

**Four Pillars in Faith ACC  
Pastoral Council Meeting  
August 19, 2025  
St. Mary's – Milaca, 6:00 pm**

Attendance: Present and Introductions: Father Timothy Gapinski; Amy Udermann, Parish Associate St Louis Bertrand Foreston, Jared Barse, ACC Chair, St Mary's Milaca; Kris Archibald, Administrative Assistant, St. Mary's Milaca; Rose Ryan, Trustee St. Kathryn's Ogilvie; Brenda Lundberg, St. Kathryn's Ogilvie; Amanda Peterson, Administrative Assistant, St. Mary's Mora/St. Kathryn's Ogilvie; Karen Renaud, Trustee St. Mary's Mora, Curt Wojciechowski, ACC Vice Chair St. Louis Bertrand, Foreston, Jackie Leveille, ACC Pastoral Council Secretary/St. Mary's Milaca Trustee

Absent: Nancy Frerich, Trustee St. Louis Bertrand, Rose Voss, St Kathryn's Ogilvie, Katie Kerr, St. Mary's Mora

Opening Prayer      Father Timothy

1. Approve agenda

2. Select Pastoral Council Officers for 2025-2026

Chair- Jared

Secretary-Jackie

Vice Chair-Curt

3. Old Business

A. Future of Survey Subgroup/topic discussions

Amy Udermann

recommendations based on discussion- sunset the subcommittee, and fold into Wisdom Wit and Wine- Community building meeting was successful,

B. All Things New update

Father Timothy

Drafting a plan using the guidebook from dioceses working to put together a draft for submission of two plans will be ready Sept 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sept, second round of meetings at parishes for feedback to help make changes. Submit to diocese first part of October.

4. New Business

A. Future surveys and snowbirds

Jared Barse

recommendations based on discussion- Timing of survey- in bulletin to ask for addresses of snowbirds to send information.

B. Family Faith Formation for this year

Father Timothy

**St. Mary's/St. Louis Bertrand** will be dedicated to the Holy Family with a focus on Marriage and the Family and Apologetics. (Defending our faith). The kickoff will be Sunday, September 28th at 4:00 p.m. with Father Robert Altier as the guest speaker.

For the rest of the year, we will meet monthly on Wednesdays with pre-k through 6th studying *Exploring the Profession of Faith* by Sophia Press. Seventh – 12th and all interested adults will meet weekly beginning with *The Search Begins*, 7 lessons, then *The Marriage and Family Teaching the Culture of Life*, 5 sessions, followed by *Real + True: What the Catholic Church Actually Teaches, About Everything*. “The Catechism is not a textbook, a collection of ideas, or a set of rules. Rather, the Catechism is the faithful echo of a God who wishes to reveal himself to us and desires us to respond.” *The Search Begins* and *Real + True* are both found on [formed.org](http://formed.org). We have guest speakers scheduled for each of our monthly classes. All are invited.

Cardinal Raymond Burke and Father Robert Altier will be at St. Mary's, Milaca on November 23 for a mini retreat/conference.

#### **St. Kathryn's -**

Plans are to hold Faith Formation monthly. We use Finding God curriculum for grades 1-8, and Theology of the Body for grade 9. Along with the curriculum, we explore/introduce/refresh information about Mass, the Catholic Church, and basic concepts and ideas!

#### **St. Mary's Mora -**

What is Family Faith Formation? Family Faith Formation focuses on engaging the entire family in the process of learning and growing in their faith, rather than just focusing on children's religious education. It emphasizes the role of parents as the primary educators of their children's faith and encourages families to deepen their relationship with God, share their faith stories, and strengthen their bonds with each other and the church community. Grandparents, godparents, or other family members are welcome to sign up and participate with us.

This year our program will focus on the saints and heroic virtues using a program called *Witness*. Families will be learning about different saints at home using their family Witness box (part of the Pathways program from Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries FFLCM). Each monthly session here at church will focus on a saint and the heroic virtue that they exemplified in their life. There will be a mandatory orientation session for parents on September

17th at 7pm (it will help us all organize for the year). Volunteer opportunities are available for parishioners to share their gifts with our youth and families. Those wishing to volunteer will be able to call and leave their contact info with the office and then they can be notified.

First Communion parents and students will do Saturday morning mini-retreats for their preparation as well as the Mend and Nourish boxes from FFLCM. First Communion will be April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Confirmation students will be using Decision Point again this year which is from Dynamic Catholic. Confirmation is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at the Cathedral in St. Cloud at 2:00pm

We will start the year with our kickoff festival again this year. We will play games and have fellowship and fun.

C. Parish sub-committee updates:

**St. Louis Bertrand: Nancy Frerich**

**St. Louis Christian Women**

There will be an ACC Summer Picnic this coming Sunday and all are welcome.

**The Corpus Christi procession** hosted at St. Louis Bertrand in June went very well.

The **51st** Annual Mission Bazaar and Raffle will be held at St. Louis November 22, 2025. More details to follow.

**Fellowship Social Committee**

Fellowship socials continue to be going great! A beautiful opportunity for the committee and all that partake in coming to the socials.

**The Grounds and Beautification Committee**

Projects are on schedule to be completed. As the cobblestone on the south side of the church is already done the cobblestone will need to be tended to soon for the south side of the parish center. Also, the steps to access the rectory were done, the old cement was removed, and wood steps were added, these will be painted in a few weeks including benches on the exterior of the church and chapel. The shed will also be painted in the next few weeks. And Committee members will obtain volunteers as needed for the additional projects. So, we appreciate the great involvement we have in this committee to accomplish the needs of our Parish. Beautiful lay ministry and participation. The projects that are in need should be minimal cost as we have donations to cover them.

**Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council 11856, St. Louis Bertrand/St. Mary's, Milaca .**

They participated in the Corpus Christi procession.

**Faith Formation Lifelong St. Mary's/St. Louis Bertrand**

St. Mary's has provided an update for the parishes.

### **Finance Council**

Annual Budget was provided to the council, all looked great.

### **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.

### **St. Mary's, Milaca -Kris Archibald**

**Discernment Retreat** – was held June 17-19 with over 40 youth participants. Cinnamon Roll Sales will be held monthly beginning in September, apart from December, to raise funds for the 2026 Discernment Retreat.

**St. Mary's Guild, Milaca Salad Luncheon** – was held June 25. This year's luncheon was not attended as well due to the poor weather.

**ACC Totus Tuus at St. Mary's, Milaca** – was held July 20-25. There were 34 youths in grades 7-12 (of those 34 youth, 18 volunteered during the day to help with the younger

kids.) We had 60 youth in grades 1-6 attend. There were also several volunteers from all four parishes who helped make the week an immense success.

**Watermelon Walk/Run/Crawl** – A fundraiser for the Rum River Life Choices Center was held July 26. They raised \$297.00.

**REC (Residents Encounter Christ) Retreat** – This is a jail ministry held at the Mille Lacs County Jail. Participants of the REC Retreat were hosted at St. Mary's this past weekend.

**Upcoming: Frassati Play** – Video presentation of the Open Window Theatre play, Frassati, held at Paradise Theatre in Mora on Saturday, September 20. This play is about Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati who will be canonized as a saint on September 7, 2025. The lead actor, Jeromy Darling, will be in person to present the play. Following the play, he will hold a question-and-answer session.

**St. Mary's Guild Fall Garage Sale** – September 11 and 12.

St. Louis/St. Mary's Faith Formation Kick-off – Sunday, September 28, featuring guest speaker, Father Robert Altier. **Cardinal Raymond Burke and Father Robert Altier** will be at St. Mary's, Milaca on November 23 for a mini retreat/conference.

### **St Kathryns – Rose Ryan**

**July 12th, we held our Celebration** of our patron Saint Kateri with a special Mass followed by an ice cream social, enjoyed by many.

**July 26th, we had our Parish life** planning meeting to discuss upcoming events and VBS and FFF. Due to vacations several key people could not attend.

**August 15th was Ogilvie's Corn on the Curb** celebration, we had our Sloppy JO stand, with much help and donations were one of our best so far.

**August 18th through the 20th is our VBS** program based on The Good Samaritan. Teaching our kids how to live by the golden rule. Last night they painted rocks that will have special messages created by the youth for the public to find around town, they baked muffins for the residences at the senior apartments which they are delivering tonight along with a couple of songs about Jesus' love for all. They also made welcome door decorations for each

apartment. Tomorrow evening, we will be going to the food shelf to help pre-bag food for this Saturday's distribution again, reinforcing the story of the Good Samaritan.

**August 28th is our St Mary's, St Kathryn's Bereavement group** it will be at St Kathryn's at 10:00am we welcome all that have ever lost a loved one, our meeting is led by Rita Claseman with a beautiful message and sharing of helpful hints dealing with the loss and followed by a light brunch.

**September 10th is our Pork Dinner** from 4 to 6:30 and raffle with ticket proceeds going to improvements at our cemetery. We need Squash if anyone has an abundance, please contact Rose Ryan.

We are looking at dates for our Craft, Bake sale and Soup Luncheon and our Advent Social as a time for prayer, crafts for the families and food.

Family Faith Formation Dates are in the planning stage should be out this week.

### **St. Mary's, Mora- Amanda Peterson**

**Building updates:** The St. Joseph and Blessed Mary statues have been repaired and repainted.

The Monstrance is still getting repaired and replated. This should be completed soon.

Two of the Church basement windows are going to be replaced in September.

**Family Faith Formation-** Registration for fall has begun and supplies are getting ordered.

**Events committee had the BBQ and Pool Party** Friday, August 8th in Mora.

We served about 100 people at the BBQ and counted 102 that went to the pool.

There seemed to be more kids participating this year than last year.

**The next movie event** is planned for Saturday, August 23rd to watch "Unsung Hero" at the Mora Paradise Theatre.

**St. Mary's Chicken dinner** is scheduled for Sunday, September 28th . We will be getting chicken from Freddie's this year, all sorts of sides, pie, and ice cream as well as the Pumpkin Palooza Prize drawing again.

**St. Mary's & St. Kathryn's Knights of Columbus** They usually have a meeting the first Wednesday of each month and a breakfast fundraiser one Sunday after Mass in the St. Mary's Parish Center.

4. Additional Items

5. Next Meeting: October 28, 2025, St Louis Bertrand, Foreston, 6:00 pm

Closing Prayer: Father Timothy