



DIVINE MERCY P A S T O R A T E

PASTORATE PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes March 26, 2026

Present: Father Rutten, Danny Kroeze, Brooke White, Beth Noonan, Aaron Aylward, Brianna Stearns, Mary Wuebben, Rich Korman, Deacon Ridder, Ellen Stoll, John Kramer, Matt Mueller, Nancy Werner.

Absent: Sara Norstrom.

Father Paul opened the meeting with the Pastorate Prayer.

Introductions and an Overview of the newly formed council.

Key takeaway included; primary role is to advise him with mission-focused recommendations for the parishes. He highlighted the pastorate's mission, vision, and values. The meeting folder included a two-sided handout that summarized the pastorate since Set Ablaze in 2023.

Conversation Starter Exercise: Advisory to the Pastor—What does that mean?

Collaboration

- Engage with parishioners, dig deeper, why don't we see you? What do you need?
- Have meaningful dialogue with council and parishioners
- Be a buffer for Fr Paul
- Connect with lay groups (can groups collaborate instead of being a silo)

Be a Community of Disciples

- Bridge the gap between Sunday mass & those that do everything in the parish. Try to understand why & why not
- More involvement through shared activities

INSPIRE NOT JUST INFORM

Training & Coordination

- The welcome experience needs to be a priority; it also needs a staff point person
- The pastorate needs welcome materials to put into the hands of new families/individuals on ways to get involved in parishes
- The welcome experience is a human touch/face-to-face—text or email does not work as well



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PASTORATE

- The Pastoral Council is a new voice for new directions to Fr Paul & staff

Father needs:

- Honest feedback about what works & doesn't (open to change)
- Can we help make it happen
- What are you praying about & how is God working through you
- Enhance the Sunday Experience; all aspects, help find people to do & train, greet, we don't need to do it all, but help find the gifts in others (Clifton strengths retreat or Gift workshop)

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

The next council meeting is July 30th, 7:00–8:30 pm in the McEneaney Room at Christ the King.

