

**Present:** Msgr. Thomas Cook, Sandy Strand, Cheryl Meger, Jackie Evans, Terry Evans, Deacon Scot Berkley, Stacey Hannover, Andrew Thigpin, and Ray Bissen.

**Call to Order & Prayer:** Meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Jackie Evans, Council Chair. Msgr. Cook led the group in the prayer.

**Agenda Approval:** Agenda was reviewed and approved.

**Review and approve minutes from February 18, 2025, meeting:** Motion was made by Stacey Hannover to approve the minutes as written. Deacon Scot Berkley seconded the motion and all approved.

**Old Business:**

- **Parish Directory –**
  - 263 families were photographed resulting in 14 credits toward the processing of our Directory. Next steps are to create the parish pages, cover, layout, add the submitted photos, etc.
  - Jackie and Cheryl will get together with Msgr. Cook in June to review photos discuss layout options.
  - Jackie Evans will reach out to Bart Hawkinson of Unique Church Solutions with questions.
  - We receive 20% overage for directories which is 52 books. We can order an additional 30 for one credit and an additional 60 for two credits.
  - The information in the back of the directory will include name, address and one phone number for each family on our current roster.
  
- **REP Wednesday evening student/parent soup supper –** We should get this information on the REP calendar at the start of the year. School calendar is complete. REP calendar is in draft form. Several ideas were discussed, including:
  - Serve pizza instead and advertise as a family pizza party
  - Seek to clarify the entire family can attend
  - Do this in the fall instead of the winter
  - Parent nights - do not work well as the times cross over with the meal and presentation
  - Confirmation and First Communion nights are well attended: Two Wednesdays in September – but those evenings are administrative, plus the Parish Picnic is in September
  - Consider having an event – a new idea to draw families in
  - Continue with January
  - Will decide on date at the August meeting and get it on the final REP calendar before it is handed out

- **Parish Picnic**
  - Will look at doing the picnic on a Saturday evening again
  - Saturday, October 4 will be the date
  - Similar format to last year with a potluck and games
  
- **Standing Committees** – Question was posed by Andrew Thigpen at a previous Pastoral Council Meeting regarding committee leadership.
  - Andrew is requesting to begin a Parish Life Committee to begin to create community in a similar way to which the Young Adults have created programming
  - This committee would be an adhoc committee. The pastoral council voted in agreement to allow Andrew to begin this committee
  
- **RETURN Lenten Book Study video**
  - This was a Lenten challenge to forget ourselves and ask what is keeping us from a close relationship with Jesus, to set goals to move closer to him through daily readings, journaling, the sacraments, prayer, liturgy, acts of mercy and charity.
  - 8 weekly participants – they reported they were inspired and grew in their faith. They were glad to have the opportunity to talk with other Catholics about how to live our love for God.
  - Shirley Schultz recommends doing another book study with additional lead time to encourage participation.
  
- **Mass Servers**
  - How can we increase participation??
  - Gabriel Rysavy may be asked to assist with this as a project.
  - Bring the eligible students to the church to tell them more about it and have a hands-on experience
  - Engage the excellent servers we have now to encourage more students to participate
  - Holy Cross Altar Society was created in Stillwater as a fun way to engage students

**New Business:** Sunday, June 29, 2025, Farewell to Fr. Joshua. Coffee and rolls in the Parish Center after all Sunday Masses to wish him well.

**Next Meeting:** August 19, 2025 @ 5:30 pm

**Agenda Planning for Next Meeting:**

- Parish Directory update
- Final decision for REP soup supper for 2025/2026
- Update on Parish Life Committee
- Oak Hill Community Connections further discussion
- Altar server recruitment update
- Additional agenda items may be forwarded to the council chair via email.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Meeting was adjourned by Jackie Evans at 6:39 pm.

---

**5 Minute Break – followed by a joint meeting of the Pastoral Council and Finance Council to hear the Pastor’s Report.**

**Pastor’s Report:**

- **Diocesan Synod.** Emphasis will be on evangelization and vocations (more priests and more people in the pews).
  - The Synod itself will take place with two representatives from each parish on August 21 and 22, 2025, at Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Mankato.
  - All parishioners were invited to complete an online survey. Next regional Synod Gatherings were held – one was held at Sacred Heart on Saturday, May 17, 2025, with 30 people in attendance (half of the attendees were from Sacred Heart Parish)
  - All input will now be shared by Deb McManimon with the Diocese for the Synod in August.
  - Msgr. Cook and Serra Club representative Shirley Schultz and Young Adult group facilitator and former FOCUS missionary Daniel Boubin will represent our parish at the Synod in August
  
- **Oak Hill Community Connections project –**
  - We need to make a decision on a potential contribution from Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The Ministerial Association of Owatonna is intending to collaboratively fund the rent and utilities for the Lighthouse residence which will be housed in the Oak Hill Community building.
  - January of 2026 is the deadline for our commitment
  - A quarterly series of second collections may be a good way to fund this project, but it is not predictable for a pledge
  - If the special collections run short, the parish would subsidize our commitment. If the special collections run over, it could go to Lighthouse or if three collections result in the full amount, then the fourth collection could be used for another need.
  - There typically is one diocesan collection per month, plus local second monthly collections. The calendar will be reviewed for appropriate dates.
  - It was agreed upon by both committees that we would make a recommendation to the Finance Council to proceed with a donation of \$5,000/year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Ann Meger, Secretary