulletin in September and early October.
- **T-Shirt Sales:** Dan Ribbing made and distributed shirts ordered by parishioners at the end of July. Several parishioners wore their shirts at the church picnic on August 1. The council discussed the possibility of running another shirt order in the fall.
- **Wednesday Evening Mass:** The council discussed attendance at Wednesday evening mass, as well as daily mass attendance.
- **Parish Center Feasibility Study Updates:** Father Von reported that the feasibility study being conducted by ISPD is wrapping up. Around 60 parishioners/couples attended in-person interviews, and several more completed online questionnaires. ISPD will finalize and share the report with the Executive Committee by mid-August.
- **Church Picnic:** The picnic was held on August 1. Rainy conditions led to lower turn out. The council praised the volunteers who helped during the event and with the clean-up.
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New Business:

- The council continued discussion concerning the parish survey that was conducted a while back.
 - Many parishioners indicated in the survey that they would like to see more opportunities for youth involvement, marriage groups, and grief support.
 - Marilyn suggested organizing a potluck for widows/widowers that would take place in the fall.
- The idea of creating a youth survey to be given to younger parishioners was discussed. Lynn mentioned that CYM members could help create questions for the survey.
- Darlene reminded the council on the timeline for election of new council members that will take place the first weekend in December. Adrian, Lynn, and Nancy will complete their terms at the end of 2026.

Pastor's Report:

- Father Von shared analysis from the St. Francis Leadership Survey from last November, focusing on data showing the need to increase family involvement in church and parish life.
- Confirmation dates are being decided for 2027
- Father Von spoke about his interest in learning more about Youth programs that the parish might consider such as ALPHA Youth and LifeTeen.
- Other ideas – possible Corpus Christi procession on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

Good of the Order/Closing Prayer

Next Meeting: September 3