



DIVINE MERCY P A S T O R A T E

Pastorate Pastoral Council

July 30, 2026

Present: Father Rutten, Danny Kroeze, Brooke White, Beth Noonan, Rich Korman, Ellen Stoll, John Kramer, Matt Mueller, Sara Norstrom, Nancy Werner. Guest: Dr Barb Rezac

Danny and Beth led the council in prayer. The prayer format was taken from our resource book “Becoming a Pastoral Parish Council.” We reflected on a piece of scripture and passed the lit candle to offer either reflection on the reading or a prayer of petition. Danny offered to coordinate prayer for future meetings. (thank you!)

Father Paul opened the meeting with the **5 Things to Know** Since our Last Meeting...

- Adoration schedule has been updated to encourage growth-thanks Fr Doty!
- JP2 has received the green light to build a church
- Last school mass was held at Christ the King School in May
- 24 people entered the Church at the Easter Vigil
- Knights gathered & grilled at St Mary Rectory-great evening!

Father Paul introduced our speaker Dr Barb Rezac. Barb is the new Director of Schools for the diocese. She is committed to helping to form parents, grandparents and children to be life long disciples of Jesus. She challenged our council to help create a culture that does the same thing by aligning our gifts with ministry in the parish. She suggests that one way to galvanize/gel as a team is exploring our gifts by completing the Working Genius inventory. (most council members have taken it–Fr Paul encouraged others to do it before our next meeting) Knowing our gifts will help identify who does what, when work needs to be completed. Barb also talked about identifying three goals (not too broad) to accomplish Bishop’s Set Ablaze vision.

The council spent the rest of the meeting in small groups talking about **3 Topics**; :

Spiritual life of our Pastorate-

*what is your experience of our faith life

pastorate book group, small fires/smaller is better for deep, empower small fires

*areas of growth?

CTK has momentum. We need to communicate better. How to reach beyond the same group of people.

- *among certain demographics-

 - lean into the Newman Club; intro at mass, invite to join etc

 - multiple ways of communication of confession, mass times, events

- *characteristics of spiritual strength

 - we have many opportunities-a real positive for our pastorate

Community growth within the parishes

- *level of engagement? (mobilize for mission)

 - Find people's super power

- *areas of growth or concern

- *how we encourage others to participate

 - cards in the pew and then create zero barriers-make it so easy (no pw, training, apps)

 - people already feel unqualified. Create every opportunity for a YES!

 - we are still in our own parish silos-how to break this down? Hard to create a community culture-need galvanizers!!

Volunteers recruitment, training & retention

- *notice gifts of others at service to the parish

 - it is all about the invitation...make it personal & face to face

- *what efforts are needed to invite, retain & appreciate?

 - have volunteers recruit other volunteers

 - just ask, recognize who is showing up & then ask them to become involved

 - people look to the Church for steadiness-minimize change for now

 - keep reminding people of mass times, confession and adoration

- *top priorities for training

 - education on the app for open positions

 - help volunteers feel they are valued & appreciated

 - make things not "unsubscribe"

 - targeted communication-monthly-spotlight "like Ignite the Night"

We closed our meeting with sharing from the small group. (not enough time) There seems to be consensus that we should meet more often than quarterly; allowing time for prayer, formation, team building and understanding the work of the council. The council is open to work in between the meetings. The homework this time is to complete the *Working Genius* assessment...a link if in the body of the email.

Fr Paul closed the meeting with prayer at 8:40. **The next meeting will be October 27th at 7pm in the Mac Room at Christ the King.** The room is a good size for our group.