Four Pillars in Faith ACC
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2026 St. Louis Bertrand - Forreston

Members present/absent:
St. Louis Bertrand: Amy Udermann, Nancy Frerich, Curt Wojciechowski
St. Mary's, Milaca: Jared Barse (Chair), Kris Archibald
St. Kathryn's: Rose Ryan (via phone), Brenda Lundberg
St. Mary's, Mora: Amanda Peterson, Karen Renaud, Katie Kerr
Father Timothy Gapinski

Opening Prayer, prayed with Father Timothy

1. Approved agenda

2. Parish sub-committee updates
   A. St. Louis Bertrand: Nancy presented – St. Louis Christian Women: No bazaar in 2026. Donations have been approved and provided to nonprofits for the year. We will be scheduling an appreciation brunch for all the St. Louis Christian Women in the near future. Dates are being looked at now, looking sooner than later with schedules. Fellowship Social Committee: Socials continue to be going great. As the numbers seem to maintain as well as the committee is involved, this will continue, for now. The committee has been in contact for the future. A beautiful opportunity for the committee and all that partake in coming to the socials since 2019. The Grounds and Beautification Committee: No Meeting on the schedule at this time. Faith Formation Lifelong St. Mary's/St. Louis Bertrand: St. Mary's has provided an update for the parishes. Finance Council: Meeting scheduled to be hosted soon. Milaca Elim Home monthly Bingo: Monthly volunteers provide a bingo night at the Milaca Elim Home headed by Karen Swenson. Both St. Louis Bertrand and St. Mary's/Milaca assist with this.

   B. St. Mary's, Milaca Kirs presented - St. Mary's/St. Louis Lifelong Faith Formation and Grow In Virtue Faith Formation Classes: finished for the 2025-2026 year. Mom's Group: continues to meet twice a month on Thursdays at St. Mary's, Milaca. The group is growing. OCIA Classes: Upon the request of the participants, classes will continue and not break for the summer. St. Mary's Guild Mother/Daughter Banquet: was held on Sunday, March 22, and was well attended with 129 guests. The movie, *Triumph of the Heart:* was shown on Saturday, March 28, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Milaca. ACC Bowling Event: was held on Monday, April 6. We began with pizza at St. Mary's, Milaca, and then went bowling at Back Alley Bowl. The event was well attended. Upcoming Events:
      - Memorial Day American Legion Service at St. Mary's, Milaca Cemetery will be at 11:10 a.m. (Monday, May 25)
      - The Foreston/Milaca KCs will change their meeting location from St. Louis Bertrand to St. Mary's, Milaca, beginning Tuesday, May 26.
      - Family Consecration Workshop will be held at St. Mary's, Milaca, on Sunday, May 31 beginning with a meal at 5:00 p.m., followed by the workshop at 6:00

p.m. RSVPs are due by Tuesday, May 26. Nick and Beth Phillips of the Apostolate for Family Consecration will present the workshop.

- Family Consecration will take place following the weekend Masses on June 6/7.
- Corpus Christi Procession will be held on Sunday, June 7, at St. Mary's, Milaca, at 1:00 p.m.
- Knights of Columbus Breakfast will be held at St. Mary's, Milaca, on Sunday, June 14.
- Our St. Joseph, Pillar of Families Totus Tuus will be held at St. Mary's, Milaca, on July 12-16 for grades 7-12 and July 13-17 for grades 1-6. Registration is open.
- Discernment Retreat will be held July 28-30 at St. Mary's, Milaca. As of this date, 41 youth have registered for the retreat.

C. St. Kathryn's, Rose Ryan presented – Plant Sale in May. Family Faith formation ended last week. Subgroup planning for St. Kateri celebration in July. Top the tater successful, a bit under $1000 to Kick Cancer to the Curb.

D. St. Mary's, Mora Amanda presented – Building updates: We are still working on getting all the kinks smoothed out for those using the hearing assist system. Some people are still struggling to connect, however it usually their phone Bluetooth or the wifi setting they select. Hannah is getting information and a quote for the Milaca building. There is a group that is working on revitalizing the Parish Center basement and making it more youth friendly. They have some ideas for improving the space over the next year. There is a slight concern about the water drainage off the South side so they are getting gutter quotes. They plan to work on fundraising the money needed for these projects if there is not enough in the building fund. There is one window in the large room and one window in the kitchen of the Church basement that still needs to be ordered and replaced. Family Faith Formation/ Youth Events/Adult Classes: In an effort to continue fellowship and community with our families I am offering Drawing Closer to God sessions using FORMED. Children will participate in learning Bible stories through drawing. (Kind of like a Bob Ross type program with Bible storytelling incorporated). We will also be doing a craft night with families on July 1st. We will be designing and making T-shirts with a variety of techniques. Parents and children will work together and there will be fun and fellowship. I am planning a teen hiking outing with Father Timothy as well. That will hopefully happen Father's Day weekend. We will also be encouraging everyone to participate in Totus Tuus and the Discernment Retreat as well. Personally, I will be participating in some continuing education. 1. Certificate in the Practice of Catechesis course through National Community of Catechetical Leaders. 2."Embracing the Great Commission" a one day conference put on by the Augustine Institute. Events committee: The only thing we have planned for the summer is the BBQ and Pool party which will be Friday, August 14th. More details to come about that later this summer. St. Mary's & St. Kathryn's Knights of Columbus: They are working on their schedule for the next fiscal year. That should be out sometime in July.

3. Old Business

A. All Things New

1 Decree Review

a. Father read from decree at masses first weekend in May. Copies distributed. Have not heard much. Time for appeals petitions to be submitted closed Monday, the Diocese did receive some. Everything is continuing while the appeals are reviewed.

b. Discussed bulletin articles covering questions Father has had. Amy suggested stepping away from Decree and discussing smaller details, especially office situation. No non-office council members have heard anything. Decree had details i.e. finances/etc. Office staff heard it was "too legalese" and hard to read.

c. Father noted the Cambridge/Isanti decree was added to the Diocesan website and is only 4 pages and the rest "sent to pastor" in an appendix.

d. Continued concern on closures. Confusing on how money flows.

e. Transition teams – St. Louis Bertrand has no date for closing. July 1, 2028 is date when host will only be in primary and partner churches. So, any time from now until then is to be determined for closing of churches. Transition teams to determine and interest in purchase of buildings may also determine.

f. Recommendations – Timeline is too long. Concerns for building upkeep and collection to support the buildings. When do you end? Wait until sold? Recommendation is stay open unless sells.

2 Daily Mass Times – have heard some grumbling about 7am time, wanting 8 instead. Discussed at transition teams also. Decree says daily mass at primary and partner churches. July 1st will be at 8am year round. Mon-Tues. in Mora and Wed/Thurs. in Milaca.
Other places have one daily mass in the evening – suggestion for future daily masses.
Question was asked if Timber Trails or other transport services were available to transport people to and from Mora and Milaca masses.

3. Future of Lay Groups – nothing really changes for groups, and funds still belong to the groups. If groups have shared tax ID numbers of the parishes, when assets move, they all go into one, but all still restricted to the groups they belong to. Going forward – do any groups combine? Any disband and regroup? Discussion was to get through the transition and these decisions can wait. Can stay separate like K of C groups but do things together and support all local causes, for example.

4. Cemeteries – discussed at transition team meetings. Worries of cemetery funds run out.

5. Building Locks – it is possible to have on master key that would work at all sites. And others have keys to just where needed at sites, not all. Getting quotes from locksmith. Will change locks in Ogilvie after St. Kateri Celebration so when closed stray keys are not around and no uncontrolled access is happening

6. St. Kateri Celebration – 10am on July 12th at St. Katherine's. No 10am mass in Mora. Inviting prior priests. Bishop will be out of the state so unable to attend.

7. Pastoral council makeup – now already are one canonical parish. Trustees are part of the civil corporations. Recommendation is remove current civil trustees as required members but encouraged to attend. The 2 trustees for the new St. Joseph civil corporation will be put on all 4 current civil corporations.
Discussed what number of members should the new Pastoral Council have. Recommendation was to leave at 12 with the two new trustees, business administrator and 2 staff.
Jared, Curt, Amanda and Karen with work on revisions for Bylaws and Constitution for Pastoral Council.

4. New Business

A. Kris has submitted her resignation, May 28th is last day. Gratitude for her years of service were expressed.

B. Process for approving minutes – need to change. Proposal to review, update and approve at next meeting was recommended.

5. Next meeting scheduled for July 21st 6pm at Mora

Closing Prayer prayed with Father Timothy