

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Members Present: Fr. James Gross, Don Palmiscno, Linda Palmiscno, Becky Puntun, and Laurel Ann Dukart

Members Absent: Alyce Stokke, Virginia Esslinger Stephanie Korynta

1. **Call to Order** – (1900) Father Gross called the meeting to order
2. **Prayer** – Father led us in prayer, prayed for the repose of Bishop John Folda’s mother
3. **Review of Agenda** – Agenda was standard Pastoral Council Agenda
4. **Standing Committee Reports**
  - a) **Pastor’s Report** – *Fr. Gross reported*
    1. St. Mary’s Early Childhood Center
      - a. The decision to close the ECC as of Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> was made, as mentioned in the letter from Fr. Gross.
      - b.
    2. Sanctuary Restoration Progress
      - a. The remainder of the stone is in transit.
      - b. Demolition crew, from Texas, is arriving Friday and Saturday – demolition will start on Monday.
      - c. Altar was requested by the Catholic cemetery in Jamestown. They will organize the transfer.
      - d. Ambo, tabernacle and other blessed items will be taken to the Diocese warehouse.
      - e. Woodwork/wainscoting delivery and installation is expected to start Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Supplies will be stacked in the main church.
      - f. A roll-off dumpster will be placed near the church (should arrive tomorrow.)
      - g. Railings have been removed by Tom. May need to take them to an auto body place to sandblast and repaint (white.)
      - h. Bishop Folda is scheduled to consecrate our new altar at 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, February 7, 2026.
  3. No daily Masses September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> – Clergy will be attending Presbyteral Days.
  4. Pulpit Exchange – October 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Riley Durkin (originally from Inkster) will be at St. Mary’s and Fr. Gross will go to St. Aloysius’ in Lisbon and St. Vincent’s in Gwinner.
  5. Marriage Encounter Weekend – November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> - Fr. Gross will be leading the weekend in western North Dakota. Substitute for St. Mary’s has not been decided.
  6. All Saints Day – November 1<sup>st</sup> – As it falls on a Saturday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation – Father will have an 8:00 a.m. Mass for those who wish to attend.
  7. OCIA

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- a. Classes start on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Anyone can attend the meetings.
8. Fr. Gross will be away October 25-31,
- b) **Parish Health/Social Concerns/Prayer Shawl Ministry**- *Fr. Gross reported*
  1. Met on August 27<sup>th</sup>.
  2. Gina and Mary Jo will be moving to Bismarck in October. There will be a farewell reception for them on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
  3. Leadership of the Social Concerns projects will be as follows:
    - a. Jesse Tree – Amy Elbert, assisted by Pat Quandt
    - b. Cookie Walk – Linda Palmiscno
    - c. Wrapped in Love Project – Bridgie Hansen
    - d. Prayer Shawl Ministry – Rena Helbling
    - e. Schedule and conduct meetings – possibly Aida Wakefield
  4. Next meeting – TBD (later this fall).
- c) **Religious Education** – *Don reported*
  1. RE classes start next Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> for pre-12<sup>th</sup> grades – will start in the church basement.
  2. Teachers are as follows:

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| a. Pre-school/Kindergarten: Monica Janassen & Paige Stokke | e. 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Grade: Don Palmiscno |
| b. 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade: Lily Kennelly                    | f. 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade: Kelly Restad                   |
| c. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade: Dawn Larson                      | g. 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade: Ben Howard    |
| d. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade: Dana Kennelly                    | h. High School: Father Gross                             |
|  | i. Disciplinarian: Duane Simon                           |
  3. Our Youth Group
    - a. First meeting September 10<sup>th</sup> after RE classes.
    - b. Expecting an increase in the numbers attending.
    - c. Will elect officers at this first meeting.
  4. Confirmation will be Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> with Manvel – likely at Manvel.
- d) **Knights of Columbus report** – *Fr. Gross reported*
  1. Breakfasts
    - a. Postponing the first breakfast (usually in October). Take-out model was discussed and decided not to go with it.
    - b. Planning to have the December breakfast.
  2. Fr. Dan M Scholarships were awarded to Evelyn Sperle and Vincent Nygard.
  3. Next meeting Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- e) **Altar Society Report** – *Linda reported*
  1. Met on Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

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2. Next meeting is
- f) **Liturgy Committee Report - Fr. Gross reported**
  1. Met in Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.
  2. Before passing, Virgie Wilson, donated a sum of money to be used for specific things for Mass. Father has purchased most of these: purificators; corporals;
  3. Next meeting will be in November.
- g) **Finance Council Report – Fr. Gross reported**
  1. Council is watching carefully funds in the bank, making necessary payments, not overextending.
  2. There have been some issues with someone in Texas trying to copy and cash St. Mary's checks. We are working with Alerus to have a better oversight of the matter. This is the account that is for day-to-day matters.
  3. The bulk of St. Mary's funds are in the deposit and loan fund through the diocese.
  4. The endowment fund is growing.
  5. Daycare is interviewing for some positions.
5. **Next meeting – Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**
6. **Closing Prayer** – Father led us in the Our Father and gave us his blessing.
7. **Adjournment** – (2000) Meeting Adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Laurel Ann Dukart*