

Blessed Sacrament Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 9, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Blessed Sacrament Parish

Present: Bill Colson (President), Fr. Tim Hoag, Mary Ireland, Liz Murphy, Quincy Kjerstad, Rick MacDonald, Ashley Bradsky-Hunsaker, Emily Herrera, Ian Kopriva, Pat Moran, and Evan Ireland (recorder, non-voting member)

Absent: Dave Raml, Tony Ohlmacher

Recording Secretary: Evan Ireland, Parish HR & Communications Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bill Colson.

Opening Prayer: Fr. Tim Hoag led the council in prayer, reflecting on the power of the Holy Spirit and asking for cooperation with God's grace in the parish's deliberations.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Bill Colson requested approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Minor corrections were noted: "Randall Construction" should read "Rangel Construction," and "Jim Shaw" should read "Jim Schad." Rick moved to vote on minutes approval with discussed amendments, Pat seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by all present voting members.

Parish Mission and Culture: The council reviewed the parish mission statement and the desired culture summarized by the acronym SOIL (Sacrificial, Open, Invested, Loving). These values anchor worship, formation, and discipleship in a Christ-centered parish.

Good Friday Luncheon: Bill Colson thanked all who helped with the Good Friday luncheon. The event was well-attended and well-received with no complaints.

Fish Fries Report: Rick reported that the February and March fish fries averaged 200 attendees each. The final event set a record with 18 volunteers. Plans for next year include four fish fries (Ash Wednesday, two mid-Lent dates, and Good Friday), pending construction timing. A QR code is being implemented for credit-card payments at pancakes and future events. The Knights of Columbus State Convention is April 24–26 in Pierre (open to the public); next year's convention will be in Rapid City.

School Update: Fr. Robert will serve as the new high-school principal. The school system expressed deep gratitude for Blessed Sacrament's support and partnership. Current priorities include building teacher endowments through the new Fidelis Blue program. A development director begins this summer. Advancement Committee updates were also noted.

Benches and Stations of the Cross: A proposal was presented to replace five broken benches on the hill with steel construction (matching the existing crosses and railing) to eliminate rot and vandalism issues. Material cost is approximately \$429 per bench (total ~\$2,500 for all six). Several benches are already sponsored; small plaques (similar to the original 1996 Boy Scout cross) will be permitted at the base. Granite panels for the Stations of the Cross (donated by a local furniture

maker) were also discussed. Missing stations can be etched; a steel-frame mounting solution (similar to the entry cross) is under consideration. The panels are stored near the shop. Scott Smallwood coordinated with Pete Rausch on the project. The council expressed support for proceeding once funding is secured.

Placing Christ at the Center (PCC) Transition Update: Fr. Tim Hoag and Bill Colson reported that the transition team continues meeting every other week. Key elements include preparing the hall for Mass and Wednesday dinners, clearing space for construction, and distributing pews to interested parishes. A detailed task calendar has been developed (subject to construction start date). The hall will be unavailable for regular use beginning June 1 except for transition prep. Workdays will occur at least monthly, increasing in frequency as needed. The statue of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament will be unveiled on Saturday, May 16, following morning Mass, with a prayer service, blessing, and open house in the hall (displays include to-scale prints, VR tour, models, symbolism explanations by the design team, work-day sign-ups, qualified-team information, and capital-campaign updates). A similar event with wine and cheese will follow the 4:00 PM Mass; donuts will be served in the hall that weekend.

Capital Campaign and Budget Adjustments: The campaign goal has been refined to \$6 million (from the original \$5.5 million estimate) based on detailed design and current costs. Phase 1 focuses on the church interior; certain exterior elements (e.g., joining front entrances, choir-loft extension) move to Phase 2 to avoid closing the church twice. A qualified team will meet regularly with the contractor and architect. To offset a projected \$60,000 budget shortfall (annual income currently 17% below target due to campaign pledges), faith-formation fees will increase from \$50 to \$75 per child. Ten families will be turned down for the Active Catholic Grant due to lack of visible participation; letters will be sent explaining the decision and offering an appeal process or referral to other parishes. The school subsidy is phasing out (now \$1,200 per student this year). Wednesday dinners will be reduced to twice monthly (1st and 3rd Wednesdays) to ease volunteer demands.

Parish Directory: A new directory is scheduled for October. The selected company will photograph families at no cost to the parish and provide an online version. Family photos and individual entries will be integrated where possible; the directory will be password-protected for parishioner access.

Security Team Update: Evan Ireland and Chris Grant updated the council on the reinvigorated security team. A recent training session (attended by hospitality ministers, EMs, and deacons) addressed situational awareness, including past incidents involving an individual. The focus is proactive prevention so all parishioners feel safe at Mass.

Parish Leadership Day: Fr. Tim Hoag reminded the council of the Parish Leadership Day on Saturday, April 18 (8:30 AM–3:00 PM) for Pastoral Council, Liturgy Committee, Finance Council, and heads of major ministries (~50 leaders). The day will focus on the new mission statement, SOIL culture, and how each group can embody these values.

Feedback and Impressions: Council members noted growing excitement among parishioners about the upcoming renovation. Questions about the construction timeline are increasing, which is viewed as a positive sign.

New Business: None additional was raised.

Closing: Fr. Tim Hoag offered the closing prayer, giving thanks for the parish and seeking strength in service.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned following the closing prayer on Thursday, April 9, 2026.