

St. Mary Catholic Church
Pastoral Council Minutes
August 21, 2025

Mary Bailey chaired the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6pm. Members present were Mary Bailey, Mary Luedke, Mike Orlowski, Fr. Aloysius, Deacon Dave, Pete Pintens, Jeff Walker and Jayne Boebel. Members absent were; Kari Selhofner and Doug Duchac. Others present were: Laura Reiter, Sandy Bishop and Tom Oscar.

Deacon Dave opened the meeting with a prayer and read the parish mission statement.

Mary asked for comments on the July 17 minutes. There were no comments. Jeff W. motioned to approve the minutes. Mike O. seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

- Staff Reports:

Individual staff reports were distributed but not reviewed or discussed.

- Old Business

- Small Group Updates

- Parish Evangelization Team: no report.
 - Welcome Home Team: discussed success of the church tour, plans for a teaching mass in the fall and plans for an ecumenical event (panel question and answer) in the future.
 - Dick Huseby book sharing: Summarized in Jan's report. Dick wrote a new story last month, using the theme of "fishing", and we used scripture of Jesus' disciples in the boat and their poor luck, until they followed Jesus' instructions, which led to a great catch and Jesus cooking breakfast for them. The spirit and fellowship that has developed in this group is truly inspiring.
 - First Saturday Prayer Group: no report. (Note that the group meeting time has changed to second Thursdays)
 - Jubilee year pilgrimage: Mary L. noted the bus was filling up and that cars would be provided if necessary for overflow.
 - Adult education "The Chosen": Jeff W. noted that the last episode of season 5 had been shown, thanked Fr. Aloysius for his participation in the gatherings and the discussion. No further adult education activities are planned.

- Festival Recap

- Church Tours: The tour was considered a success. Specific number of folks taking the tour were not recorded, but observations were that both existing parishioner and non-parishioners attended, some individuals returned for a second or third time and a couple individuals said the experience had drawn them to the Church for the first time. The school/faith formation is looking at using the books to give tours to the kids and families. Suggestion was made to put books in the Tomahawk Historical Society and the Chamber of Commerce.
 - Suggestion box: Jayne B. noted that three boxes were distributed and two comments received. One to bring altar bells back to the Mass. One was very complimentary to the festival.

- Bells in the Church

- Laura noted that Jan had sent out an email with her comments as the parish liturgist opposing the bells.
- Mike O. made a motion to have altar bells used during Mass.
- Deacon Dave asked Fr. Aloysius about his preference. Fr. Aloysius express his preference for the bells.
- After brief discussion, a vote was taken. Jeff W. and Jayne B. voted against, Deacon Dave abstained, the other members were in favor. Motion carried.
- The need to recruit and train altar servers was an important part of the discussion. Deacon Dave volunteered to provide training and to ask for adult and youth volunteers in the bulletin. Pete P. expressed interest in taking the training and serving as an adult altar server.

New Business

- Parish Transformation Training: Sandy B. and Tom O. presented a proposal to form a team to develop a parish transformation plan. (Copies of their handouts are attached to this report). Mary L. asked what did the team want or need from the council. Sandy invited the council to nominate or volunteer to be a member of the planning team in addition to Jeff W. Sandy also asked that the council embrace and support the planning effort and include it as a standing topic at each council meeting. There were no volunteers and the council will consider at the next meeting.
- Scheduling a Feast Day for Mary: Fr. Aloysius would like to establish an annual feast day for our church. Similar to the festival, but with spiritual emphasis; perhaps with a novena, meal, and Mass with the Bishop. The council is requested to review a list of Mary feast days and discuss at the next meeting.

Other Business

- Mary B. asked about how individuals can contact Fr. Aloysius after hours (following an question from a parishioner). Fr. Aloysius had no objection to providing his cell phone number to an individual that may need emergency pastoral service. Otherwise, hospitals, nursing homes and hospice care have access to a network of priests and individual priests can contact other parishes as needed.
- Mike O. noted that the open meeting for the school went well and that all comments submitted from the survey had been addressed. Mike noted that the current budget estimated was \$5MM and that the Bishop had said the parish needs to have \$2.5MM before the Diocese would approve the project. Mike noted that questions regarding, class sizes, curriculum and other aspects of the expansion are continuing to be discussed. Finally he noted that the school trust had released over \$60k for the school year.

Mary L lead the closing prayer.

Next Meeting will be September 18 as 6pm.
Fr. Aloysius will lead the closing prayer.