

Area Catholic Community (ACC)
MAAA Parish Group
Minutes of October 9, 2025, meeting

The ACC-MAAA parish group met on Thursday, October 9, at 7:18 pm at St. Anthony's, Browns Valley. The meeting was called to order by Philip Deal and Fr. John Paul led us in prayer.

Members present: St. Mary's, Chokio- Father John Paul Knopik (AM &SA), Sandi Marlow Weber,
David Asfeld
Ave Maria, Wheaton- Philip Deal, Carol Nelson, Linda Larson
St. Anthony's, Browns Valley- Amber Metz, Julie Metz
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Morris- Father Todd Schneider, Paul
Rentz, Deacon Lorenzo Sanchez
Guest: Brenda Kresky

Absent: Rachel Schott (C), Jackie Dripps (M)

Thank you to Holly Giese for her many years of service to the MAAA committee and welcoming Deacon Lorenzo Sanchez to the group.

Phillip Deal welcomed our guest, Brenda Kresky, Director of Pastoral Planning, Diocese of St. Cloud.

Minutes of March 27, 2025: Paul moved to approved: Carol 2nd, MC.

Proposed agenda: Julie moved, Sandi 2nd, MC.

Item A ACC picnic. The August 2nd picnic at St. Mary's in Chokio was a success. Approximately 130 people attended. Thank you to all who helped in any way to make our first gathering a huge success of time of fellowship with others. We will discuss the future of the picnic at the next meeting.

Item B: ACC Proposal with Brenda. Brenda discussed with the Committee the proposal we submitted in detail. She explained that we are unique as there are no plans to close any of our parishes but when she showed our plan to a couple of CAP committee members, they were wondering why we listed closed parishes. MAAA members informed Brenda that we are now serving their parishioners. The Diocese is looking more at parishes that are 5-7 miles apart and maybe closing some of them or trying to get down to one administrative office, but Brenda realizes it's not practical, with the distance between our parishes to have one office or for example, to combine Faith Formation classes. The committee will work on two to three SMART goals (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, timely), using the Guiding Principles format. Possible goals we discussed are having the rosary said in every

church before Sunday Mass and involving the Faith Formation students; an annual ACC event, like a picnic or some other event to bring the four church communities together; and maybe ways to “evangelize,” or bring people back through some sort of outreach. We will resubmit the plan by the November 10 submission deadline. Since it will be difficult to get together due to harvest, the current plan, written by Fr. John Paul, will be put out on Google Docs by Rachel Schott and sent to everyone’s email so we can all contribute to the document in that way.

Item D: Next meeting was not set at this time.

Motion to adjourn by Paul, 2nd by Dave at 8:42 p.m. MC. Closing prayer by Fr. John Paul.

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